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WFP adopts strategic plan, targeting women, refugees

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A re-enactment of the biblical persecution and crucifixion of Jesus Christ is performed as part of Good Friday liturgy at Dar es Salaam's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Azania Front Cathedral yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Moral decay dominates in Good Friday congregations

By Guardian Reporters

A CROSS section of religious leaders yesterday castigated deteriorating morals in society, calling for thorough investigations into some charity organizations reported to promote same

sex affinities.

Retired Bishop Dr Owendburg Mdegela of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) in Iringa decried this tendency at a Good Friday mass, pointing at recent incidents portraying how morals had deteriorated.

The bishop said the rate of deteriorating morals was rapid and it is time for religious leaders, politicians and others to speak up, underlining that Easter was time for Christians to reflect on how to raise chil-

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Zanzibar key airport in tourist flow surge

By Guardian Reporter

THE number of passengers arriving at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (AAKIA) in Zanzibar reached 538,828 from January to March this year from 424,968 passengers during the same period last year. Seif Abdallah Juma, Zanzibar Airports Authority (ZAA) director general, told journalists in Zanzibar yesterday, that during the third quarter of fiscal 2022/23 ZAA collected 8.83bn/- from those arrivals. The collection was a 195percent increase from the pre pandemic period in 2019 when collections reached 2.99bn/-, he said, noting that the January collections were 59 percent higher, from 5.54bn/-.

The service provider is the Dubai National Air Travel Agency (DNATA), an Emirati

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Train control system, port berths widening 'delayed for five years'

35 model pre-primary schools not started owing to VAT

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

FAILURE by contractors to install a train control system for the Dar es Salaam-Isaka railway valued at \$2.04m for more than four years, along with the deepening and strengthening of berths 8-11 works at Dar es Salaam port not commencing for more than five years are some of the highlights in

the latest national audit report.

Controller and Auditor General (CAG) Charles Kichere showed these salutary drawbacks in the development projects audit exercise of the fiscal 2021/2022 annual report presented to the National Assembly at midweek.

Significant deficiencies were noticed across a large number of projects while the deficiencies

were noticed in agreements with foreign countries plus accords between government agencies, the CAG noted.

Unapproved memorandum of understanding was entered between Tanzania and Uganda for the multinational Lake Victoria maritime communications and transport project. The Lake Victoria Basin Commission operated

outside the control of the partner states, he stated.

An agreement between the Tanzania Education Authority and the ministry has not yet been reviewed to incorporate innovative training and e-learning, while the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) failed to establish a fully-fledged project implementation unit under the 'Roads

to Inclusion and Socioeconomic Opportunities' (RISE) project, he said.

The report identified several deficiencies in expenditure and budget management, including 8.99bn/- borrowed project funds that were not refunded. Payment

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VP: Spirit of Sheikh Karume lives with us



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, former Zanzibar president Amani Abeid Karume, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdalla, China's Consul General in Zanzibar, Zhang Zhisheng, and other dignitaries hold memorial prayers at the grave of Zanzibar's First President, Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, in Zanzibar yesterday in marking the 51st anniversary of his death. Photo: VPO

By Guardian Reporter

UNION Vice President Dr Philip Mpango yesterday attended a memorial service and wreath laying on the grave of Zanzibar first president Abeid Amani Karume organized annually by the isles' government to honour the leader who was assassinated on 7 April 1972 and hurried at party headquarters, Kisiwandui. Led by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, the prayers were also attended by Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdallah, a Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, former President Amani Abeid Karume, and the House of Representatives Speaker Zubair Ali

Maulid. Others included the National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mussa Hassan 'Zungu,' Chinese Consul General Zhang Zhisheng and Chief Justice Khamis Ramadhan Shaaban. Speakers during the ceremony observed that President Karume's focus was to improve the living standards of Zanzibaris especially in housing, where nearly 50 years later these projects remain the hallmark of the Zanzibar Revolution. Family spokesman Ambassador Ali Karume thanked the Union and Zanzibar governments for jointly observing the annual event, underlining that the founder leader

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VP: Spirit of Sheikh Karume lives with us

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will be remembered by many good deeds he did during his lifetime. This includes fighting tribalism and promoting equality for all, he stated, insisting that Sheikh Karume kept his word and embarked on an affordable housing project in Unguja and Pemba islands for both urban and rural areas. Zanzibaris were also given access to quality land, thus "we all need to honour all these efforts at emancipating the people," he said. Mgeni Hassan Juma, the House of Representatives deputy speaker, said Zanzibar citizens have all the reasons to uphold the late President Karume due to his efforts and vision to put Zanzibar to a good standing. "Today Zanzibaris are walking freely and are able to decide what is good for their country because of the huge efforts done by the late leader," he stated, asserting that those who come later need to ensure that they strive to

fulfill the vision he laid out.

Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, Treasury state minister in the President's Office, said leaders must adhere to the foundations put by the late national leader who fought to ensure that his people are freed from torture and all types of exploitation.

The society needs to promote peace, unity and love for the Isles to grow well in all spheres of development, she stated.

Sheikh Karume was the popular leader behind the Zanzibar Revolution that ousted Sultan Jamshid bin Abdullah and established the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar in January 1964.

Three months later the top leadership of his party, Afro-Shirazi, agreed to merge with Tanganyika under the leadership of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere to form what later was renamed Tanzania. Karume steered Zanzibar through the first eight years of prosperity for Zanzibaris, despite a marked level of violence to depose the sultan, and forceful initiatives towards racial integration which generated an outcry over human rights abuse.



CCM Vice Chairman (Mainland) Abdulrahman Kinana (L) closes party leadership training for youths at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Kibaha, Coast Region, on Thursday. It was attended by 74 youths from several political parties that have close links with CCM, namely, ANC of South Africa, SWAPO of Namibia, ZANU-PF of Zimbabwe, FRELIMO of Mozambique, and MPLA of Angola. Photo: Correspondent Fahadi Siraji

Zanzibar key airport in tourist flow surge

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airport services provider which provides aircraft ground handling, cargo, travel, and flight catering services across five continents, on the basis of an online entry. Awarding handling services to DNATA subsidiary,

the Zanzibar Aviation Services Ltd, has improved services at the facility, as the airport has now been recognized as one of the best airports in transporting goods and entrusting handling services. The direct link with the Emirates will facilitate operations at the airport as

well as enhance exporting goods to Europe, promote the blue economy and open up trade, he stated. Last September, German airline firm Edelweiss started using DNATA services at the airport's Terminal III, with the airport now receiving flights with 'code E,' contributing

to increases in revenue from parking of planes and vehicles, he said. Juma said the increase in routes at the airport has also increased the number of international flights including Neos Airline from Italy. ZAA seeks to increase the number of flights and

passengers as this helps to improve the economy, he said. The government of Zanzibar was implementing various projects like building an international airport in Pemba Island and a fourth terminal at the Zanzibar airport, he added.



Livestock and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega symbolically presents 40 super-breed bulls to groups of pastoralists in Mkalama District, Singida Region, on Thursday for use in the implementation of the government's strategy to revolutionise the livestock sector. Photo: Correspondent Tobias Mwanakatwe

Moral decay dominates in Good Friday congregations

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dren, co-relate with the society and address the decaying morals threatening future generations.

The church is being weakened by politicians, theologians and other influential people in the society who spread negative teachings, he said, pointing at people who call themselves prophets, but they mislead the public. "Even when told to go for studies, they refuse to do so," the prelate declared.

Bishop Ludovick Minde of the Moshi Diocese of the Catholic Church called upon Tanzanians to join forces in speaking against deteriorating morals.

"The world is facing a bad trend of behavior which is embarrassing to creation and the sacrament of marriage," he said, urging the public to use the Easter celebrations to pray for divine grace to get rains and bumper harvests.

Bishop Stanley Hotay, the Anglican bishop for Mount Kilimanjaro diocese, said the government should not hesitate to speak seriously against homosexuality. The church should work together saying the government, which ought to take serious legal actions including deregistration of organizations promoting the malpractice, he emphasised.

Bishop Dr Solomon Masangwa of the ELCT North Central Dio-

cese, focused on spreading the good news of salvation.

Monduli DC Joshua Nassari, standing in for the regional commissioner, said the government was ready to work together with stakeholders to end the malpractice. Without collective efforts to address homosexuality the future generation is at risk, he stated.

Sheikh Ghullam Hussein, the Arusha region peace committee chairman, said there is need for collaborative efforts to ensure the future generation is provided with the right information.

Good Friday is a Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Cal-

vary. It is observed during holy week with prayer and vigils, fasting and charity outreach.

ELCT Muheza lead pastor John Ndimbo said the role of the church is to ensure that it speaks out against practices and behaviours which are not welcome in Tanzanian culture.

Dodoma Catholic Archbishop Beatus Kinyaiya appealed to the public to learn to investigate information or advice issued by other people so as to avoid taking evil decisions including killings.

In his Good Friday sermon at St Paul parish in the capital he said some people can decide to give you advice that will end up taking up your life.

Train control system, port berths widening 'delayed for five years'

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vouchers amounting to 632.5m/- were missing at the Sumbawanga Teachers' College, which received 'Education Programme for Results' funds totaling 3bn/- to build a new college, also lacking related documents for unverified expenditures lost in a fire on December 25, 2021.

The government did not contribute its share in project financing amounting to \$6.24m (14.3bn/-) for the Arusha sustainable urban water and sanitation delivery project, he said.

Compensation to project affected people amounting to 11.37bn/- for the Horohoro Bagamoyo and Lunga road project, and for the construction of Msalato Airport by TanRoads remained unpaid, he stated, highlighting that contractors charged interest on delayed issuance of interim payment certificates (IPCs) amounting to 2.57bn/-.

Of the 290 audited project implementers, 208 complied with the regulations, while 82 complied with exceptions, as procurement contracts valued at 2.51bn/- were not vetted by legal officers, he said.

Micro procurement slated at 506.76m/- was not reported to tender boards, as well as procurements reaching 14.92bn/- made outside the Tanzanian National e-Procurement System (TANePS), a web-based, collaborative system developed in accordance with the requirement of public procurement.

The ministry initiated EP4R project activities slated at 3.82m/- without updating procurement plans while Regional Administration and Local Governments (PO-RALG) health sector programme support was delayed in procuring medical equipment of 1.66bn/- for 20 months, the report noted.

In contract management, motor vehicles paid for but not delivered were put at 26.28bn/-, while expired contracts had a contract sum of 421.75m/- paid despite the contract not being renewed.

Delayed advance payments resulted in interest charges of 879.26m/- while execution of off-grid sanitation projects by the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) before approval by the National Environmental Manage-

ment Council (NEMC) of comprehensive project brief reports.

Physical performance numerous deficiencies including abandoned construction of 14 warehouses and outdoor support facilities in Babati.

The construction and equipment of 35 model pre-primary schools have not commenced due to lack of VAT exemptions, he stated, noting that the Chalinde district commissioner was yet to hand over completed buildings, ICT equipment, and furniture to Saadani beach management unit.

There was non-disbursement of TASAF funds totaling 651.85m/- to nine approved community subprojects, the report indicated.

Audit at the Julius Nyerere Hydro-power Project revealed unrealistic estimated project duration as the project was initially planned to be completed in three years. Projects of similar magnitude constructed worldwide took four to ten years to be completed, in which case initial estimates were not realistic, it said.

There was no mutual agreement between the power agency, TANESCO and the contractor on an extended project completion time, similarly cautioning on the risk of water shortage due to uncontrolled upstream economic activities.

Turbine model tests were conducted without being witnessed by the employer, the report affirms, pointing at the non-imposition of damage charges by TANESCO amounting to 327.93bn/- from inefficiency in handling claims from contractors.

Other contentions issues were delays in application of price adjustments, procurement of electromechanical and hydro steel structures for two years and non-implementation of corporate social responsibility (CSR) for three years and 11 months, it said.

More than 90 per cent of the projects received unqualified opinions on their financial statements for five consecutive years from 2017/18, indicating their financial credibility, it affirmed.

Implementation of prior year recommendations for the same five-year period was below 50 percent despite the same findings being raised in later reports, it added.



Ibadhi Kahama Foundation chairman Mohamed Issa Al-Habsy (4th-R) pictured yesterday presenting foodstuffs worth 1.5m/- to the Head of Kahama District Prison, Hamza Abdallah, for use by Muslim prisoners observing one of the five pillars of Islam – fasting during the Holy Month of Ramadhan. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

AG calls for cooperation on moral values decline

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

ATTORNEY General (AG) Dr Eliezer Feleshi has called for cooperation between the government and stakeholders including religious institutions to fight the ongoing deterioration of moral values facing the country.

He explained that religious leaders have the responsibility and big contribution to censure the crumbling of ethics and stressed on religious organisations to be ready to report on any acts in violation of morals.

“This responsibility stems from their recognition by the government, and to a large extent the two sides depends on each other,” said the Attorney General.

Dr Feleshi made the remarks on Wednesday here when closing the one-day forum convened to deliberate on criminal laws against ethics.

The AG also called on the Police Force to enhance investigations in reported incidents in order to remove from prosecution suspects who are not supposed to be prosecuted.

“Through this forum, I appeal to the community to work together with the police in making sure all reported acts of crime are justly referred to court,” he said.

He also commended Tanzania's Law Reform Commission for organising the forum that he said will help to attain its goals in improving various laws, in consideration of the fact that as for now there are rampant

violations of ethics including rape, sodomy, gender based violence and child abuse.

Executive Secretary of the Law Reform Commission, Griffin Mwakapeje said the Commission has begun conducting forums in collaboration with stakeholders aimed at improving the laws.

He lauded forum participants for their contributions which he said will help in improving criminal laws against ethics.

Chairman of the Law Reform Commission, Rtd Judge January Msoffe said the one-day forum has provided the commission with experience and stressed to continue organising this kind of forums in order to make improvements to the laws from stakeholders' views.

Recently, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa also called on religious institutions to join efforts and help the government to fight the ongoing deterioration of moral values.

Speaking during the climax of the National Holy Quran Competition in Dar es Salaam, Majaliwa said parents have a great role to play to ensure that moral values among children and youth are well supervised so as to have a nation with a respected generation and workforce.

“Parents of all religion backgrounds have great role to play here, our children need to be raised in good moral values, they need to grow with discipline, make sure that children attend religious studies for their spiritual development, this will enable them to have fear of God and always avoid engaging in evil acts,” he said.

ACT disagrees with seven govt pursuits, suggests alternatives

By Mary Kadoke

THE opposition ACT-Wazalendo is in disagreement with seven government undertakings, proposing alternative pathways for the same to bear the desired fruit.

Dorothy Semu, the party's shadow Prime Minister told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that issues they want addressed differently are cost of living, unemployment and remuneration of workers, relocation of the Maasai from Ngorongoro, coordination of disaster management, delays in implementation of strategic development projects, safety and security of citizens and the ongoing civic and democratic reforms.

On Wednesday in Dodoma, the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa delivered budgetary estimates for his office for the financial year 2023/2024.

On cost of living, Semu said despite the ongoing citizen concerns on inflation and high cost on neces-

sary goods, the government has not put much emphasis on preparation on handling the issue to offer a relief.

“The Prime Minister's speech has highlighted professional statistics however not showcasing on how better the situation is. With this trend, we are worried of facing the worst scene of what is going on in the coming period accelerated with lack of strict measures to relieve the situation to the citizens,” she said.

She added: “As ACT, we are urging the government to buy and reserve enough food for at least three months with the harvested food to overcome food shortage. This will only be possible by setting enough budgets to the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) so that food is bought easily.”

Semu, also highlighted that the effects of unemployment and remuneration of workers has been tense in the country, something that has led to moral decay, corruption, nepotism and violence hence urging

the government to act responsibly in increasing employment in the country. “A lot is witnessed as per employed workers needs and public servants on sensitive sectors like education, health and agriculture however the government has not put enough emphasis into ensuring that the sectors attain enough professionals despite having a large number of professional graduates that attained government scholarship. Therefore the government should not evade its employment role as it ensures it strengthens the health, education and agricultural sector,” she affirmed.

Referring the Prime Minister's budgetary estimates on voluntary shift of Ngorongoro residents to Mosomera village in Handeni District in Tanga Region, Semu pointed out that until January 2023, only 1,524 households with 8,715 members with 32,842 livestock had signed for a voluntary exit.

However 551 households with

3,010 people with 15,521 livestock were voluntarily shifted to Msomera.

The shadow minister said it's time the government sit on a round table discussion with Ngorongoro residents and see how to manage the issue without incurring high cost as stated by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report for the financial year 2021/2022 that the general voluntary exist will almost take 10trn/-.

She also noted that the premier's speech has not shown deliberate budget measures on rescue, department capacity building and available organizations so towards efficiency building and management to the team.

She added: “There have been compensation complaints upon 1361 Mbagala bomb blasts victims in 2009. However despite the scenario, they have been receiving disappointing responses in moments they decide to make follow up on it. We are hereby urging the government

to ensure that follow up is made to make sure that victims receive their compensations.”

Semu said ACT recognises the government initiatives in implementing different projects in the country; however, there have been delays in implementation of strategic development projects leading to national and extra payments to contractors.

She said that Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHP) completion was expected in the year 2022 unfortunately it has been extended to 2024. However the Tanzania Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) Dar es Salaam to Morogoro section that was to be completed in 2019 made the government incur 327.9bn/- as additional costs.

She also noted the unpleasant state of security in the country saying that the party's tour in nine regions with journalists revealed complaints on kidnapping, people going missing in some areas of urban Kigoma, Mkuranga, Kibiti and Rufiji.

“The prime minister's speech has not revealed any follow up so far regarding the issue. We are hereby urging the police force to make a follow up of four kidnapped youth in urban Kigoma and one in Kasulu. Secondly the government should unrecognise Mkuru as a police zone to the public likewise the commission working on the justice system should also act on investigating kidnapping and killings of innocent citizens,” she said.

She also highlighted how the Premier's speech barely spoke of the government's preparation on amending the election law that will ensure the National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Tanzania independent in supervising elections in the country.

She urged that its time the government hurries and air out a calendar implementation on democratic reforms as stated with the Tanzanian Constitutional Review Commission so that as it approaches November 2023 a new political party is formed.

Ambassador Karume calls on govt to halt house demolition

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has been challenged to halt its decision to demolish development houses in Kilimani area and instead should be repaired to protect Isles' historical background.

Ambassador Ali Karume a son of the Zanzibar First President, threw the challenge here when speaking to journalists on the 51st anniversary of the assassination of founding leader of Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume which is held on April 7 every year.

He said the decision to demolish those houses is against the negotiations passed by the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council that recommended the houses should be refurbished.

Ambassador Karume said that according to the law and the constitution, the land belongs to the government but the government can take the land of a citizen if a community service development project is being built in that area, but the citizens must be compensated and not a business project.

He also said that if the people of Kilimani do not want their houses to be demolished, they should take their position to the government and not complain on the streets because they have the right according to the constitution and the law to reject the project.

“Zanzibar Revolutionary Council under former President Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, we passed decisions that the houses on the hill should be repaired and not demolished,” said Ambassador Karume.

He said at that time the government had no funds to repair the houses but those decisions continued to remain

and became a plan for the future in protecting the houses built by the first President of Zanzibar after the January 12 Revolution in 1964.

“In those houses, my mother has one flat and I received information through our neighbour and he told me that the hill houses are being demolished to make way for the investment project of modern houses, but we don't know where we will be moved to,” asked Ambassador Karume.

In addition, he said that the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council is the one that has the power to cancel its decisions, but it is surprising that the government has decided to demolish houses on the hill to allow the investor to build houses for business accommodation.

Elaborating on Ambassador Karume, he said during the administration of retired president Dr Shein, he, as the minister of construction, infrastructure and communications, instructed him to visit the houses in the hills after receiving complaints that the houses were dilapidated and some of the residents were using firewood for cooking and causing more damage.

“When I did an inspection in those houses, we wrote a report and sent it to the president and later the issue was discussed by the revolutionary council and a decision was reached that the houses should be repaired to protect the history,” said Ambassador Karume.

He said that in 406 houses, the government through its housing organisation (ZHC) owns 14 houses and the rest are the property of the citizens who were given as compensation to give way for the construction project.

He said that the houses were built



Congo Street, easily Dar es Salaam's most popular shopping area during holidays, rendered virtually impassable yesterday with residents of the city and its environs making eleventh-hour Easter holiday purchases. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

by the first president after the revolution in January 1964 as an assistance from the German government and every citizen whose house was demolished in the area was compensated.

CCM Zanzibar Ideology and Publicity Secretary, Khamis Mbeto Khamis said that the people of Kilimani are the ones who urged the president Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi to repair the houses because of dilapidation.

“President Dr Mwinyi made a visit to visit the patients in the area but he received complaints from the people of the area that the

houses have faced dilapidation before coming up with the project to build new houses and the people living in those houses have passed the construction for a while and after it was finished they faced the houses there,” said Mbeto.

Mbeto further said: “If the people do not want to move to those houses when they collapse, they should not blame the government because the government's intention is to demolish those houses and build another one under Mwinyi City project.”

He also said that the 406 flat houses were

in bad shape and the people do not have the ability to repair them.

He said the government has intended to relocate them for a while to complete the construction, but when the houses are completed, they will be compensated.

The government of the first phase came up with a policy to provide better housing for its citizens after the Zanzibar Revolution in 1964 and built residential houses in various areas including Michezani, Kikwajuni, Gamba, Makunduchi, Kilimani, Micheweni, Wete, Chakechake and Pemba.

TAFIRI set to identify cage fish farming in Lake Nyasa

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) will in the 2023/2024 financial year conduct Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) in Lake Nyasa to identify areas suitable for cage fish farming.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, David Silinde told the National Assembly that SEA is aimed to ensure that cage fish farming is conducted legally in accordance with set professional guidelines.

Silinde said that TAFIRI is set to start experimental cage fish farming in collaboration with the residents whereas they will begin by producing fingerlings by using cages.

He explained that the experimental fish farming is meant for capacity building to the residents to enable them continue with breeding of fingerlings when the projects starts.

"It is important to identify suitable areas before engaging in cage fish farming. We facilitated fishermen in Lake Victoria, but we also need to identify suitable areas in Lake Nyasa based on the set criteria," said Silinde.

He said the government had in the first phase provided funds for fishermen in Lake Zone regions after they qualified for cage fish farming. He said

officials from TAFIRI conducted an evaluation on the readiness of fishermen to practice cage farming in the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 financial years.

The Deputy minister was responding to a basic question from Special Seats MP, Jackline Ngonyani (CCM) who queried on why the government has not allocated funds for establishment of cage fish farming in Lake Nyasa.

In her additional question, the legislator asked why is the government undermining the fishing potential in Lake Nyasa, claiming that fishermen surrounding the Lake have not benefited with the 20bn/- set for development of cage fish farming in the country.



It is important to identify suitable areas before engaging in cage fish farming. We facilitated fishermen in Lake Victoria, but we also need to identify suitable areas in Lake Nyasa based on the set criteria



Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) George Simbachawene (R) and his Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) counterpart, Jenista Mhagama, in jovial mood in Dodoma city on Thursday shortly before they handed over the offices they previously occupied. They swapped portfolios in a recent minor Cabinet reshuffle. Photo: President's Office

W2AF raises €36 m to accelerate access to drinking water in Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Water Access Acceleration Fund (W2AF) has raised its first round of funding with a capitalisation of euros 36 million which will be reinvested in innovative solutions to accelerate access to drinking water in Africa and Asia.

This is an initiative that should lead to others on the African continent. Investment companies are

mobilizing to accelerate access to drinking water in Africa and Asia. They have thus committed to the first financial mobilization of the Water Access Acceleration Fund (W2AF).

The fund mobilised 36 million euros from the Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU), the US Finance Corporation for International Development (DFC), the Norwegian Investment Fund for

Developing Countries (NORFUND), the French bank BNP Paribas, the French food multinational Danone, and the Aqua for All Foundation.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provided catalytic funding to enable a first tranche of losses through the Invest initiative. W2AF's second financial mobilization also aims to mobilize 36 million euros. The fund aims to provide access to clean water to 30

million people by 2030.

"Lack of access to clean water has profound consequences for billions of people in emerging economies, and we are far from achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) target on access to clean water for all," says Arent Christian Kjær, IFU's director of investments. According to the United Nations (UN), 2 billion people still do not have access to safe drinking

water worldwide, the vast majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

And the investments made so far remain insufficient. In Africa alone, the needs amount to 20 billion dollars per year. Faced with this situation, the W2AF fund will invest in private companies specialized in the production and distribution of drinking water. The aim is to support the efforts of African governments who "alone are not able to

fill the investment gap" observed.

"The societal gains are obvious, as every dollar invested in basic drinking water yields three dollars. The figures are even higher for water investments in rural areas," says IFU, which has invested 6.8 million euros in the W2AF fund. According to the World Bank, African states devote no more than 0.5 percent of their gross domestic product (GDP) to the water sector.

'Lack of accountability is fuelled by disappearance of moral knowledge'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman has said that lack of accountability among various officials in the country is fuelled by the disappearance of moral knowledge.

Othman made the remarks yesterday in the House Of Representatives Hall at Wete, North Pemba Region where he met with religious leaders, officials and members of the public after iftar he organised for the residents of the region.

He said many problems regarding ethics are caused by officials and some people using their public positions and resources badly, including embezzlement and outright theft of public funds, as many of them forget themselves of their responsibilities in serving the masses.

He said in many social services provision areas, which are the rights of the people, many officials have been lacking trust and ethical behaviour and remain largely unaccountable in their assigned responsibilities.

The Second Vice president said the issue is a big challenge in the country, and added that those entrusted with responsibilities to serve the people, despite being adherents of Islam, some of them forget themselves by not caring about those from low income groups.

He called on the people and officials "to remember that God is always present and is the One who provides everything to his flocks, but huge recompense will be obtained through living with discipline from the holy

month of Ramadhan and many challenges facing the people can be solved and eradicated and the country can live in peace in order to spur development strides."

Earlier, welcoming 2nd VP Othman to greet those in attendance, Wete District Commissioner, Dr Hamad Omar Bakar thanked him for bringing the people together at the iftar, saying it was a good deed that united the people despite their political affiliations.

Second Vice President Othman rounded up his visit in Pemba by visiting patients at hospitals in the four districts of Pemba.

The visit is the continuation of his visit to all five regions of Zanzibar that began in Unguja two weeks ago



Earlier, welcoming 2nd VP Othman to greet those in attendance, Wete District Commissioner, Dr Hamad Omar Bakar thanked him for bringing the people together at the iftar, saying it was a good deed that united the people despite their political affiliations



Arusha regional administrative secretary Missaile Mussa briefs journalists in Arusha city on Thursday on the pace and level of implementation of various development projects in the region. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

New hope as 14 hospitals acquire dialysis machines

THE government has purchased and distributed 140 dialysis machines to 14 public hospitals, a move that will substantially reduce cost and enable many patients with kidney complications to afford the service country-wide.

Daudi Msasi, chief government pharmacist, said here on Wednesday when speaking at the media editors' two-day seminar organised by the Medical Stores Depart-

ment (MSD).

Msasi said that hospitals that have been fitted with the machines are in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Geita, Mwanza, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Ruvuma, Lindi, Manyara and Arusha regions.

He said that before this new development, Tanzania had only three machines in Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC)

and Bugando Medical Centre (BMC) in Mwanza.

Msasi said that the government is determined to lower the costs of dialysis—a treatment for individuals whose kidneys are failing.

"Dialysis services have become very high, to the extent that they affect families with low incomes and people who cannot afford them, Tanzanian government has taken action through MSD to allow

them to bring dialysis machines into the country," the CP said.

He unveiled that the machines have been fitted at the Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital, hospital at the Dodoma University Hospital (UDOM) and Mwanza-based Sekou-Toure Regional Referral Hospital.

Mwanasehe Jumaa, MSD's quality assurance manager said 14 hospitals have been

given 10 machines each, making a total of 140 provided by the department.

Along with UDOM and Sekou Toure, Mwanasehe mentioned the other hospitals that were given the machines include Amana, Mwananyamala, Temeke in Dar es Salaam, Tumbi (Coast), Mawenzi (Kilimanjaro), AICC (Arusha), and regional hospitals—Morogoro, Ruvuma, Lindi, Manyara, Do-

doma and Chato.

She said that Sekou Toure, Chato, Tumbi and Amana hospitals have been fitted with the relevant machines and have started providing services.

"Four centers are in the final stages and in the near future they will provide services," he said and mentioned the hospitals in Dodoma, Lindi, Morogoro and Mawenzi awaiting permission to

start work. The rest of the stations, its infrastructure is not ready.

Mavere Tukai, MSD's director general said that they have received the responsibility to ensure that medical equipment, medicines and reagents arrive on time to all areas where the service is provided.

Hipolitti Lello, National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) marketing manager said that the fund spends a lot of money on dialysis services.

NEMC closes an unregistered plastic bottle recycling factory

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has closed unregistered plastic bottle recycling factory located at Kisarawe (II) in Kigamboni District after it was found with hospital waste which is against the law.

NEMC has summoned the factory to report to its offices to explain the reasons for having the wastes which are against its registration documents.

Acting head of legal compliance and implementation at NEMC Thobias Mwesiga made the directives yesterday after inspecting operations at the factory in which some are against their registration guidelines.

He said they have also realised that the industry has no permits adding that the council will take actions against the owner for going against the law.

"He will be fined less than 5m/- and this is the money that he will pay to the government," said Mwesiga.

He said the council has directed

all hospitals on how to manage wastes but also ensure that the wastes will not be able to return to the environment.

NEMC manager for the southern, eastern zone Hamad Taimuru said the owner will be given details of how to operate upon reaching NEMC offices in the seven-day days given.

"This is unacceptable because even those working in this industry are working without protective gears which means they can easily get diseases," he said.

He said NEMC will also visit various hospitals in the country to see how they manage wastes but also see their disposing tunnels.

Owner of the factory Salumu Madongo acknowledged having no permits from NEMC adding that he will personally visit NEMC offices to get the necessary documents.

As to why he was found with hospital waste, Madongo said this was brought by people who pick the plastic bottles around the city and brought to the factory in a wrapped bag.



Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (R) has a quick word with Rev Veronica Sumbe of the Dodoma Parish of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) shortly after Good Friday mass in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

33 Tanzanian doctors benefit from Merck Foundation award

By Beatrice Philemon

A TOTAL of 33 Tanzanian doctors have benefited from Merck Foundation scholarships in various critical and underserved fields such as fertility, embryology, oncology, diabetes, critical care, endocrinology, dermatology and cardiology since 2018 to date.

Prof Frank Stangenberg Haverkamp, chairman of both the executive board of Merck KG and Merck Foundation Board of Trustees made the remarks recently at the media awards ceremony and Merck Foundation Tanzania alumni summit.

Other includes critical psychiatry, pain management, preventive cardiovascular medicine, respira-

tory medicine, women's health to help them to improve access to equitable and quality health care in Africa.

"This is a great achievement in a short time, we started in 2018 our efforts to advance the healthcare capacity and help to reshape the public healthcare sector of Tanzania," he said.

Merck Foundation is looking forward to expand their program of capacity building to more doctors from the public sector in 36 critical and underserved specialties.

"As you all know, we are very interested in community awareness through our partnership with media societies and the Ministries of Communication, Education and Gender across Africa," he said.

According to him, Merck Foundation aims to improve the overall health of people by building healthcare capacity across Africa, Asia, and other developing countries.

"We are strongly committed to transforming the patient care landscape through our scholarships program," he said.

So far more than 1500 scholarships have been provided for young doctors from 50 countries in 36 critical and underserved specialties.

Many of them are becoming the first specialist doctors in their respective countries such as Burundi, Malawi, Liberia, The Gambia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Guinea, Ethiopia, Congo, Nepal, Bangladesh and others.

"For us at Merck Foundation, our vision is "everyone can lead a healthy and happy life, for 10 years this has been our mission to build healthcare capacity, transform the patient care landscape, break the infertility stigma, empower women and support girl's education," he said.

Haverkamp was in Tanzania accompanied by Senator, Dr Rasha Kelej, Merck Foundation, chief executive officer and President of "More Than a Mother" campaign to meet with Tanzanian doctors and discuss the impact of their programs on the public health sector, discuss their future impact on patient care in their communities in general as well as present media awards.

Senator, Dr Rasha Kelej, Merck Foundation, chief executive officer and President of "More Than a Mother" campaign added that "We are very proud to provide 33 scholarships to 33 young Tanzanian doctors that in -turn has helped them to reshape the public healthcare sector in Tanzania," she said.

Merck Foundation scholarships are provided to nationals of African Countries, Developing countries, and underserved communities as per the World Human Development Index list of Developing countries.

"For the first time, while in Tanzania, we met with Tanzania Merck Foundation Alumni, the doctors who have benefited from our scholarships and discussed their impact on their practice and community

in improving quality and equitable patient care in Tanzania.

Also to discuss the critical role media play in raising awareness and sensitizing communities about sensitive issues such as breaking the infertility stigma, empowering girls in education, ending Gender Based Violence, diabetes and hypertension prevention and stopping Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and present Media Awards winners.

Dr Christina Malichewe from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) is one of 33 young Tanzanian doctors who have benefited from Merck Foundation medical training scholarships implemented by Merck Foundation.



European Union energy programme manager Massimiliano Pedretti remarks on five electrical appliances which he said ought to be considered in the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and Labelling Validation in Tanzania. It was at a meeting on the Implementation of the Tanzania Energy Efficiency Action Plan project held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

'Freedom of expression is crucial for media practitioners' to work

By Jennifer Gilla

THE executive director of the Tanzania Media Women Association, (TAMWA) Dr Rose Reuben has said that media practitioners can fulfill all their responsibilities in the society when there is a freedom of expression and independent media.

She said that freedom of expression is a basic human right that brings democracy and gives the community a wide platform to express their opinions on issues that are productive for the public and hold accountable leaders who go against the development of the community.

Dr Rose said this in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday when speaking to journalists about the commemorations of the World Press Freedom Day scheduled to take place on May 3, this year. Nationally the celebration will be held in Zanzibar and the special guest is expected to be the President of Zanzibar, Dr Hussen Mwinyi.

She said that the purpose of the celebrations is to promote awareness of the importance of media freedom and to remind the government and society of the importance of respecting and protecting the right to freedom of information.

Assistant Director of Information Services, Rodney Tadeusi, said the government continues to support the efforts of media stakeholders where last year the celebration was fortu-

nate to be attended by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

"As promised, the government will protect freedom and support resolutions issued by stakeholders aimed at ensuring that the information sector continues to improve and freedom of information continues to expand and citizens have freedom of expression," he said.

Nancy Angulo, UNESCO's head of communication and information said the day provides an opportunity to emphasize the role of freedom of expression and media freedom as well as all other human rights.

She said it is a time to reflect on the way digital transformation and technological advancement calls for a renewed emphasis on freedom of expression as a key driver and an enabler to enjoy all human rights.

"This year recalls the 1993 landmark alignment of multilateral consensus around the importance of human rights, press freedom and freedom of expression," she said.

World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993, to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

Bank-funded water sanitation project improving livelihoods in Somaliland

By Guardian Correspondent

WITH a population of about 24,500, Arabsoyo is about 35 km west of the capital, Hargeisa. The town previously had 75 per cent of its inhabitants relying on unsafe water delivered by donkey carts and truck operators who often drew from unprotected and poorly maintained water sources like shallow hand-dug wells around seasonal riverbeds.

Only about 20 per cent of the population had access to potable water from a borehole through a household connection managed by Arabsoyo Water Agency (AWA), the public water utility. The remaining 5 per cent got their water from water kiosks at high costs.

According to AWA, the water volume was

insufficient to meet the minimum WHO recommended per capita urban consumption of 35 liters per capita per day. It fell short by almost 67 per cent of this recommendation.

During that period, Khadra Mohamed, 62, spent about a third of her daily income to purchase potable water. "I bought water four times a week from a donkey-drawn cart private operator who travelled about six km round trip for each supply. Still, this was not enough for my sanitation and hygiene needs," says the mother of seven, a resident of Arabsoyo.

She recalls that her daughter walked the same distance each time to call out and direct a donkey cart operator to their house to supply water, and therefore missed school regularly.

This inability to meet the growing water needs of communities in Arabsoyo was widespread, especially in Somaliland's informal settlements. But the story has changed since 2022, thanks to the water infrastructure development programme for resilience in Somaliland (WIDPR), funded by the African Development Bank and implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources Development in collaboration with CARE International.

The programme, implemented over six years (2016-2022) in several rural and peri-urban communities across Somaliland, established resilient and sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure in Somaliland.

It entailed the construction of an 83,000-cubic meter Haffir dam in Faraw-

eyne, close to the border with Ethiopia; construction of 5 earth dams, rehabilitation and building of five strategic boreholes and 11 shallow wells. Another 18 shallow wells were constructed to serve as village mini-water-supply facilities. They are solar-powered and serve rural and peri-urban communities. Some 23 public sanitation amenities were also built in schools, health facilities and markets.

The project had a capacity-building component comprising establishing and training 27 community water management and 23 community sanitation and hygiene promotion committees. These community-level management structures will ensure systematic and sustainable water supply and sanitation access for the beneficiaries.

In addition, the programme made avail-

able a borehole drilling and maintenance rig to increase water production in Arabsoyo Town. This helped AWA to improve water supply through house connections and enabled the construction of more water kiosks.

Khadra's family is among several households that benefitted from the new water supply system. Her daughter, who previously had to abandon school to enable her to walk 6 km to draw water for the household, now attends classes regularly.

Khadra says: "Providing me access to piped water means a lot. My daughter is now fully back in school, and the amount of money I spend on water has significantly reduced. I can now save money for small trading to support my family."

For example, before the project, families

Kagongwa residents happy with the construction of health centre

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

MORE than one million residents of Kagongwa Township in Kahama District, Shinyanga region are now happy without walking long distances in search of health services after the government constructed a 500m/- health centre in the area.

Speaking when briefing the district political committee of the ruling CCM, district medical officer Dr Josephati Shani said the construction of the health centre has been finalised and that services are now being offered.

He said the district council set aside 1.8bn/- from internal revenues to construct the health centre at Kagongwa to rescue people who were walking long distances in search of health services.

"The construction will be done in three phases, the first will be the construction of the OPD, the theatre and X-rays which is now in final stage," he said.

The executive director for the municipal council Anderson Msumba said from April, 3 this year they will continue to set aside funds for such developments.

He said the municipal has bought various health equipment which will be used to offer services at the district hospital which serves 1,000 per day from nearby districts of Msalala, Ushetu, Shinyanga rural, Kaliuwa and Kigoma.

Shinyanga regional commissioner Christina Mndeme directed that a new fence should be constructed at the area to protect it from vandalism and urged the manager for the Tanzania Rural Roads Agency Job Mutagwaba to construct a road leading to the site.

CCM chairman for Shinyanga region, Mabila Mlolwa called upon the general public in the area to take opportunities in the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline which will pass through the area to improve their economic wellbeing.



Airtel Tanzania managing director Dinesh Balsingh (R) and commercial director Amit Chandiraman to him) serve food at iftar the firm hosted for its staff in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MCT calls upon media across the country to understand root causes of infertility stigma

By Beatrice Philemon

MEDIA Council of Tanzania (MCT) has called on media personnel across the country to understand and educate themselves on the root causes of various challenges that affect the community including infertility stigma, child marriage, girl's education, diabetes, female genital mutilation (FGM) and many others.

Paulo Mallimbo, MCT's press freedom and media monitoring programme manager said in Dar es Salaam recently at the just ended Merck Foundation Health Media Training 2023 and media award ceremony.

In a bid to educate the communities and be the voice of the voiceless, media practitioners need to ensure that they read academic literature, news articles, speak to experts in the field, attend workshops and conferences and engage with affected communities.

This will enable journalists to report with prior knowledge and better understanding on the issue at hand.

Elaborating on what Journalists should do for the effective coverage on Infertility Stigma, Girls' Education, Girl's child marriage, GBV, FGM, and Diabetes, he said journalists should use sensitive and accurate language while writing stories

on the issues.

They should also be careful with the language they use to describe these issues, as certain words or phrases can perpetuate harmful stereotypes or stigmatize individuals.

"For example, instead of using the term 'victim,' they can use the term 'survivor' to empower those who have experienced violence. They should also avoid using euphemisms or minimizing the severity of the issue," he said.

Journalists should humanize the stories as well as focus on telling the stories that affect people especially those affected by GBV, diabetes, FGM, and early marriage.

Mead people should also highlight the personal experiences of individuals and families impacted by these issues, which can help readers to empathize and understand the impact of these issues on people's lives.

"Journalists can use their platform to create awareness to the entire audience and educate their readers on these issues. They should use their reporting to encourage audiences to take action and promote positive change in their communities," he said.

Highlighting on the role of media in raising awareness in Infertility Stigma, Girls' education, girl's child marriage, GBV, FGM

and Diabetes, he said media personnel should equip themselves on issues of infertility stigma (What it is, how is it practiced, where does it practiced, who practiced it and why and then create platforms for debate and dialogue (radio, TV programs and Club house).

Articulate a clear understanding and knowledge of what are GBV, FGM, Diabetes, how the above are mitigated, the challenges that they impose on the people and economies of a certain community, and whether the mitigation efforts are succeeding or failing, and why.

Samson Kamalomo, Dar es Salaam City Press Club (DCPC)'s

chairman added that the media has a big role and power in shaping the health of the public, it plays a number of roles in educating the public about health issues.

Also, has a responsibility to report accurate health and science information to the public and media can place health issues on the national public agenda.

It can catalyze action at the national and local levels and finally improve the population's health.

He said broadcasters can help create conditions for improved population health, the media, both paid advertising and free media, are important vehicles for putting pressure on public agencies.

EWURA announces new prices of fuel and petroleum products

By Guardian Reporter

THE Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has announced new prices for fuel and petroleum products in the country for the month of April where consumers will now enjoy a slight decrease in price.

The energy regulator announced on Wednesday that for April 2023, retail prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene imported through Dar es Salaam port have decreased by 187/- per litre, 284/- per litre and 169/- per litre respectively.

Dr James Mwainyekule, EWURA director general said in a statement that the prices shall be applicable effectively from April 5, saying that the changes in prices of the three petroleum products are to a larger extent due to changes in prices of the products in the world oil market.

He said changes in local prices are mainly attributed to changes in the world oil market prices and bulk procurement system (BPS) premiums.

For northern regions (Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, and Manyara), retail prices of petrol and diesel for April 2023 have decreased by TZS 158/litre and TZS 231/litre, respectively.

Moreover, due to depletion of kerosene at Tanga storage terminal, petrol station operators in the northern regions are advised to source kerosene from Dar es Salaam. Therefore, the retail prices of kerosene for those regions are based on the cost of the product received through Dar es Salaam port and the transport cost to the respective regions.

For Southern regions (Mtwara, Lindi, and Ruvuma), retail prices of petrol and diesel for April 2023 decreased by 220/- per litre and 176/- litre, respectively.

"Due to unavailability of kerosene at Mtwara

storage terminals, Petrol Station operators in the Southern regions are advised to source kerosene from Dar es Salaam. Therefore, the retail prices of kerosene for those regions are based on the cost of the product received through Dar es Salaam port and the transport cost to the respective regions," he said.

He reminded the public that these cap prices can be accessed through mobile phones by dialing *152*00# and then following the provided instructions.

In line with the prevailing sector legislation (Petroleum Act, 2015, section 166), prices of petroleum products are governed by rules of demand and supply.

"EWURA shall continue to encourage competition in the sector by making available petroleum products pricing information including cap prices. This information on prices is intended to enable stakeholders to make informed decisions on petroleum prices at any particular time," he insisted.

The DG however said, oil marketing companies are free to sell their products at a price that gives them a competitive advantage provided that, such price does not exceed the price cap and is not below the floor price for the relevant product as it is computed pursuant to the EWURA (petroleum products prices setting) rules 2022.

The authority further retailers must issue receipts printed from an Electronic Fiscal Pump Printer (EFPP) for all sales that they make. In addition, consumers are required to demand and keep those receipts that clearly show the name of the petrol station, the date on which such purchase was made as well as, the type of petroleum product (fuel) and price per litre for every purchase they make.



Congo Street, easily Dar es Salaam's most popular shopping area during holidays, rendered virtually impassable yesterday with residents of the city and its environs making eleventh-hour Easter holiday purchases. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Almost half the world's population lives in households linked to agrifood systems

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

AROUND 1.23 billion people were employed in the world's agrifood systems in 2019, and more than three times that figure, or almost half the world's population, live in households linked to agrifood systems, according to new research by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Of these 1.23 billion people, 857 million worked in primary agricultural production, while 375 million worked in the off-farm segments of agrifood systems.

The new figures, the first systematic and documented global estimate of its kind, derive from a range of sources and incor-

porate the widespread use of part-time or seasonal employment in the sector. The figures also refer to agrifood systems rather than agricultural sectors, reflecting the increasing importance of off-farm activities in feeding the world's population, currently 8 billion and growing.

"Policy and practical agendas on the national and global level must and are addressing the challenges facing agrifood systems in an integrated way, and to keep up, data must move beyond silo-based notions such as farm employment and include the whole process from food production through processing and transport to the consumer -everything that goes into what we eat," said Ben Davis, Director of FAO's

Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division and lead author of the report.

"Making sure that agrifood systems are sustainable requires factoring in nutrition, health and climate change," he added.

The study entitled "Estimating Global and Country Level Employment in Agrifood Systems" was published as a Working Paper by FAO's Statistics Division. In addition to a team from FAO, other authors include Kate Schneider, from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Ramya Ambikapathi, from the Department of Global Development at Cornell University, and Paul Winters, from the Keough School

of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame.

The new exercise adopts a harmonized approach using econometric modeling based on data from the International Labour Organization and validated with household surveys from FAO's Rural Livelihoods Information System (RuLIS) database, as explained in the Working Paper.

The largest number of people employed in agrifood systems, 793 million, is in Asia, followed by almost 290 million in Africa.

The majority of the economically active population in low-income countries, particularly in Africa, had at least one job or activity in agrifood systems.

Including relevant trade and transportation activities, 62 percent of employment

in Africa is in agrifood systems, compared to 40 percent in Asia and 23 percent in the Americas.

The share of agrifood system employment out of total employment that is not directly in the agricultural sectors ranges from 8 percent in Europe to 14 percent in Africa.

In most of the countries for which data from RuLIS is available, youth, defined as people aged 15 to 35 years old, make up around half of all agrifood system workers, and their share is usually higher in food processing and services.

Of the 3.83 billion people reliant on agrifood systems for their livelihoods, 2.36 billion live in Asia and 940 million in Africa.

Zanzibaris cautioned on spring water believed to cure diseases

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Ministry of Health has issued a warning regarding a spring at Msuka village along Pemba's East Coast that emits water believed to cure various diseases, saying the claims are false.

Briefing reporters on Wednesday, Health Minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui said following the rumours, his ministry dispatched a team of experts to the area to take water sample for analysis.

He said after the sample's in-depth analysis it was found out that the water was not fit for human consumption.

The minister said the water was found to contain germs that cause stomach diseases as it has a big content of E.coli bacteria at between 220 and 1,800 per litre.

"Normally drinking water is not supposed to contain even a single bacteria," said Mazrui.

Mazrui said investigations also found the water to contain coliforms type of bacteria at 1,800 per 100 litres that causes a running stomach.

He said normally the bacteria are needed in

the water for drinking but they should not exceed three per litre in every 100 litres.

He further said the analysis also found out the spring water to contain a high level of chloride at 1,490-plus milligrams per litre, adding that the acceptable chloride level should not exceed 250 milligrams per litre.

He said the water has also been contaminated by excreta from living organisms and has a high content of chemicals rendering it unfit for human consumption that can cause health challenges.

He said among these diseases are running stomachs, cholera, vomiting, dehydration, acute stomach pains and ulcers.

He called on the people to ignore the rumours in the social media that the water cures diseases, and said it cannot cure any diseases except infecting the users with diseases.

He said the rumours made the water distributed to various areas of Pemba and beyond, including Mombasa in Kenya, Oman, and DRC.

For his part, Zanzibar government chief chemist, Dr Farid Mzee said the water is not even fit to be taken by livestock or for irrigation due to its high toxin content.



Nachingwea district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moyo (in glasses) makes an inspection tour of a ward at hospital under the Catholic Church Diocese of Mnero at Mnero Ngongo village on Thursday shortly after laying the foundation stone for a building to accommodate a mother and child clinic. Construction will be courtesy of funding from the Dutch people. Left is the hospital's medical officer in-charge, Raynald Chitanda. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dar, Coast regions residents happy with launch of mega water project

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

LAST month, the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa marked history for the residents of Dar es Salaam and Coast regions when he launched a large project to supply water from Makongo to Bagamoyo which is expected to serve approximately 450,000 people.

This project which was eagerly awaited by the residents of Kinondoni District, including Changanyikeni, Goba, Mivumoni, Mbweni, Madale, Tegeta A, Bunju, Wazo, Ocean bay and Salasala, Mabwepande, Mbopo, Kinzudi and Kilongawima, has brought new light for the residents and restore faith in the government once they start getting water service.

Residents of Mataya, Sanzale,

Migude, Ukuni, Mtambani, Nianjema, Kimara ngo'mbe, Kisutu, Block P, Mapinga, Vikawe, Vikawe valley and surrounding areas, are part of the main beneficiaries of this project.

The launch of this project has brought great relief to the residents of the mentioned areas who previously did not have water service for a long time, especially the residents of Bunju, Madale, Mivumoni, Mbopo, Salasala and Goba.

These are areas that have been facing the challenge of water for a long time due to the absence of a water network to supply services to the people living in those areas.

The lack of water service for these people and caused some residents to spend a lot of money and time to find water far from their homes.

The completion of this project implemented under the supervision of the Dar es Salaam Water and Environmental Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) is one of the major achievements achieved by the Sixth Phase Government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan for being able to land buckets on the heads of the people who benefit from this project.

The speed of implementation of this project has been greatly influenced by the efforts of President Samia who made it possible for World Bank (WB) to facilitate the project with 65.4Bn/, funds that were used to implement this project and it was completed 100 percent.

This project involved the construction of three water storage tanks built in the areas of Vikawe, Mbweni and

Tegeta A with a capacity of 5 million liters each. It also involve construction of two existing water pumping stations in Vikawe and Mbweni, construction of a network of small and large pipes to transport and distribute water from 2.5 inches to 16 inches for a distance of 1,252.

During the launch of this project recently, the Prime Minister was quoted as saying that the Government recognizes the water challenges in those areas and that means President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan made a sincere decision to push the implementation of this project so that the people can get water.

Along with congratulating DAWASA for the great work done, he also instructed DAWASA by telling them that the project has been completed

and the current task is to ensure that all citizens are fully connected to water so that everyone can see the benefits of this project in their homes by getting water.

Apart from that, Kassim Majaliwa asked people to cooperate with the government to protect and take care of the water sources as well as the environment, because destroying the environment is sabotage.

These projects are very important for the well-being of the society because if people get reliable water, they get a good time to do wealth production activities and thus get rid of income poverty.

In addition, these water projects have been beneficial to the citizens; they have also been of great benefit to the investors because if they get

reliable water, industrial production activities will get a boost, thus helping the economic growth.

Water has been a problem for a long time in some areas of the City of Dar es Salaam and Coast Region, but the speed shown by DAWASA in implementing various water projects is encouraging that the water problem in those areas is now going to be a thing of the past.

When the government is making efforts to ensure that the water problem in many areas becomes history, it is the responsibility of the citizens to be the guardians of the infrastructure that is being built at a great cost.

Since DAWASA's systems have been improved, people who apply water connection have been getting the service quickly, unlike in previ-

Bush meat consumption unchanged by COVID-19 in Kenya and Tanzania border towns: new study

By Guardian Correspondent

THE fact that many pandemics, including possibly COVID-19, have had their origins in wild animals might be expected to cause meat consumers to reduce their consumption of risky "bushmeats," which are derived from wild animals, to avoid illness.

But a new study by the International Livestock Research Institute on bushmeat eaters at the Kenya-Tanzania border tells a different story.

While most people in the rural communities were aware of the dangers posed by bush meat, they continued to consume it anyway. Some even increased their consumption due to the economic constraints imposed by COVID-19 measures.

The study explored the impact of COVID-19 patterns on wild meat consumption and perceptions of associated zoonotic disease risks.

This is the first ever study to look at disease risks associated with wild meat value chains in rural settlements. It was undertaken by a team of researchers from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), the global wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC, Nature Heritage and the Wildlife Research Training Institute.

"Wild meat trade and consumption in sub-Saharan Africa are both widespread and complex; we need to better understand the rural and urban demand for wild meat, particularly as the meat of some bird, rodent and other species is particularly risky to consume," says ILRI scientist Ekta Patel.

The study, conducted in December 2021 and now published in *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, interviewed 299 people in communities on the Kenya-Tanzania border. Key findings revealed that levels of education played a critical role in understanding zoonotic disease transmission. Respondents with higher levels of education were more aware of the risks of disease transmission. Nearly 80 percent of respondents learned about COVID-19 from mass media sources.

Zoonotic diseases are those that originate in animals—be they tamed or wild—that then mutate and spill over into human populations. Two-thirds of infectious diseases, from HIV/AIDS, which originated in chimpanzee populations in early 20th-century Central Africa, to COVID-19, which is believed to have originated from an as-yet



Sand cleared from a clogged roadside trench some days ago lies abandoned, as captured yesterday by our roving photographer at Mbezi Luis in Dar es Salaam's Ubungo Municipality. This could lead to a recurrence of the menace in case it rains again soon. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

undetermined animal in 2019, originate in animals.

Despite understanding the associated risks of consuming meat from wild animals, the study found that COVID-19 did not strongly affect the consumption of wild meat, with only 30 percent of respondents reporting lower consumption because of the pandemic. Nearly 70 percent said that COVID-19 did not impact their levels of wild meat consumption, with some even reporting increased consumption. Researchers attribute this to the increased food costs caused by regulations to control the COVID-19 pandemic, which made many people seek protein sources cheaper than beef, mutton, chicken and other domesticated animal meats.

"While hunting wild animals for their meat has been a crucial activity in the evolution of humans and continues to be an essential source of food and income for millions of indigenous and rural communities globally, wildlife conservationists rightly fear that excessive hunting of many wild species will cause their demise. To ensure continued use of wildlife resources by those who depend on it, sustainable hunting, marketing and consumption practices must be implemented. Local communities need to remain or become custodians of the wildlife resources

within their lands, for their own well-being as well as for biodiversity in general," says Julia Fa, University of Manchester professor and fellow at CIFOR-ICRAF.

The study also examined local perceptions of risks associated with wild meat consumption, where respondents recognized the risk of other disease transmissions, including anthrax and brucellosis. The study's respondents also recognized that high disease risk was associated with people with open wounds slaughtering wild animals and handling wild meat. Moreover, respondents identified meat from wild animals as more dangerous than meat from domesticated livestock, with hyena meat consumption cited as the riskiest.

"While scientific evidence has shown that spotted hyenas are reservoirs of coronaviruses, we don't know why these local communities thought hyenas to be risky edible species; more needs to be done to understand community perceptions about what is and isn't a risky species to hunt and consume as well as address potential risks associated with consumption of birds and rodents," says Patel.

While more than 80 percent of the study's respondents living in Kenya believed that wild meat should not be

sold due to concerns for wildlife conservation, less than half the respondents in Tanzania felt the same, perhaps reflecting Kenya's more stringent wildlife use regulations.

Gender differences were also observed, with men more concerned than women about getting COVID-19 from live animals. (It is, in fact, difficult to get COVID-19 directly from contact with animals, even from animals infected with the disease pathogens, since animals tend to suffer from species-specific mutations of the virus. But other zoonotic risks remain, such as anthrax.)

Safe as well as sustainable wild meat consumption can be advanced in several ways, such as By providing communities with greater access to affordable meat from domesticated livestock, giving local communities incentives to change any risky behaviors that may lead to spillover of pathogens from animals to humans and supporting food sellers in the informal markets of the poor to adopt greater hygiene and related food safety standards.

Others include finding new ways to meet the nutritional needs of the poor, for whom wild meat remains an important source of proteins and micronutrients and regulating wildlife hunting and sales of wild animals and their meat for conservation.

SATURDAY 8 APRIL 2023

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

Diversifying range of stakeholders can improve cash handling in public entities

PRESENTING annual reports of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) each year is a moment of confronting, mentally at least, the extent or frequency of inept financial control performance in public agencies for the previous financial year. This time it was 2021/2022 that was under the camera where, as President Samia Suluhu Hassan was observing not so long ago, Tanzania lost its position in global sensitivity lists on corruption. It means embezzlement and bribes are on the rise.

That is why it is apparent the report for the first year of the sixth phase would show greater indulgence in misuse of public funds than previous years. No one needs to be schooled too strongly to realise that ending the threat of instant firing and public admonition contributed to this situation, as administrators knew they would be facing fewer risks in misusing public funds than was the case earlier. Unless another set of circumstances intervenes or comes up, the projection is that the next annual report will be worse; misuse of public funds steadily rises with democracy.

Founder president Julius Nyerere said in one of his early speeches at independence that responsibility without freedom is slavery, and freedom without responsibility is anarchy. Listening to what transpired when CAG Charles Kicheche presented a litany of woes forming a summary of findings of the audit exercise, the clincher to this situation was there, as well as inability to do much about it. He said that major public institutions need to comply with laws and regulations in accordance with relevant policies, ensuring effectiveness in delivering services to the broad public.

If it was in a religious conclave rather than a press conference

such remark could be followed by 'amen,' as it hurts no one and poses no threat to those who would otherwise be expected to show apprehension for the findings. The report highlights significant deficiencies in internal control systems, financial management and governance structures of various organizations, chiefly pointing at shortcomings in procurement, contract management. Nearly all areas where discretion is exercised.

What the CAG has not told the public is that on the whole, we don't have a culture of doing things the right way if there is a chance of obtaining pecuniary advantage by twisting procedures. The report is pegged on the supposition that most of us would conduct ourselves diligently when entrusted with public funds without adequate controls but just obtaining authorisation. It can also be obtained by talking as a luxury restaurant how such a deal could be fruitfully arranged, etc.

Virtually all of us know that wilful diligence is a myth, outside constraint, fear of losing one's job. If the reward is high enough, bureaucrats will clear any hurdle to get 1m/- or 10m/- into a bank account. There is little moral restraint as pressure to succeed in life far outweighs all such constraints, if they ever worked. It follows that since we have removed the stick associated with an authoritarian state which sought to get things done, highly intolerant of personal mischief with public funds, other ways need to be sought. We need to have other stakeholders whose interests are realized when things are done properly, but PCCB plans more harangue it calls education, on why embezzlement is to be avoided. But, frankly, who is listening?

Access to chronic disease medication in African nations remains inadequate

ACTIONS are needed to strengthen the resilience of medicine supply chains globally and in many African countries in particular to respond to today's needs and to prepare for emerging challenges, including emergencies and pandemics.

With rising internet connectivity, African governments are turning to digital health services to handle a shortage of health workers and to better connect rural communities. But not everyone is quick on the uptake.

World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7 April, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organisation (WHO), as well as other related organisations.

In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly. The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, with effect from 1950, as the World Health Day. The World Health Day is held to mark WHO's founding and is seen as an opportunity by the organisation to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year. The WHO organises international, regional and local events on the Day related to a particular theme. World Health Day is acknowledged by various governments and non-governmental organisations with interests in public health issues, who also organise activities and highlight their support in media reports, such as the Global Health Council.

World Health Day is one of 11 official global health campaigns marked by WHO, along with World Tuberculosis Day, World Immunization Week, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco

Day, World AIDS Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Chagas Disease Day, World Patient Safety Day, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week and World Hepatitis Day.

The WHO has played a leading role in several public health achievements, most notably the eradication of smallpox, the near-eradication of polio, and the development of an Ebola vaccine. Its current priorities include communicable diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, Ebola, COVID-19, malaria and tuberculosis; non-communicable diseases such as heart disease and cancer; healthy diet, nutrition, and food security; occupational health; and substance abuse. Its World Health Assembly, the agency's decision-making body, elects and advises an executive board made up of 34 health specialists. It selects the director-general, sets goals and priorities, and approves the budget and activities. The current director-general is Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia.

The WHO relies on contributions from member states (both assessed and voluntary) and private donors for funding. Its total approved budget for 2020-2021 is over \$72 billion, of which the majority comes from voluntary contributions from member states. Since the late 20th century, the rise of new actors engaged in global health such as the World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and dozens of public-private partnerships for global health have weakened the WHO's role as a coordinator and policy leader in the field.

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FAITH, PEACE AND LOVE



We need strong legal treaties on business and human rights

By Simone Galimberti

THE ongoing discussions on an internationally treaty, described as a "legally binding instrument" on business and human rights, remains one of the most neglected issues that should instead command the attention of the public.

Such a legal tool would bind companies to uphold high standards and most importantly, it would entail mandatory guarantees for accessible and inclusive remedy and therefore, clear liabilities for victims of alleged abuses perpetrated by companies.

It all started in 2014 when two nations of the South, Ecuador and South Africa successfully pushed for a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council on the establishment of a so called "international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights".

By reading the title of the resolution you can immediately realize that one of the conundrums being discussed is the overarching scope of such treaty especially in the reference of the nature of the companies being subject to it.

In practice, would only multinational or also national private corporations come under its jurisdiction?

Interestingly, at the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) created to draft the text of the treaty, many developing nations, for example, like Indonesia, were strongly advocating for only multinationals to be included.

This is a position of convenience that would exclude local major operators involved in the plantations business from coming under scrutiny of the treaty.

Other complex issues are centered on the liability especially in relation to instances where a corporation is "only" directly linked to the harm rather than cause.

As explained by Tara Van Ho, a lecturer at the University of Essex School of Law and Human Rights Centre, if "a business is only "directly linked to" the harm, it does not need to provide remedies but can instead use its "leverage" to affect change in its business partners."

The difference between causing or contributing to harm and instead being only linked to it can be subtle and remain an exclusive debate among scholars, but its repercussions could or could not ensure justice to millions of people victims of corporate abuses.

Another point of attrition is the complex issue of the statutes of limi-

tations and the role of domestic jurisdiction over the future treaty.

With all these challenges, after 8 years of negotiations, the drafting is moving in slow motion amid a general disinterest among state parties, as explained by Elodie Aba for Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

An issue that should capture global attention has instead become a realm of technical discussions among governments, academicians and civil society members without generating mass awareness about it.

The need for a treaty related to abuses of corporations is almost self-evident, considering the gigantic proofs that have been emerging both in the North and South.

Despite nice words and token initiatives, the private sector has been more than often keen to close its eyes before abuses occurring through its direct actions or throughout its supply chains.

Amid weak legislations, especially in developing countries, the hard job of trying to keep companies accountable, until now, has depended on a set of non-binding, voluntary procedures formally known as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The Principles, prepared by late Harvard Professor John G. Ruggie in his capacity as UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights, proved to be a useful but at the same time inadequate tool.

It has been useful because it was instrumental in raising the issue of human rights within the corporate sector, something that was for too long and till recently, a taboo.

In order to further mainstream it, for example, a UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights has been established as a special procedure within UN Human Rights.

Along the years, this independent group, composed by pro bono academicians, has carried out considerable work to strengthen both the understanding of and the adherence to the Principles.

There is no doubt that there have been attempts at going deeper, especially from the legal point of view on the Principles, especially on their articles related to right to remedy, the thorniest issue.

In this regard, the Accountability and Remedy Project have been providing a whole set of insights through multiple consultations and discussions, a process that still ongoing with the overall purpose of making a stronger cases on "the right to remedy, a core tenet of the interna-

tional human rights system".

Yet principles, UN Global Compact, are toothless tool and showed considerable limitations, starting from the most obvious element, the fact that they are not binding.

In the meantime, in 2021 the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, on occasion of their 10th anniversary of the Principles, launched road map for the next 10 years.

It is actions, despite their intrinsic limitations due to the nature of the Principles, should be supported but more financial resources are indispensable. Yet finding the financial resources or better the political will to do so remains an issue.

A recommendation from late Prof. Ruggie to create a Voluntary Fund for Business and Human Rights did not go anywhere.

"The Fund would provide a mechanism for supporting projects developed at local and national levels that would increase the capacity of governments to fulfill their obligations in this area as well as strengthen efforts by business enterprises and associations, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and others seeking to advance implementation of the Guiding Principles".

Even more worrisome is the fact that till now a new Special Representative for Business and Human Rights has not been appointed yet.

Having an authoritative figure, especially a former head of state rather than an academician, could help bring more visibility to the ongoing "behind the curtain" discussions related to the need for a strong Treaty. Such a political figure could not only command a stronger attention on the issue but also provide "cover" to the delicate work of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, complementing and strengthening its mandate.

Engagement with the education sector, law and business schools, as advocated by a report published by Business and Human Rights Asia, a UNDP Program, can be essential.

Together with a stronger media coverage, students and academicians can help elevate the issue of human rights and its linkages with the private sector.

We could imagine competitions among students at national and international levels on how the principles can be better implemented as a "bridge" tool towards a binding legal mechanism.

Students could also have a major say on the opaque drafting process of this treaty.

At the end of the day, there will be compromises and shortcomings, but with a bigger bottom-up approach, a strong Treaty could become a "global" Escazú, the first ever binding environment agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean.

UNDP with its Business and Human Rights Asia unit that recently organized in Kathmandu an excellent 4th UN South Asia Forum on Business and Human Rights. But it could also be bolder.

The forum did a great job at giving voice to indigenous people, one of the key stakeholders in the global negotiations for the treaty.

A lot of discussions were rightly held on the impact of issues like climate change and migration and their links with businesses' attitudes and behaviors towards local populations.

Yet, there was no conversation nor on the treaty nor on the future evolution of the principles. It might certainly be an issue of a limited "mandate" but UNDP could, together with UN Human Rights, be a neutral enabler on a global discussion on the treaty and on how the Principles can further evolve while we wait for such a legal tool.

The Principles should also be better linked with the UN Compact, creating more synergies and coordination between the two.

The fact that nations like France, Germany and the Netherlands have been stepping up with new vigorous legislations in the field of business and human rights is extremely positive.

Equally important is the commitment of the EU to come up with Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) or the OECD to revise its Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct but the nations behind these initiatives must commit to the drafting process of the Treaty.

Otherwise, we run the risk that discussions will continue without anyone caring about them. Such an unfortunate situation must truly be "remedied" with the right smart mix, political will, starting from the Secretary General and a powerful alliance of progressive nations in the both South and North driving the process and involving other peer nations.

Ultimately civil society must also step up beyond their technical and legal recommendations and truly engage the people.

Simone Galimberti is the co-founder of ENGAGE and of the Good Leadership, Good for You & Good for the Society.

Amnesty International's appeal to African leaders on human rights

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at the 2023 Judicial Year of the African Court on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) marked in Arusha on February 25 this year. The idea was to reflect on the new African justice dispensation.

Lady Justice Imani Aboud, who is Tanzanian and the current President of the ACHPR, delivered a remarkable speech at the opening of the 2023 Year of the ACHPR. Her speech urged AU member

states to ensure their national courts make judicial decisions that are consistent with ACHPR decisions, otherwise it will be paying lip service to regional and international human rights instruments member states have undertaken to be bound with.

Today, I invite you to look at Amnesty International (AI) Report 2022/23, which surveys 156 countries across the world which shows new or renewed conflicts broke out while protracted ones persisted. AI points an accusing finger at government forces and armed groups for violations of international

humanitarian law and human rights abuses, "in some cases amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity".

AI suggests that certain patterns of behaviour by states have undermined international human rights instruments, such as inconsistent or inadequate implementation of human rights obligations, inconsistent international responses to patterns of serious human rights violations, and failure to contribute sufficient financial resources to international human rights mechanisms.

"In this context, states must recommit and take concrete steps to enhance the strength and resilience of the international human rights architecture. This includes earmarking an increased budget for the human rights pillar of the UN, prioritising consistent implementation of the full scope of states' international human rights obligations and promoting coherence and effectiveness in the ability of international mechanisms to address human rights violations everywhere."

In Africa, AI says the scourge of conflict remained entrenched and showed little promise of abatement. "However, there was limited progress across the region towards ensuring victims' rights to truth, justice, reparation and accountability for grave violations and abuses of human rights that may amount to crimes under international law."

In light of this, AI sees there was limited progress across the region in fighting against impunity and ensuring the right to truth, justice and reparation for victims of crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations and abuses. AI calls African governments to fight against impunity by undertaking thorough, independent, impartial, effective and transparent investigation into crimes under international law and bringing suspected perpetrators to justice in fair trials in civilian courts.

AI says human rights defenders, activists, journalists and opposition members faced harassment, intimidation and threats simply for exercising their right to freedom of expression. Thus, many individual journalists across the region were arrested and detained, if not routinely harassed and intimidated.

Thus, AI calls African concerned governments to end the harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders, journalists and activists, drop all charges against those facing prosecution, and immediately and unconditionally release anyone arbitrarily detained and ensure media freedom is respected, including allowing media outlets to operate independently.

Terrorism is another known cause of human rights violations. According to Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2023, the number of countries experiencing deaths related to terrorism remained almost constant for the last three years, ranging from

43 in 2020 to 42 of the 163 surveyed countries in 2022. The 163 countries cover 99.7 per cent of the world's population.

This means that last year, deaths from terrorism fell by nine per cent to 6,701 deaths and is now 38 per cent lower than at its peak in 2015. The fall in deaths is attributed to a reduction in the number of incidents, with attacks declining by almost 28 per cent from 5,463 in 2021 to 3,955 in 2022.

Sub-Saharan Africa recorded the largest increase in terrorism deaths, rising by eight per cent. Sixty per cent (equivalent to 4,023), of all terrorism deaths globally occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. Four of the 10 countries with the largest deteriorations in GTI score are located in sub-Saharan Africa.

According to GTI 2023, suicide bombings tend to be the most lethal forms of attack. In 2022, there was a slight rise in the number of suicide bombings, with 60 incidents resulting in 358 deaths, compared to 51 suicide bombings that caused 409 fatalities in the previous year. The most notable shift of terrorism attacks has been from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to sub-Saharan Africa, which is becoming the major epicentre of terrorism.

It suffices to say that where human rights are respected and protected, citizens live in dignity, peace and in harmony with each other and with law enforcers, while where they are violated human dignity is in jeopardy and citizens look at each other and at law enforcers as enemies. As global citizens we have the obligation to ensure human rights everywhere are respected and protected to enable us live in dignity.

Today's proverb: "Fine feathers make fine birds."

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



Snakebite: Global overview and why it is a neglected killer in Tanzania



By Dr Valeria Silvestri, Vivian Mushi and Pankras Luoga

CLEOPATRA VII, the last queen of the Ptolemaic dynasty in ancient Egypt, is said to have died of a cobra bite. Myths and legends provide captivating yet sad narrations of that fatal bite in history.

Nowadays, many unknown victims die of snakebite every day in the world, their names lost due to lack of statistics. The known venomous snakes in the world are approximately 4000, including cobras, mambas, coral snakes, kraits, sea snakes, vipers, adders and rattlesnakes with different geographic distributions.

Snake envenomation is an issue of public health concern in all continents except Antarctica. Recognized by the World Health Organization as a neglected tropical disease, approximately 2.7 million people get bitten by snakes globally every year, of which 400,000 suffer life-long consequences. Annual deaths reach 138,000. In our continent of Africa, challenges in access to treatment increase the threat.

The situation of snakebites in our local communities

In Tanzanian society, snakebite is a public health problem as it is very common to hear that a person was bitten by a snake, especially in rural communities. However, treatment of snakebites has been an issue that has been recognized and work has started towards solutions, even though the solution is complex and has not been given priority.

Unavailability of anti-venom in health facilities is the biggest challenge that the country faces. This situation leads avoidable deaths of many people. In addition, in some communities, snakebites are related to myths and traditional beliefs, including witchcraft and other misfortunes in the family, clan, and society in general.

The myths hence delay of proper

treatment increase possibility of victims getting more negative effects, including severe damage of internal organs like liver and sometimes death.

Clinical features of snakebite envenomation

First, the local lesions at the bite-site are usually visible, with swelling and pain usually in the exposed parts of the body such as the limbs. General symptoms can follow, caused by powerful proteins contained in venom injected in the victim with the bite.

Venoms are different according to species and have different effects on vital functions and organs. They can impair clotting, damage vessels, kidney, cardiac, respiratory or nervous system function. Symptoms can be many and may include swelling, nausea, vomiting, breathing impairment, bleeding from

bite-site or in different sites of the body like gums or in the urine or stool, diarrhea, sweating, loss of consciousness, paralysis or stroke, muscle damage, blood flow impairment and pressure instability, renal failure, heart attack or shock.

Is snakebite a medical emergency?

Snakebite is always a medical emergency, even though not all snakebites are followed by envenomation. Between 10 to 90 per cent of bites may not cause symptoms of toxicity.

It is important to remember details on the environment, the time of the day and the situation in which the bite occurred or the snake features. For, in addition to clinical presentation, this helps in defining the species of snake likely involved in aggression.

Damage can occur immediately after the bite, up until hours or days that follow it. That is why seeking medical care early is essential to increase survival rate and reduce lifelong consequences to the victim or death. Also, supportive therapy to vital functions such as breathing, circulatory system and kidney function can be promptly provided. In cases where treatment is sought early, anti-venoms are normally available and can be administered when needed in the emergency unit in addition to supportive care for vital functions.

Complications of snakebites

It is crucial to monitor a patient to exclude complications that can occur late after the snake attack independently from the first response to treatment. Venom toxicity can lead to haemorrhagic complications, massive tissue damage, blood-flow impairment and limb loss, kidney insufficiency with acute renal failure and shock. Monitoring the patient even after anti-venom sub-ministration is essential to promptly address late complications.

Missed or mistreatment and treatment delay

Missed or mistreatment of snakebite envenomation can lead to disability or death of the victim. Use of local remedies is one of the causes of treatment delay in Tanzania. Cultural beliefs, long distance to a health facility and hospitalization or financial constraints make people opt for the popular remedies until it is too late to save a patient's life.

Popular remedies such as the application of tourniquets above the bite-site, local incision and application of a snake stone are used by more than 80 per cent of victims before seeking hospital treatment.

Prevention of snakebite

Snake bites can be prevented by doing one or more than one of the following things: avoiding exposure to usual snake habitat. This is to say people should avoid living or passing where usually snakes live and get their food. This may include walking in bushes with long grasses.

Another one is protecting extremities during work in the field by using gumboots. In this case people are advised to wear hard and long shoes like gumboots while working on farms or walking in the bushes.

Also recommended is use of light in dark to detect snakes on the way. When it gets dark, it is safe to use lights including candles, torch and others to be able to see snakes easily and avoid the bite.

Sleeping under a well tucked-in mosquito net can be a good idea not only for malaria prevention. People are advised to protect themselves by using nets that are well tucked-in and this keeps away snakes as they cannot get in the net and bite the sleeping person.

Plans for the future

In 2019, WHO launched a programme to halve the number of snakebite-related deaths and disabilities through prevention, improved treatment and enhanced access to care and research.

The seeks to achieve increase in equipped receptive centres including having enough anti-venom, investment in specific training of health personnel on how to treat snakebites and improvement towards a more effective procurement of safe and effective anti-venoms together with community education to prevention and prompt presentation to health facilities for medical care.

Also covered is how to help communities to get rid of myths and traditional beliefs regarding how snakebites happen and how to deal with them.

Dr Valeria Silvestri holds MSc in Parasitology and Medical Entomology from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and is an independent researcher; Vivian Mushi is Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Parasitology and Medical Entomology at MUHAS and Pankras Luoga is Assistant Lecturer in Health Systems Management, Monitoring and Evaluation in Health at MUHAS.

We need equitable financing to truly transform education

By Robert Jenkins

WITH schools now reopened around the world, countries are called to take transformative action on education financing to recover and accelerate learning for all children, especially the poorest and most marginalized.

Findings from our recent study, however, reveal that we have yet to overcome hurdles to equitable education financing: in far too many countries, the poorest children often benefit the least from public education funding.

To transform education for every child, governments must address all three aspects of education financing: adequacy, efficiency, and equity. Our analysis covering 102 countries zeroed in on the equity challenge in education.

Many dimensions of equity are important to address, as vulnerable children can face simultaneous disadvantages related to poverty, disability, gender, location and more.

However, our study focuses on the poorest children, often hit the hardest by multiple, compounding barriers to quality education and learning.

Unfortunately, children

from the poorest households often benefit the least from public education spending. On average, the poorest learners receive only 16 per cent of public funding for education, while the richest learners receive 28 per cent.

In 1 out of every 10 countries, learners from the richest 20 per cent of households receive four or more times the amount of public education spending than the poorest.

In Guinea, Mali and Chad, the richest learners benefit from over six times the amount of public education spending compared to the poorest learners.

Moreover, despite repeated commitments towards equitable financing - including the Incheon Declaration adopted at the World Education Forum 2015, the Paris Declaration of the 2021 Global Education Meeting, and most recently at the Transforming Education Summit in 2022 - data suggests that progress in delivering on these promises has been far too slow.

Evidence from 46 countries indicates that public education spending has become more inequitable in 4 out of every 10 countries. The data speaks for itself: the poorest learners are not receiving their fair share of public education funding, and we must intensify efforts to address these inequities.



To transform education for every child, governments must address all three aspects of education financing: adequacy, efficiency, and equity. Credit: UNICEF

Equitable education spending is critical and can reverse the effects of the global learning crisis before an entire generation loses its future. Our analysis shows that if public education spending stagnates, a one percentage point increase in the allocation of public education resources to the poorest 20 per cent is associated with a 2.6 to 4.7 percentage point

reduction in learning poverty rates - translating to up to 35 million primary school-aged children that could be pulled out of learning poverty.

How can we address the equity challenge and ensure education funding reaches the poorest? One way is to ensure public funding prioritises lower education levels.

This financing principle refers to 'progressive univer-

salism', by which resource allocation initially prioritises lower levels of education, where poor and marginalized children tend to be more represented. These first few years of learning lay the groundwork for children to acquire basic foundational skills. Then, when coverage at lower levels is near universal, resource allocation is gradually increased to higher levels,

with a continued focus on the poorest and most marginalized.

Finally, it is important to note that inequity issues exist not only in domestic education financing, but also in international aid to education. For instance, over the past decade, official development assistance (ODA) to education allocated to the least developed countries (LDCs) has never exceeded 30 per cent, far from the 50 per cent benchmark set forth by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Moreover, appeals for education in emergencies often receive just 10 to 30 per cent of the amounts needed, with significant disparities across countries and regions. On average, the education sector receives less than 3 per cent of humanitarian aid.

The global community must come together to ensure that children living in the poorest countries and in emergencies can benefit from equitable education financing. To respond to the equity challenge in education, we call on governments and key stakeholders to take the following key actions:

Most critically, unlock pro-equity public financing to education through broader coverage and volume of decentralized allocations, resources to schools, resources

to students of disadvantaged backgrounds (by education and social protection ministries), and strengthened resource allocation monitoring.

Prioritize public funding to foundational learning by securing funding for all in pre-primary and primary education and targeting the poor and marginalized at higher levels of education.

Monitor and ensure equitable education aid allocation in developmental and humanitarian contexts between and within countries, including sub-sector levels, when applicable.

Invest in innovative ways of delivering education to complement gaps in existing public funding through multiple and flexible pathways, including quality digital learning.

We cannot hope to end the learning crisis if we invest the least in children who need it the most.

We must act now to ensure education resources reach all learners and progress towards achieving the goal of inclusive and quality education for all - allowing every child and young person a fair chance to succeed.

IPS UN Bureau
The writer is Global Director of Education and Adolescent Development at UNICEF.

Platitudes not enough: Urgent investment needed in health workforce

By Roopa Dhatt and Susannah Schaefer

AS the World Health Worker Week draws to a close on April 7, health organizations from around the world have been celebrating women's vital role in the health workforce and sharing stories about the enormous value they bring to all areas of health and care.

But platitudes are not enough. It's time for global health leaders to step up and turn these words into action.

Globally, women make up almost 70% of the global health workforce and 90% of the frontline health workforce, contributing over \$3 trillion to global health each year. The health systems in which they work play a significant role in remote and marginalized groups' access to health, especially in times of crisis. Despite this, the challenges faced by community health workers (CHWs) are frequently overlooked.

CHWs play a critical role in providing care to vulnerable populations, but they are undervalued and accorded lower status in the "informal" workforce. Upwards of six million women are estimated to be either unpaid or grossly underpaid despite working in core health systems roles and just 14% of CHWs in Africa are salaried.

It is unjust that global health systems rely on the labor of unpaid women who are creating social and economic value that is uncounted and unrewarded. Unpaid work reduces women's economic security and increases their lifetime poverty.

It also weakens health systems. The pandemic has demonstrated the need for strong and resilient health systems, but there can be no global health security while health systems are subsidized by some of the world's poorest women.

Women health workers continue to make huge sacrifices to work on the frontlines. They went door-to-door educating households on the COVID-19 virus, tracing contacts, and deliv-

ering vaccines.

At last year's World Health Assembly, India's one million women community health workers known as accredited social health activists (ASHAs) were honored for successfully protecting the health of millions of people during the pandemic.

At the start of the pandemic, however, reports were coming out of India about the unacceptable risk faced by ASHA workers who were being sent into communities without lack of infection controls and facing stigma and abuse as perceived vectors of the virus.

In 2020, they launched widespread street protests and strikes to demand better pay, protection, and working conditions. ASHA workers may have been acknowledged as global health leaders, but they continue to be underpaid with small performance-based honorariums. They are still fighting for a fair and regular salary and the benefits that come with formal sector roles.

Pre-pandemic the World Health Organization (WHO) projected a global shortage of 10 million health workers by 2030, which COVID-19 now has deepened. Health workers lost their lives to the virus and significant numbers are unable to work, affected by 'long-COVID'. There have been increased reports of violence towards women health workers during the pandemic from colleagues as well as patients and their families.

In a 2018 report on health policy and system support to optimize CHW programs, one of the primary WHO recommendations included fair remuneration for CHWs, but this is still far from the norm. When CHWs are compensated, it often fails to align with WHO recommendations, which call for financial packages that are commensurate with the demands of the job, the level of complexity, the training required, and the hours worked.

This World Health Workers Week, we come together with our partners to call on global health leaders, governments and policy makers to disrupt the status quo. We believe that every



A nurse walks into a hospital ward in Janakpur in Dhanusha District in southern Nepal. Credit: UNICEF/Rupadhayay

person, regardless of gender, should have access to quality health and care and opportunities to thrive.

We know a fairly-compensated health workforce-alongside training, supervision, and safe working environments-leads to improved productivity, wider access to healthcare, and better patient outcomes.

The gender pay gap in health of 24% is one of the largest of any sector. We are calling on leaders to take measures to close that gap. We stand with our partners in calling for and focusing on transformative change, including gender-equal leadership in global health and a new social contract for women health workers centered on the need for fair and equal pay and safe and decent work.

There is increasing urgency in both high-income and low- and-middle income countries

to prioritize changes in guidelines, funding, and policies. After three years of COVID-19, women health workers, who have been the majority in patient-facing roles, are burned out and traumatized.

Understandably, women are leaving the health sector at all levels in a 'Great Resignation,' which threatens to deepen the global health worker shortage crisis.

Addressing these injustices is a moral obligation and an economic necessity. Investing in health workers is a win-win proposition and will send a message that we recognize and value them as professionals.

Not only can we restore justice to neglected global health systems, but we can improve the working conditions and pay of health workers, unleashing broader economic benefits.

We would like to send a clear message that

as heads of global health organizations we are committed to building stronger health systems and a more equitable world. Achieving true health equity includes quality care for all-including health workers.

Dr Roopa Dhatt is Executive Director and Co-Founder Women in Global Health, a fast-growing women-led movement with 47 chapters worldwide and Susannah ("Susie") Schaefer is Executive Vice Chair, President, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Smile Train, the world's largest cleft-focused organization with a sustainable and local model of supporting surgery and other forms of comprehensive cleft care.

IPS UN Bureau

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Rice intensification technology transforms farming and lives of people across Mbeya Region

By Getrude Mbago

FOR many years, farmers in various parts of the country, including those in Morogoro and Mbeya regions, have relied on traditional farming methods or practices, which have affected the soil while yielding little profits despite their efforts.

Rice is a major staple food and a mainstay for the rural population and their food security, and is one of main food and cash crops cultivated by both medium and small-scale farmers.

According to reports, farmers have spent a lot of money on modern farming inputs with hopes of doubling harvests but at the end of the day, they end up counting losses.

To address the situation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), through funding from the European Union (EU), has supported a number of rice farmers in the districts of Kilosa and Mbarali in Morogoro and Mbeya regions, respectively, by equipping them with knowledge and skills on system of rice intensification technology (SRI) to transform their farming practices and earning more income.

SRI is a rice farming method that uses less water and fewer seeds while adhering to best agricultural practices such as timely ploughing and transplanting seedlings within eight to 12 days from the nursery, enabling the farmer to achieve higher yield than traditional farming.

Through the implementation of a five-year project titled "Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Countries - Phase III (ACP MEAs 3), FAO aims to promote environmental sustainability integrated approaches to address national biodiversity-related priorities and commitments in agriculture, as well as the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

Farmers in the two districts commend FAO for training them on the SRI farming technology, asserting that it has increased crop productivity and resilience to climate change threats.



One of the beneficiary farmers, Esther Mchimu, a resident of Mgozi village in Kilosa District who adopted the SRI farming technology.

As a learning approach, the project employs Farmer Field Schools with farmer groups to demonstrate SRI farming technology and good agricultural practices. The project supported the Mshikamano-Umoja Farmers Group in Kilosa district, where one of their members, Esther Mchimu, a resident of Mgozi village, adopted the SRI farming technology after witnessing a bumper harvest from the pilot plot.

Esther, a mother of seven, had been farming for nearly 30 years but was only getting a few harvests due to a lack of skills, tools and needed support.

"I was only harvesting 12 bags of 100kg per acre before, but with the new technology I harvest up to 25 bags per acre," said Mchimu. "This transformation has helped me a lot considering I am taking care of the children alone since my husband passed away," she said.

band passed away," she said.

She went on to say that last year she harvested 30 bags of rice from one acre, up from 10 bags. She uses fewer seeds with the SRI farming technology than with traditional farming methods, and has seen an increase in her income.

Another farmer from Mgozi village and group member, Anyesi Lyambulilo, explained that she is pleased with the training provided to her and other farmers in the village on the new rice farming technology, which pays them a lot.

She went on to explain that because most of farmers have changed their methods of growing rice and managing water and soils, rice production has increased.

Anyesi, a lead farmer, says that after receiving training on SRI farming technology from the model farm that was estab-

lished within their irrigation scheme, she decided to adopt and has planted in her quarter-acre plot, yielding XX kg.

Farmers in Malolo village have also benefited from the project. "I used the money that was meant for the farm to renovate my house, pay for my children's education, and buy food for the family," said Bertha Ngalela.

"The SRI farming technology has come as a saviour, and we are grateful to FAO and the government for training us on how to engage in this kind of farming," she said. Bertha, on the other hand, stated that there were still a number of farmers who rely on traditional rain fed agriculture using little inputs, resulting in lower yields and productivity.

Another farmer, Shemu Malila from Kapunga village in Mbarali district ex-

plained that through training, he now understands the farming procedures and can earn more.

He says that the SRI farming technology requires the farmer to follow expert advice in order to achieve great results.

"Me and my many other fellow farmers here at the village are now aware of all procedures to follow, including nursery preparation, planting, application of fertilisers, weeding, and integrated pest management using recommended pesticides and other methods," said Shemu. "I encourage other farmers to use the SRI farming technology because it uses fewer seeds, only 5 kilogram on one acre, whereas other types of cultivation use 15-20 kg of seeds per acre," he said.

The SRI farming technology has attracted many unemployed women and the youth, as well as those who have migrated to urban centres and major cities, back into agriculture.

According to Diomedes Kalisa, FAO Programme Officer and ACP MEAs 3 Project Coordinator, a number of efforts are being implemented to support rice farmers to change from traditional farming that affects their progress.

"With the SRI farming technology, many farmers have been able to increase their rice production from one acre to more than two acres in a single agricultural season, demonstrating greater resilience to climate change shocks than they would have with traditional farming methods," said Kalisa.

"Through this initiative, FAO has trained a number of farmers on SRI farming technology, which provides benefits even after being hit with harsh weather conditions," he said.

Researchers: Inclusive, affordable land and adequate housing, key to sustainable transformation of cities and communities

By Guardian Correspondent

URBANISATION process has brought about the rapid socio-economic development of cities including Dar es Salaam, yet the rapid urbanization process has also led to a number of problems related to urban development, such as over-consumption of resources, increasingly prominent pollution, frequent occurrence of 'urban diseases' and extreme weather events, continuous deterioration of living environment quality, which have brought new challenges to sustainable urban design and planning.

To help come up with solutions to tackle the challenges, the consortium of researchers from Ardh University, University of Dar-es-Salaam, Mzumbe University and the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) conducted a collaborative study to dig deep on the causes behind the increasing number of unplanned settlements and poor housing despite various efforts taken by many actors to address the challenge.

The study is conducted under the global project dubbed: African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC), a major six-year investment by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to fund new, operationally-relevant research to address intractable development challenges in African cities.

Dar es Salaam is one of 12 African cities in which ACRC is engaging community organisations, researchers, practitioners, key state actors and non-state agencies, to

co-produce knowledge and evidence to advance urban transformation.

Speaking during the opening of stakeholders uptake event in Dar es Salaam, Dr Martin Atela from the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) in Nairobi argued that: "ACRC came up with the proposal to generate knowledge and evidences that can be able to look at African cities as systems and knowledge generated from the research process can lead to development and investment more effective in economic development with the African cities".

Prof Wilbard Kombe from Ardh University (ARU), a Principal Investigator of the ACRC research highlighted the need for collaborative Research on themes and domains focused on the city of systems; political settlements; and four domains of housing, informal settlements, structural transformation and neighbourhood and district economic development. Highlighted below are key findings critical for city transformation.

He said this is a collaborative research programme, seeking to tackle complex urban development challenges in the continent's rapidly changing cities. It is aimed to generate robust insights and evidence that will help improve the living conditions and urban services for all city residents, especially disadvantaged communities.

Dr Tatu Lumumba from ARU argued that most low-income residents in Dar es Salaam can neither meet their housing needs nor access housing finance, opting in-

stead for incremental self-build housing, which contributes to the growth of informal settlements.

"There is a need to demonstrate that affordable housing finance can positively impact decent housing," she said.

Prof Alphonse Kyessi also from ARU argued that access to affordable, adequate, quality housing in Dar es Salaam is an increasing challenge for low-income residents. Housing support services such as serviced land, finance and building materials are not affordable, compelling home seekers to self-build housing incrementally in informal settlements. Over 90 percent of these are constructed using household savings, often by passing planning and building regulations in a bid to cut costs. Majority of all formal financial institutions including banks and real estate's investors are unable to offer loans to the informal settlements creating a gap between formal and informal housing solutions.

Dr Tim Ndezi from CCI focused on strategies to improve informal settlements so far have not prevented the proliferation of informality. Proactive participatory planning is required to enlist grassroots actors' support and to pool finances to halt the densification and sprawling of informal settlements.

To address this challenge, we argue that proactive participatory community-led land use planning and pooling is needed to secure land for decentralized provision of basic services, including sanitation," he said



Housing and Settlements stakeholders in a meeting in Dar es Salaam recently to receive and discuss findings of a study conducted about the causes of increasing number of unplanned settlements and poor housing

Dr Darlene Mutalemwa from Mzumbe University argued that "Structural transformations are critical to address informality and complex registration procedures of construction permits leading to uncoordinated city development. Whereas construction has been prioritized, the protocols for issuing construction permits remain complex. Subsequently, streamlining compliance via a one-stop online shop is highly desirable," she said.

Dr Colin Msoka from University of Dar es Salaam noted that access to affordable financing options for livelihood and reliable means of transport are critical to boosting enterprises at neighbourhood and district levels. The motorcycle sector bridges the transportation gap but faces contestation over the need for reforms to enhance safety and security. The sector requires coordinated training and coordinated

regulation.

Dr Jacob Kihila, senior researcher from the Ardh University (ARU) urged the government to enhance coordination of all sectors as the city operates as a systems.

He noted that, resource constraints, fragmentation of regulations and actors and power concentration in the central has affected the performance of prevailing city systems.

Husna Chechonge, coordinator of research of the Tanzania Urban Poor Federation (TUPF) noted that urban poor struggle with issues of poor housing and threats of forced eviction. The population struggles very hard to access surveyed plots and when available they are sold at high prices, something which had led them to settle in unplanned and subserviced settlements which sometimes are located in hazardous areas prone to flooding.

Catherine Pye from FCDO British High Commission - Dar es Salaam said that, urban resilience and key priorities on issues of climate change and they know that Dar-es-salaam experiencing rapid urbanization and population growth and they have been supported project along Msimbazi River.

"This is an impressive and it's going to be useful and I also agree we need make sure that this research give us some tangible actions, and I real agree that we need to join up so that will help to carry out some pilot project in Dar es salaam".

The Mayor for Temeke Municipality -Abdallah Mtinika appreciated the presentation of the findings of the ACRC in Dar-es-salaam.

He said "This is one of the best researches that I have been seen. We agree that we lack coordination in Dar-es-salaam between sectors, and every sector is independently."

Tanzanians called on to take care of Mount Kilimanjaro

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIANS have been called to take care and preserve Mount Kilimanjaro to enable it continue to benefit the country.

Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Dr Sele-

man Jafo made the call in the House on Tuesday when responding to a question from Same East MP, Anne Kilango Malecela who sought to know the government's strategy in addressing fires incidents on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Jafo said the government, through the Vice President

Office (VPO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has genuine intentions in making sure the fire incidents are stopped.

He said in addition to the government forming for conducting research on the fire incidents, residents in the

area and other people have the responsibility to desist themselves from tree cutting and setting fires inside the Mt Kilimanjaro National Park.

Earlier, answering the original question posed by Hai MP, Saashisha Mafuwe, VPO Deputy Minister Khamis Hamza Khamis said the government,

in collaboration with various local and foreign institutions, including the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and Nelson Mandela University continue researching on the issue. However, he said some of the reasons contributing to the situation include global warm-

ing, unsustainable human activities, wanton tree cutting and setting forest fires.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister Khamis said the government is making sure that the Eco-system-based Adaptation for Rural Resilience (EbARR) projects implemented in Unga North A District, as well as the

LDFS project implemented in Micheweni District, Pemba are completed.

Hence, he added, already the government has taken management decisions by requiring national projects coordinators to make sure the projects are fully completed up to standards.

Mycetoma: Research on this neglected tropical diseases gains momentum

By Geoffrey Kamadi

THE disease burden and distribution of mycetoma—a neglected tropical disease—are not very well understood. However, it is known to affect people in Sudan, Senegal, Mauritania, Kenya, and Niger, as well as people in Nigeria, Ethiopia, India, and Cameroon. Cases have also been reported in Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen.

“It is currently unknown what the incidence, prevalence and the number of reported cases per year per country is,” observes Dr Borna Nyaoke, head of the Mycetoma Program at the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) - Africa Regional office. DNDi is a not-for-profit international R&D organisation operating in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Sudan.

Mycetoma is one of a group of 20 diseases referred to as neglected tropical diseases or NTDs in short. These diseases usually affect marginalized and poor communities.

NTDs are caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi and toxins from snake bites. They affect 1.7 billion people globally. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, mycetoma is caused by certain types of bacteria and fungi found in soil and water. Mycetoma can be caused by bacteria (actinomycetoma) or fungi (eumycetoma).

For years now, little attention has been directed towards NTDs in terms of research and the development of new treatments, hence their neglected categoriza-

tion status.

Between 2000 and 2014, only 66 novel products entered phase I clinical trials intended to prevent or treat NTDs, according to Dr Maurice Odieri, head of the Neglected Tropical Diseases Unit, Centre for Global Health Research at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). This represented just 1.65 percent of all 4,006 phase I trials in the world.

However, this has changed over the last couple of years, with concerted efforts producing new drugs and research initiatives.

For example, the world's first randomized double-blind clinical trial on eumycetoma (fungal mycetoma) was completed last year in Sudan, according to Nyooke.

“We were comparing the investigational drug Fosravuconazole against a treatment against Itraconazole, which is the standard treatment of eumycetoma in Sudan,” she explains.

This clinical trial started in 2017 in Khartoum, Sudan, with phase II clinical trials completed in March 2022, and the top-line results were presented in September 2022. The clinical report is under review and is expected to be finalized later in 2023.

The study was conducted in Sudan because it is one of the countries where mycetoma is endemic.

Expensive toxic treatment

The existing treatments for eumycetoma, such as the antifungals Ketoconazole and Itraconazole, are expensive, ineffec-



Patients outside the Mycetoma Research Centre in Sudan. Credit: DNDi

and have serious side effects. Patients oftentimes undergo multiple amputations, which may prove fatal.

However, scientists think that Fosravuconazole, a drug developed for onychomycosis (a fungal nail infection), could offer an effective and affordable treatment for eumycetoma, hence the study. The

drug's interaction with body tissues is said to be favourable, and its toxicity levels are low. Lab tests show its activity against agents causing eumycetoma to be effective.

Mohamed Safi Ahmed El-Safi, who hails from the Kordofan region of Sudan, is a survivor of mycetoma. Initially, he did not think much of what appeared to be a

pimple on his toe.

However, he would soon seek medical attention when he began experiencing excruciating pain emanating from the toe.

“The infection and pain increased, giving me a fever. My body felt like I was on fire,” recounts El-Safi.

Medical tests later revealed that

the infection had spread to the bone. His lower right leg had to be amputated as a result. He now urges people to immediately seek medical attention once they notice a boil or pimple on the leg.

Mycetoma Research Centre (MRC)

Sudan boasts of the Mycetoma Research Centre (MRC) in Khartoum, which was established in 1991 under the auspices of the University of Khartoum, which is based at Soba University Hospital.

“It is the only referral hospital in the country, providing integrated medical care for mycetoma patients as well as training for medical and health professionals,” says Nyaoke.

Not only does the centre receive patients from within Sudan, patients from across Africa and the Middle East are referred to the Centre as well.

Nyaoke maintains that plans are underway to conduct epidemiological studies in Sudan, Senegal and India, among other endemic countries, to gather information on the burden and distribution of disease.

IPS UN Bureau Report

By Kimberly Mutandiro

Racial tensions brew in settlement over housing occupation

ABOUT 500 families unlawfully occupying a failed South African government's Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) housing project since 2019 in Mackenzieville Extension 2, Nigel, have so far withstood attempts by the City of Ekurhuleni to evict them.

However, their continued occupation has led to tensions with the approved beneficiaries of the housing project. The tensions are also partly racial, since the occupiers are mostly coloured former backyarders from Alra Park, while the legal beneficiaries are mostly black shack dwellers from Snake Park.

On 28 February, the City moved against the occupiers and forcefully evicted them, but without the sheriff. It then had to reinstate the occupiers the same day by order of Judge Stuart Wilson in the Johannesburg High Court.

Lawyers representing the occupiers have persistently argued that 2,000 people cannot be evicted without any alternative accommodation being offered.

The City's application for leave to appeal against that order was dismissed on Friday, 17 March. The City had argued that Judge Wilson had “no authority or powers to interfere with the judgment of another judge in the same level or a court of equal standing”. It said the eviction had been carried out as directed by Judge Edwin Molahleni in an order made in July 2021, and that the matter had been finalised when the court dismissed a previous application by the occupiers for leave to appeal against the eviction.

The City also argued that the high



The Snake Park informal settlement, where many approved beneficiaries for RDP houses still live, because the houses they were meant to get were left incomplete for years and were eventually occupied by other people. (Photo: Kimberly Mutandiro)

court had no jurisdiction to grant the relief sought by the occupiers - the emergency alternative accommodation.

But Judge Wilson dismissed the City's application for leave to appeal with costs.

The judge reaffirmed that the eviction was illegal. He had previously also suspended the original 2021 eviction order, pending a further hearing. That matter is now awaiting judgment. The court has therefore not yet ruled on the issue of alternative accommodation.

Zweli Dlamini, spokesperson for the City, said: “We contemplate appealing the judgment as it denies rightful bene-

ficiaries of their houses. It further does not take into consideration the implication of occupying incomplete houses.”

The City had “not yet” re-engaged with the beneficiaries after the failed eviction.

The occupiers are expecting the City to be compelled to provide alternative accommodation, while some are still hoping to remain in the houses they have made their homes in the four years since the Greater Nigel United People's Parliament led the occupation.

But the legal beneficiaries living in Snake Park informal settlement say they were disappointed to hear that the evic-

tion of 28 February was done illegally.

“The law seems to be favouring the occupiers. What about us, the residents, who have been squatting patiently in Snake Park? We have over 200 families who were approved to get houses in the Mackenzieville Extension 2 Project and some were given happy letters with their house numbers,” said Lindiwe Mkwana, a community representative and one of the approved beneficiaries.

“The problem is that most of the coloureds living in Alra Park refused to live in squatter camps and remained in the comfort of backyard rooms. Us, who suffered in the squatter camp, deserve the houses. The court should also think about us and evict the illegal occupiers,” she said.

Mkwana said she tried to get another house, but the housing department refused her application, saying she had already been approved for a house in Mackenzieville. She is now in limbo.

“The same applies to all the other beneficiaries in Snake Park,” she said. “The government will not allocate them houses elsewhere.”

“If the City of Ekurhuleni does not have alternative accommodation, let the occupiers move into our Snake Park shacks so that we can move into the RDP houses,” suggested Thandi Mahlangu, who said she has waited for 25 years for an RDP house and is still living in a leaking shack.

“For a long time we have hesitated to go and drag those people out ourselves, because the law is failing us,” said Anna Keswa. “The coloureds should learn to live in squatter camps

like other people if they want houses.”

A year ago most parts of Snake Park were “reblocked” and electrified. But the shack dwellers say water is scarce and they rely on the municipality to bring in water tankers. Elderly residents also complain that the land is rocky and uneven and difficult for them to get around.

Clinton Thomson, one of the Mackenzieville occupiers, said: “Our government has succeeded in dividing us as a people because we are now fighting against each other because of the mess it created. It remains a fact that as coloureds we have been marginalised for too long in the new dispensation and blacks got houses. The bottom line is that both us and the people in Snake Park need houses. The government should provide all of us with houses and fix the problems it created.”

DM



If the City of Ekurhuleni does not have alternative accommodation, let the occupiers move into our Snake Park shacks so that we can move into the RDP houses

RADIO One

RATIBA YA MIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10.20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10.30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10.40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10.50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11.20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11.30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11.40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11.50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12.20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12.30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12.40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12.50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01.20 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

Foreigners inject 1.2bn/- at DSE on shares exchanging

By Guardian Reporter

Foreign investors dominated the activities at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) ahead of Easter, after injecting a total of 1.218bn/- during the last trading day of this week through shares buying, which were also floated by fellow foreigners, accounting for 92.75 percent of total value of shares bought during the day.

The DSE daily market reports show foreign investors exchanged hands 700,394 Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) shares in four deals, of which 700,000 were transacted through block trade pre-arrangement market board at a price of 1,740/- per share.

The amount was nearly a third of 3.5bn/- injected by foreign investors during the first quarter of this year, ended in March, according to the market report.

However, foreign investors made a net outflow of 6mn/- during the first week of this month, as turnover from shares they sold amounted 1.224bn/-,



which is 78 percent of total value of shares sold in the market.

The market report shows that local investors injected nearly 350mn/- through share buying during the ending week, which is 22.06 percent of total value of shares bought in the market.

According to the daily market, a total turnover of 1.3bn/- recorded on Thursday close, from 848,193 shares traded in 66 deals.

Top mover was DSE, which transacted shares valued 1.22bn/-, followed by CRDB Bank with 59.2mn/- turnover

through transaction of 118,475 shares traded in 40 deals at a price ranging from 495/- and 500/- per shares.

Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC) was the third top mover after recording a turnover of 19.7mn/- following the transaction of 4,805 shares traded on one deal at a price of 4,100 per share.

Other active mover included NICO, which recorded a turnover of 8.3mn/- followed by NMB Bank Plc with 3mn/-, Tanga Cement Company Limited with 3mn/- and Tanzania

Breweries Limited with 0.6mn/-.

Top gainer during the day was CRDB Bank Plc which its share price increased by 1.01 percent to 500/- on Thursday close, from 495/- recorded on Wednesday close, pushing its market capitalization to 1.31trn/- from 1.29trn/- respectively.

This also pushed the Bank, Finance and Investment (BF) Index by 16.01 points to 4,001.16 points on Thursday close, from 3,985.15 points on Wednesday close.

Second top gainer was East African Brew-

eries Limited (EABL) which its share price increased by 0.68 percent to 2,980/- on Thursday close compared with 2,680/- recorded on Wednesday close, which increased its market capitalization to 2.35trn/- from 2.34trn/- respectively.

Losers during the closing day of the week were TCCL which its share price decreased by 7.81 percent followed by Jubilee Holding Limited (JHL) by 7.74 percent, NMG by 3.57 percent, KCB by 1.59 percent and NICO by 1.23 percent.

According to the market report, the Tanzania Share Index (TSI) gained by 2.41 point to 4,107.04 points on Thursday close, compared with 4,104.63 points on Wednesday close, following the increase of CRDB Bank share price, amid decreases TCCL and NICO share prices.

All Shares Index (DSE) went down by 3.21 points to 1,892.16 points on Thursday close, compared with 1,895.37 points recorded on Wednesday close, due to decreased of shares among local and cross listed companies.



IMF's Georgieva now sees global growth below 3pc

WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund expects global economic growth to dip below 3 percent in 2023 and to remain at around 3 percent for the next five years, Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva (pictured) has said, flagging increased downside risks.

That is the global lender's lowest medium-term growth forecast since 1990, and well below the average growth of 3.8 percent seen in the past two decades.

Georgieva said strong monetary and fiscal policy actions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine had prevented a much worse outcome in recent years, but growth prospects remained weak given persistently high inflation.

Bank failures in Switzerland and the United States had exposed financial vulnerabilities that increased the downside risks for the global economy, she added.

"Despite surprisingly resilient labour markets and strong consumer demand, despite the uplift in China, we expect the world economy to grow less than 3 percent this year," she said in a speech ahead of next week's spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank. "Growth remains historically weak now and in the medium-term."

"With rising geopolitical tensions, with inflation still running high, a robust recovery remains elusive, and that harms the prospects of everyone, especially for the most vulnerable people and the most vulnerable countries," she said at an event hosted by Meridian House and Politico.

Global growth dropped by almost half to 3.4 percent in 2022 following the shock of Russia's war in Ukraine from the 6.1 percent rebound seen in 2021.

Georgieva said India and China would account for half of global growth in 2023, but about

90 percent of advanced economies would see a decline in their growth rate this year.

Low-income countries, saddled by higher borrowing costs and weakening demand for their exports, would see per-capita income growth staying below that of emerging economies, she said.

The IMF chief called on central banks to stay the course in the fight against inflation as long as financial pressures remained limited, but to address financial stability risks when they emerge through appropriate provision of liquidity.

Recent bank failures in Switzerland and the United States had exposed risk management failures at specific banks and supervisory lapses, she said.

"The key is to carefully monitor risks in banks and non-bank financial institutions, as well as weaknesses in sectors such as commercial real estate," she added. "Now is not the time for complacency."

"Clearly downside risks have increased. We now see some of the risks in the financial sector more exposed," she said, adding that she had "full confidence" that central banks and other relevant institutions were very vigilant of the dangers.

While policymakers had responded swiftly to recent stress in the sector, concerns remained about potential "hidden" vulnerabilities at banks and non-banks, she said.

To boost the prospects for growth and productivity, Georgieva called for major step changes, including an estimated \$1 trillion a year in spending on renewable energy, and moves to avoid the fragmentation of the global economy, which could shave as much as 7 percent off global gross domestic product.

Technological decoupling could see some countries suffer losses of up to 12 percent of GDP, she said.

WFP adopts strategic plan, targeting women, refugees

By Francis Kajubi

THE United Nations World Food Programme has launched a five year Country Strategic Plan 2022/27 that embraces integrated humanitarian-development approach by investing in development activities to build resilience vulnerable communities in Tanzanian specifically



WFP country director and representative Sarah Gordon-Gibson.

refugees.

According to a statement circulated to the media yesterday and signed by WFP country director and representative, Sarah Gordon-Gibson, the plan has been developed based on an inclusive and thorough consultative process with both governments for Mainland and Zanzibar, communities, do-

ners, UN agencies, NGOs, academia, International Financial Institutions, and the private sector.

She said in the statement that the plan is aligned with the government's Five-Year Development Plan for the Mainland, and the government of Zanzibar's Medium-Term Development Strategy; various sectoral strategies and plans; as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework, 2022-2027.

"The plan also targets at strengthening national capacities to ensure sustainability and ownership, as well as embracing a more localized and multi-dimensional response, while continuing our humanitarian support to refugees. Emphasis has been put on the empowerment of women and young people," said Gibson.

At a total budget of \$363 million, the plan reflects the first step towards a longer-term approach, to enable Tanzania to realize its 2050 National Development Vision and move to an upper middle-income country, by increasingly investing in human capi-

tal while sustaining the economic growth, and this Plan is a first step towards that direction.

She said the Plan is under the overall framework of the five elements of the food system (from production to aggregation, processing, distribution, and consumption), and will support the economic, social, and environmental issues of food and nutrition security for the people WFP serves.

Building on the investments, over the next five years, WFP will be: promoting durable solutions and enhancing protection for refugees, along with supporting host communities; strengthening systems for resilience, disaster preparedness and response and addressing causes of all forms of malnutrition.

"The plan further targets at supporting the implementation of a national home-grown school feeding model; building the capacity of smallholder farmers and improving access to market; enhancing climate change adaptation and; Environmental restoration and procuring locally and providing

logistics services for our operations in Tanzania and neighbouring countries, leading to a considerable investment into the local economy," said Gibson.

Minister of President's Office- Public Service and Good Governance George Simbachawene said Tanzania is making progress in key human development indicators, and has graduated to lower-middle income country status two years ago.

He said the strategic plan comes at the right time to compliment the government's efforts in realizing true people centered development that includes food and nutrition security, which is at the heart of the World Food Programme's mandate.

"The government is confident that the strategic plan will contribute to attracting solutions on social and environmental challenges, including poverty, high levels of malnutrition, low agriculture productivity, gender inequality, and the impact of climate change to vulnerable communities such as refugees," said Simbachawene.

Oil posts third weekly gain on OPEC+ Cut

SINGAPORE

Oil posted a third straight weekly gain after a surprise supply cut by OPEC+ and a drop in US inventories tightened the market outlook.

Prices rallied the most this year on Monday, surging 6.3 percent, following the decision of the Organization of Pe-

troleum Exporting Countries and its allies to slash more than 1 million barrels of daily output starting in May.

Saudi Arabia has since hiked prices of all its oil sales to customers in Asia.

Crude has risen 26 percent from its intraday low reached mid-March, when banking turmoil prompted a flight from risk assets. Prices were already recov-

ering amid growing Chinese fuel demand and a weakening US dollar when OPEC+ intervened, confounding short sellers and amplifying the rebound.

Meanwhile, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East are abating as top diplomats from Saudi Arabia and Iran meet to continue mending relations, de-escalating a decades-long rivalry

that's fueled proxy wars and rattled oil markets.

Adding to tightening supply, US crude stockpiles sank 3.7 million barrels last week, with inventories of gasoline and distillates dropping as well.

Despite the fundamental picture, traders will continue to look to US economic data for further clues on recess-

sion risks and the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes.

"Physical OPEC+ crude oil cuts will clash with monetary central bank hikes designed to rein in demand, posing macro risks," Francisco Blanch, an analyst at Bank of America Corp., said in a note to clients. "Net, we stay constructive."

Central banks double down on gold buying

BEIJING

There's no sign of a slowdown in central bank gold buying.

In February, central bank gold reserves rose by another 52 tons, according to the latest data compiled by the World Gold Council.

It was the 11th straight month of central bank net gold purchases.

Through the first two months of 2023, net central bank gold purchases came in at 125 tons. This is the strongest start to a year since 2010.

China was the biggest buyer in February. The Peoples Bank of China increased gold holdings by a reported 24.9 tons. It was the fourth consecutive month of reported Chinese gold purchases. In that time, China's official gold reserves have grown by 102 tons.

The Chinese central bank accumulated 1,448 tons of gold between 2002 and 2019, and then suddenly went silent until it resumed report-

ing in November 2022. Many speculate that the Chinese continued to add gold to its holdings off the books during those silent years.

There has always been speculation that China holds far more gold than it officially reveals. As Jim Rickards pointed out on Mises Daily back in 2015, many people speculate that China keeps several thousand tons of gold "off the books" in a separate entity called the State Administration for Foreign Exchange (SAFE).

Last year, there were large unreported increases in central bank gold holdings. Central banks that often fail to report purchases include China and Russia. Many analysts believe China is the mystery buyer stockpiling gold to minimize exposure to the dollar.

Turkey continued to pile up gold, adding another 22.5 tons of gold to its hoard in February. The Central Bank of Türkiye was the biggest gold buyer in 2022 and has increased its gold holding for 15 straight months.

Turkey has been battling rampant inflation. Price inflation accelerated



Total central bank gold buying in 2022 came in at 1,136 tons.

to as high as 85 percent last year and was at 64 percent in December. The Turkish lira depreciated by almost 30 percent last year.

Meanwhile, the price of gold in

lira terms increased by 40 percent on an annual basis, according to Bloomberg.

After a pause in January, India went back to buying gold in Febru-

ary, adding 2.8 tons to its reserves. India ranks as the ninth largest gold-holding country in the world.

Since resuming buying in late 2017, the Reserve Bank of India has purchased over 200 tons of gold. In August 2020, there were reports that the RBI was considering significantly raising its gold reserves. India now holds 790 tons of gold.

After a massive 44.6-ton increase in its gold reserves in January, Singapore continued its buying spree in February with another 6.8-ton purchase.

The Central Bank of Uzbekistan added 8 tons of gold to its reserves, following three consecutive months of sales.

Mexico bought 0.3 tons of gold in February.

The National Bank of Kazakhstan was the only notable seller in February, decreasing its reserves by 13.1 tons.

It is not uncommon for banks that buy from domestic production - such as Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan - to switch between buying and

selling.

The Central Bank of Russia disclosed its gold reserves for the first time in over a year, reporting gold holdings of 2,330 tons at the end of February 2023. That was a 31-ton increase since its last report. The timing of the gold purchases remains unclear.

The World Gold Council said it expects net central bank gold buying to continue through 2023. According to the WGC, emerging market banks remain relatively under-allocated to gold.

Overall, we expect further buying, with EM banks at the forefront of this trend as they continue to redress the imbalance in gold allocations with their developed market peers."

Total central bank gold buying in 2022 came in at 1,136 tons. It was the highest level of net purchases on record dating back to 1950, including since the suspension of dollar convertibility into gold in 1971. It was the 13th straight year of net central bank gold purchases.

Musk's brother dumps \$17mn Tesla shares

NEW YORK

Elon Musk's brother Kimbal Musk (pictured), a director on the board of Tesla, exercised options this week allowing him to cash out shares in the electric-car maker worth a net \$17 million.

Normally such a transaction would not only be highly controversial, but indeed impossible.

The CEO's younger sibling Kimbal is privy to market-relevant information, and there's a so-called blackout period barring insider sales until after Tesla reports quarterly earnings on April 19.

In a regulatory filing published on Wednesday, however, the restaurateur and founder of a hydroponics farming company revealed he had lined up the transaction in December already, some four months earlier, under a so-called 10b5-1 plan.

This frees up insiders to sell shares independent of impending key events, when they have access to material nonpublic information, such as Tesla's first-quarter financials.

Under the plan, Tesla said Kimbal Musk exercised on Monday stock options due to expire in June 2025 that granted him the right to acquire 100,000 shares at \$24.73 each, representing an almost 90 percent discount to the previous closing price.

He then turned around and sold them all in 11 different blocks at prices between \$192.78 and \$202.64, yielding him net proceeds of over \$17 million and leaving him with just over 1.6 million shares.

The sale nonetheless opens old wounds. Tesla insiders have repeatedly used the stock as their own private piggy bank ever since the first COVID wave ignited a spectacular rally that saw the company's market value vault past all other car competitors to take its place amongst the elite ranks of global megacaps.

Ever since, the carmaker's officers and



directors - chief among them Elon Musk himself - have only let their presence in the market be felt through continuous disposals that hurt in particular their devoted base of retail investors.

This suggests insiders at the company have not believed Tesla offers an attractive enough return on their capital, a view strengthened ever since Musk seems to have forgotten his October comments that the board would consider a "meaningful buyback" of stock.

The last time insiders expressed enough confidence to acquire Tesla shares at the going market price was right before the pandemic, when the EV

pioneer was worth a fifth of its current value.

At the time, Elon Musk purchased \$10 million and Larry Ellison another \$1 million worth of shares as part of Tesla's \$2 billion capital hike in February 2020.

Over the past one and a half years, the Tesla CEO has actually been a major seller in the market.

In total, he unloaded shares worth a combined sum of nearly \$40 billion, first as a political gesture to pay federal taxes and later to fund his purchase of Twitter in October.

As Tesla shares started to plumb two-year lows, however, analysts began de-

manding toward the end of last year that he cease his incessant stock sales that were hurting his investors.

Under duress, he pledged in late December not to sell any further shares for at least this year.

While Kimbal Musk may live in the shadow of his far more successful sibling, he enjoys begrudging respect among bulls and bears alike for his uncanny timing.

In November 2021, the younger brother sold 88,500 shares of Tesla worth roughly \$100 million, timing the peak of the U.S. equity market rally perfectly.

Absa registration by 28 firms triggers push for law review

NAIROBI

Parliament has asked the Solicitor General Shadrack Mose to review the law governing the infringement of trademarks, copyrights and exclusive use of patents.

This is after it emerged that there are 28 private companies using the "Absa" Trademark including Absa Bank Kenya PLC.

The National Assembly's Justice and Legal Affairs committee warned that the proliferation of private firms using the "Absa" trademark is an indicator of widespread infringement of copyright or patents.

"You are the custodian of business registration names and you have a duty to protect patents or copyrights. We cannot have tens of companies using the same trade mark. It shows there is a problem at the Business Registration Service (BRS)," Gitonga Murugara, who chairs the committee said.

The Companies (General) Regulations, 2015 provides that the registrar may refuse to list any name that has been registered as a trade mark in the event the registrar becomes aware of such registration.

Mr Murugara asked Mr Mose, who was accompanied by Kenneth Gathuma, the director general, of Business Registration Service, to review the law with a view to tightening procedures governing the registration of companies.

The State-law officers appeared before MPs to answer questions in relation to the use of the word 'Absa' by Absa Bank Kenya PLC despite another company-Absa Kenya Limited-having been registered under the name.

Documents tabled before the committee shows that there are 28 private companies using the word 'Absa', some having been in operation since 1954 but changing their names to include Absa.

WB wary of Kenya's ability to retire Eurobond

NAIROBI

The World Bank is wary about the ability of Kenya and other sub-Saharan to refinance their multi-billion Eurobonds in the coming months following the difficulties facing the global debt markets that have triggered a new wave of expensive loans.

In its update of sub-Saharan Africa's economic outlook for 2023, the multi-lateral lender has noted a rise in the bond's refinancing risk from increased interest rates, which have resulted in the narrowing of countries with market access for refinancing.

"The sell-off of developing countries' Eurobonds and increasing investor fears about global outlook amplify the risks for sub-Saharan African countries facing large Eurobond redemptions," said the World Bank in a report on Wednesday.

Kenya is preparing to retire the Sh264 billion (\$2 billion) debut Eurobond whose maturity comes up in June next year.

Other countries facing sizeable Eurobond redemptions include Angola which has a redemption estimated at

Sh226.5 billion (\$1.7 billion) in 2025.

Despite the recent trend, which saw yields on Kenyan Eurobonds tumble, interest rates on the securities have held up at double-digit rates with the return on the 10-year Eurobond maturing next year for instance standing at 13.7 percent as of March 30.

In contrast, the Eurobond, which was the first for Kenya was issued in 2014 at a coupon rate of 6.875, leaving behind current yields at nearly twice the level at issuance.

In February, the National Treasury through the 2023 Budget Policy Statement lamented market pressures, which had resulted from the Russia-Ukraine war and tighter monetary policy in the US and Europe that have led to Kenya's limited access to the international market.

"Limited access coupled with the illiquid international market may hinder the government's plan to refinance the 2024 sovereign bond maturities," the exchequer stated.

Last month, the National Treasury indicated it would tap concessional external loans to fund the bullet payment.

Additionally, the exchequer has been exploring methods to manage future maturities including the establishment of a Sinking Fund.

At the time of issuance, the international debt market had been awash with capital looking for a home in African economies.

With limited access to international capital markets, Kenya like its peers has turned to funding from multilateral lenders including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to meet its financing needs.

The country is, for instance, near the tail end of a 38-month IMF programme that is expected to provide a total of Sh309.4 billion (\$2.34 billion) in financial support by the end of June next year.

So far, the IMF has disbursed Sh219 billion (\$1.656 billion) under the programme, which covers disbursements through the Extended Fund Facility and the Extended Credit Facility.

Peers such as Benin, Uganda, Ghana and Rwanda are also currently under IMF-funded programmes to meet their gross financing needs.

The World Bank is expected to pro-

vide a further Sh132.3 billion (\$1 billion) to Kenya through its Development Policy Operations, boosting funding to the exchequer.

The Washington DC headquartered institution has pushed for countries in debt distress to pursue debt relief through the proposed G-20 Common Framework, which proposes the review of repayment terms on an equal footing between creditors as the best option for debt-distressed countries.

"The G-20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments is the closest framework for debt resolution available to redress sovereign debt crises.

"International financial institutions like the World Bank support this framework but point out that more can be done to strengthen the Common Framework," the World Bank added.

The World Bank has retained its growth projection for Kenya at five percent for 2023 from its last outlook last November as it expects recent interest rate spikes to choke private consumption.

Gross domestic product growth is meanwhile estimated at a higher 5.2 and 5.3 percent respectively.



Kenya President William Ruto

WORLD

UAE court bins S. Africa request to extradite Gupta brothers

A United Arab Emirates court has dismissed South Africa's request to extradite Atul and Rajesh Gupta, brothers who face charges of political corruption, Justice Minister Ronald Lamola said yesterday.

The Guptas are accused of using their connections with Jacob Zuma, president of South Africa from 2009 to 2018, to win contracts, influence cabi-



Atul Gupta looks on outside the Randburg magistrate court, near Johannesburg. File photo

net appointments and siphon off state funds. Zuma and the Guptas have denied all wrongdoing.

South Africa received diplomatic communication from the UAE on April 6 that a UAE court had made the decision on Feb 13, Lamola said.

"In the evening of the 6th of April 2023, we were provided with a note verbale from the UAE in which we learnt with shock and dismay that an extradition hearing had been concluded in the UAE courts on the 13th of February 2023 and our extradition request

was unsuccessful," Lamola told reporters.

The court had ruled that the UAE had jurisdiction to prosecute the Guptas for money-laundering offences alleged to have been committed in the UAE and South Africa, Lamola said.

He added that South Africa would "promptly appeal" the decision, which he said "flies in the face of assurances given by the UAE authorities".

The Indian-born brothers left South Africa after Zuma was unseated in 2018. A judicial inquiry established in 2018 to examine allegations of graft during Zuma's years in power has recommended criminal charges against the Guptas.

The UAE ratified an extradition treaty with South Africa in April 2021, a move South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's government had hoped would lead to the return of the Guptas to face charges.

Agencies

Poll reveals level of Russian public's confidence in Putin

MOSCOW



THE proportion of Russian citizens' confidence in President Vladimir Putin dropped by 0.1% and stood at 80.4%, according to the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center that published the results of a survey conducted from March 27 to April 2 among 1,600 respondents aged over 18.

"When asked about trust in Putin (pictured), 80.4% of respondents answered positively (-0.1% over the week), the approval rate of the Russian president's remained unchanged and stood at 77.9%," the pollsters noted.

Positive assessment figures for the Prime Minister and the Russian government amounted to 55.2% (+0.7%) and 53.8% (+1%), respectively," the report stressed. Mikhail Mishustin was trusted by 63.7% of respondents (+0.3% over the week).

Those surveyed also expressed their confidence in the heads of various parliamentary factions. Russia's Communist Party (CPRF) leader Gennady Zyuganov was trusted by 34.6% of respondents (+2.1%), Sergey Mironov, the leader of A Just Russia - For Truth, received 32.9% (+1%), the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) Leonid Slutsky got 17.4% (+0.7%), and the leader of The New People party Alexey Nechaev procured 9.1% (+1.5%).

The poll also revealed that the level of support for the United Russia party stood at 40.3% (+1.5%), with the CPRF supported by 9.9% (-0.6%).

The LDPR got 8.3% (-0.5%), A Just Russia - For Truth procured 5.7% (+0.1% over the week), and The New People party's figures came to 4.7% (+0.3%).

Agencies

Xi calls for mutual trust in talks with French, EU leaders

BEIJING

CHINA and France agreed on Thursday to keep bilateral ties stable and pursue mutually beneficial cooperation, and they pledged to maintain communication on the Ukraine crisis and play a positive role in achieving a political settlement.

President Xi Jinping and visiting French President Emmanuel Macron reached the agreement during their talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Macron's visit is the first by a European head of state since the full resumption of China's exchanges with the world, which were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Xi gave Macron a grand welcoming ceremony before they held official talks.

Coupled with Macron's visit, European aircraft manufacturer Airbus signed an agreement with China Aviation Supplies Holding Co on Thursday and landed orders for 160 new aircraft, including 150 A320-family aircraft and 10 A350-900 widebody aircraft.

Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury also signed an agreement with Tianjin Free Trade Zone Investment Co and Aviation Industry Corp of China to expand its A320-family final assembly capacity with a second line at its Tianjin site.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, on her first visit to China since taking office in 2019, joined Xi and Macron at a trilateral meeting

later on Thursday, and vowed to increase constructive dialogue to promote the consistent and stable development of China-EU ties.

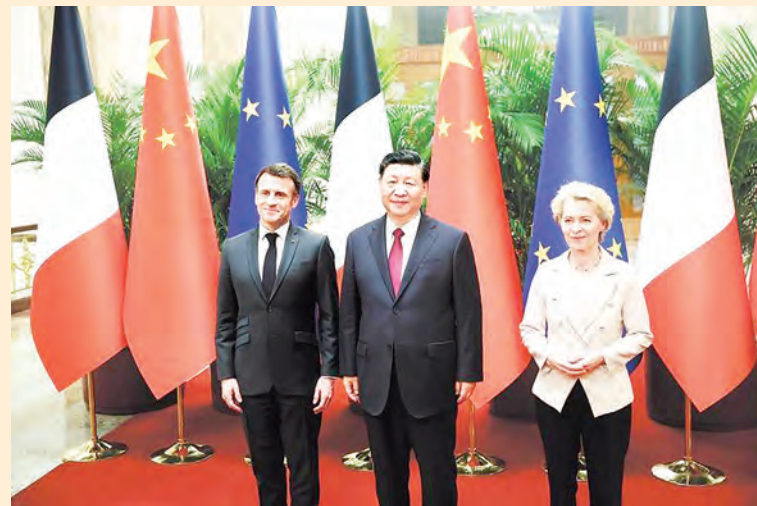
During their talks, Xi and Macron agreed that China and France, as permanent members of the UN Security Council and major countries with a tradition of independence, should keep to the overall direction of a comprehensive strategic partnership that is stable, mutually beneficial, enterprising and dynamic, inject new vitality into China-Europe relations, and make new contributions to international cooperation against global challenges.

Speaking as he jointly met the media with Macron after the talks, Xi said that the two countries agreed they will continue to support a multipolar world and greater democracy in international relations, oppose the Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation, and jointly tackle all types of global challenges.

On bilateral ties, Xi said that the two countries will maintain close communication at the head-of-state level, and hold a new round of meetings under the three high-level mechanisms on strategic, economic and financial, and people-to-people dialogues within this year.

The two sides reiterated mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and core interests, he said.

After their talks, Xi and Macron



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on April 6, 2023. (FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY)

jointly witnessed the signing of a series of important cooperation agreements. These included deepening cooperation in traditional areas such as aviation, aerospace and civilian nuclear energy, as well as cultivating new growth drivers in cooperation such as green development and scientific and technological innovation, including building a China-France carbon neutrality center and strengthening joint training of talents.

Xi conveyed to Macron China's readiness to advance high-standard opening-up and share new opportunities in its development with countries around the world.

Macron said to Xi that France respects and pursues the one-China policy, and wants to continue to maintain close communication and cooperation on

such issues as climate change and food security.

France appreciates China's upholding of the principles of the UN Charter and playing a positive role in resolving international and regional issues, Macron said, adding that his country looks forward to coordination with China to promote lasting global peace and stability.

Noting that France adheres to an independent foreign policy and upholds the strategic autonomy of Europe, the French president said that his country supports international solidarity and cooperation, and hopes major countries maintain stable relations. France opposes bloc confrontation and will not take sides, he added.

Both presidents also attended the closing ceremony of the fifth

meeting of the Sino-French entrepreneurs' committee.

During the trilateral meeting with Macron and von der Leyen, Xi said that the China-EU relationship is not targeted at, subjugated to, or controlled by any third party. He expressed his hope that the EU could take an independent approach to developing its relations with China and adopt a pragmatic and proactive China policy.

Hyping up the so-called issue of "democracy versus authoritarianism" and provoking a new "Cold War" will result in division and confrontation, Xi said.

He called for fostering a cooperation environment that upholds openness and mutual trust, and avoiding the politicization of economic and trade issues.

China and the EU need to jointly safeguard global stability and prosperity, and oppose hegemonism and unilateralism, Xi said. Both Macron and von der Leyen expressed their opposition to economic decoupling and the disruption of industrial and supply chains, saying that such attempts are not in the interests of the EU.

In a separate meeting with Von der Leyen, Xi called for China and the EU to maintain close communication, enhance strategic mutual trust, focus on win-win cooperation and jointly overcome disturbances and challenges in order to realize the high-level development of China-EU ties.

Xinhua

King Charles backs research into monarchy's slave links

LONDON

KING Charles has given his support to research that will examine the British monarchy's links to slavery, Buckingham Palace said on Thursday, after a newspaper report said a document showed a historical connection with a transatlantic slave trader.

The Guardian said an archive document discovered by historian Brooke Newman showed that in 1689 King William III had been given 1,000 pounds of shares in the Royal African Company (RAC) which was involved in the transportation of thousands of slaves from Africa to the Americas.

The recently discovered document was signed by Edward Colston, a slave trade mag-



nate whose history became widely known after protesters pulled down a statue to him in Bristol, southwest England, and threw it in the harbour during 2020 Black Lives Matter protests.

"This is an issue that His Majesty takes pro-

foundly seriously," Buckingham Palace said in a statement.

The issue of the British Empire's slavery links and calls for possible reparations from the monarchy has been growing in the Caribbean where Charles remains head of state of a number of countries including Jamaica and the Bahamas.

Buckingham Palace said the royal household would help to support an independent research project looking into any links between the monarchy and slavery during the late seventeenth and eighteenth-centuries, by allowing access to the Royal Collection and the Royal Archives.

The Palace highlighted a speech Charles made to Commonwealth leaders last June,

when he said: "I cannot describe the depths of my personal sorrow at the suffering of so many as I continue to deepen my own understanding of slavery's enduring impact."

That process had continued with "vigour and determination" since Charles succeeded his mother on the throne last September, it said.

There were protests and calls for an apology for slavery when Charles's eldest and now heir Prince William went on tour with his wife to the Caribbean in March last year.

"Given the complexities of the issues it is important to explore them as thoroughly as possible," the Palace statement said. "It is expected that the research will conclude in September 2026."

Agencies

Technology drives development of string Chinese musical instrument in Yangzhou

YANGZHOU, a city in east China's Jiangsu province, known as "capital of guzheng (a Chinese plucked zither)," is seeing thriving development of the musical instrument manufacturing industry, frequent guzheng-playing competitions, as well as vibrant exchange and training activities of the ancient Chinese musical instrument.

Over the recent years, the city has been leveraging technology for better development of the guzheng manufacturing sector.

Xiong Liquan, honorary president of the Yangzhou City Guzheng Association, has developed an electric guzheng. Different from traditional models, the electric one is made of environment-

friendly composite materials, which makes the instrument lighter and more portable.

Besides, the electric guzheng comes with a worm drive tuning device that makes tuning much more easier. In addition, the instrument can be connected to earphones and speakers to avoid disturbing neighbors while playing and to ensure clear sound in big classrooms.

Xiong has not only redesigned the appearance of guzheng but also developed an artificial intelligence teaching system that makes guzheng teaching convenient, interesting, and more efficient.

Jia Hongliu, a guzheng manufacturer from Yangzhou's 486 Intangible Cul-

tural Heritage Center, has also invented an intelligent teaching support system, which can recognize and rate guzheng sound quality, finger exercise, and playing posture. It supports guzheng teaching with interactive projection, as well as audio and video materials, and enables tuning through smart string recognition and projection calibration technologies.

"We hope to make breakthroughs in guzheng teaching with the latest technologies, so as to better popularize the instrument," said Jia.

After some 40 years of development, Yangzhou now stands as the largest guzheng manufacturing base and cultural base in China.

Li Tongzhi, president of the Yangzhou City Guzheng Association, told People's Daily that Yangzhou is home to over 280 enterprises engaged in the guzheng industry.

Each year, the city produces around 650,000 sets of guzheng, 65,000 sets of guqin, another type of plucked string Chinese musical instrument, and more than a million sets of guqin and guzheng accessories.

About 20 of these enterprises boast annual income of 10 million yuan (\$1.48 million), and three rank among the top 50 musical instrument makers in China.

Relevant industries are prospering in the city because of the sound development of guzheng manufacturing.

At present, there are more than 80 enterprises in Yangzhou involved in the making of guzheng accessories, such as radens, jade, cases, stands, strings, and hardware. Besides, the city receives over 100,000 tourists attending guzheng activities on an annual basis, which has facilitated consumption in catering, accommodation, transportation, tourism, shopping, culture, and training. According to incomplete statistics, more than 25,000 people in Yangzhou are engaged in the guzheng industry.

Yangzhou is home to more than 100 guzheng training facilities and millions of guzheng learners. It has launched a campaign that encourages every elementary and middle school in the city

to open extracurricular courses about intangible cultural heritage items, such as guzheng, guqin, Yangzhou opera, oral performing arts, and puppetry. The campaign helps introduce guzheng to more people and will lay a solid foundation for the future development of the instrument.

It is culture and craftsmanship that vitalize Yangzhou's guzheng manufacturing, and now technology is leading the traditional Chinese musical instrument to a brighter future. The guzheng industry of Yangzhou is bound to see further improvement as it is inherited, popularized, and expands its influence both in China and in the rest of the world.

People's Daily

UN official urges immediate action on sustainable development financing

UNITED NATIONS

A UN official on Wednesday called for immediate action on sustainable development financing.

"The developing countries need to have access to finance that they can use both to invest in the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and to deal with the immediate challenges, including to support their citizens in the face of the cost of living crisis," said Navid Hanif, assistant secretary-general in the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the acting director of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office.

In an exclusive interview with Xinhua shortly after the launch of the 2023 Financing for Sustainable Development Report: Financing Sustainable Transformations, Hanif discussed the urgent need for sustainable development financing to address a range of pressing global challenges, from debt distress to climate change.

Hanif argued that an enhanced international financial architecture can better support sustainable development in order to address these challenges.

He pointed to the SDG Stimulus launched by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, which has three parts, including addressing rising risk of debt distress, increasing concessional finance to countries, including by changing the ways multilateral development banks work, and increasing liquidity for countries in need, which is an immediate concern.

"Countries are struggling. So, there should be contingency financing available whenever they need and for any shocks that they are confronted with," he added.

Furthermore, Hanif stressed the need for long-term solutions, including the automatic issuance of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which would enable countries to better handle shocks.

"This should be part of the efforts to strengthen the financial architecture. This would become more effective, as the SDRs would be automatically available whenever countries are struggling to deal with shocks," he noted.

In addition to these immediate and long-term solutions, Hanif discussed ongoing efforts to reform the international financial architecture.

He cited the example of the G20's work on a capital adequacy framework for multilateral development banks, which has led to the World Bank developing an evolution roadmap to focus not only on eradicating absolute poverty and promoting shared prosperity, but also addressing climate change and global public goods like health.

Hanif also called for revisiting global economic governance to reflect the current economic realities. During the interview, he stressed the need for political commitment and public funding to ensure that climate finance keeps pace with the effects of climate change.

Hanif called for long-term loans and low interest rates to help countries deal with adaptation, which is a challenge that developing countries are facing on a daily basis.

In this regard, he said that "there are some estimates that indicate 4 trillion U.S. dollars may be needed... What we are getting is maybe just one-tenth of that. So, there is a huge gap there."

Speaking about the role of public and private investment in achieving sustainable development goals, Hanif emphasized the need to create enabling environments and better measurement tools to encourage private investment that is aligned with the SDGs.

He highlighted the potential of technology to promote sustainable development, particularly in the areas of energy transition and financial inclusion.

Even though sustainable development financing is faced with many challenges, Hanif emphasized the need for international collaboration and solidarity.

"There is no option... We have no option, but to collaborate," he stated. He also called for immediate measures to address debt distress and ongoing efforts to redesign the debt architecture to better meet the needs of developing countries.

"Both immediate measures as well as long-term thinking are needed to redesign the debt architecture to enable the system to deal with the new creditor landscape," he noted.



Countries are struggling. So, there should be contingency financing available whenever they need and for any shocks that they are

Russian premier to consider simplifying visa procedure for ethnic Russians

MOSCOW



RUSSIAN Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin pledged to consider a proposal, earlier voiced by the New People party faction, to simplify Russian citizenship procedure for ethnic Russians.

"We will certainly consider proposals on the issue of citizenship," the Russian prime minister said at a meeting with State Duma lawmakers on Thursday.

A member of the New People party Vladimir Plyakin addressed the premier during the meeting, saying that since last year, "every Ukrainian citizen is entitled to receive Russian citizenship." At the same time, he continued, not all ethnic Russians who reside in Russia or other countries have an opportunity to apply for Russian citizenship.

Plyakin requested to "consider the possibility of giving equal rights to ethnic Russians and Ukrainian citizens in terms of receiving citizenship, and to simplify migration into the country for professionals, businessmen, scientists who are ready to bring with them their knowledge, experience and money."

Tsai, McCarthy meeting in US widely condemned as 'a political show'

A MEETING between Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen and U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in the U.S. state of California has been widely condemned as a political show, in which both sought political gains.

Disregarding China's opposition and representations, McCarthy, the third-ranking official in the U.S. government, insisted on meeting with Tsai on U.S. soil on Wednesday during the latter's "transit" through the United States on her way from Central America.

There is only one China in the world and Taiwan is part of China, which is an indisputable fact supported by history and the law. To date, 182 countries, including the U.S., have established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China on the basis of the one-China principle.

'Problem-makers' for China-U.S. relations

The hawkish stance against China by McCarthy, who was elected speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in January only after a historic and embarrassing deadlock that had kept the lower chamber from being fully functional days after the new Congress convened, is opportunistic in nature, according to analysts.

In his inaugural speech on January 7, McCarthy claimed the U.S. should address its long-term challenges - its rising debt and "the rise of the Communist Party of China." In March, a House Select Committee on China, proposed by McCarthy, was installed so as to win what he called "a new Cold War" with China.

"This is what we call political scapegoating," said Einar Tangen, senior fellow at the Taihe Institute, an independent think tank based in Beijing.

"At this point, the only thing that the politicians in Washington can agree is it's not their fault, and therefore it must be somebody else's. And China is the easiest," Tangen told CGTN.

Josef Gregory Mahoney, professor of politics and international relations at East China Normal University, said McCarthy has



Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen

been keen to exploiting anti-China sentiment in the U.S. political atmosphere to gain personal influence.

"It is a mechanism for him to appeal to his colleagues and even the president to create a bipartisanship and a point of leverage that can be used to advance other causes at his career," Mahoney told CGTN.

Hours after Tsai's meeting with McCarthy and some U.S. congressional members, the Chinese Embassy in the United States issued its condemnation.

"Using the Taiwan question for a show with political purposes, the U.S. politicians concerned have acted highly irresponsibly and turned themselves into problem-makers for China-U.S. relationship and the situation at the Taiwan Straits," said the embassy in a statement.

Tsai's attempts at 'Taiwan independence'

Wednesday's meeting between Tsai and McCarthy came

China makes progress in development of 'plant factories'

IT'S freezing cold outside in winter, but inside a "plant factory" of an agricultural tech firm in Beijing, it's as warm as spring.

The "plant factory," which covers 100,000 square meters, looks just like a technology-based "tomato forest" where 39 varieties of tomatoes are grown. The fresh tomatoes produced in the factory are welcomed by the market.

The factory has its environment controlled by digital platforms and comes with a water-fertilizer irrigation system. It is a nonstop vegetable-growing operation.

Plant factory is an efficient way of agricultural production realized via high-precision environmental control that offers appropriate lighting, temperature and nutrition needed by the growth of plants. The factory-like facility enables all-year-round production of crops.

China, though a latecomer in the area, has witnessed rapid development in key technologies and commercialization of plant factories. It has become a major player in the industry and is home to 250 commercial plant factories.

Besides, the country is a world leader in the field of energy conservation in the industry. The promotion and utilization of energy-saving LED lights, nutrient solutions, intelligent management and other technologies have laid a solid foundation for the rapid development of plant factories.

Plant factory, combining biological technologies, engineering technologies and system management, enjoys abundant advantages and generates multifaceted benefits.

It needs no soil or sunlight, and grows food anytime and anywhere. Through intelligent regulation, it significantly reduces the growth period and multiplies the production of crops. Besides, it features a soilless culture that is clean, safe and pollution-free.

Plant factories expand the function of urban agriculture and also can be built on uncultivated areas such as deserts and saline-alkali land. They help relieve China's pressure from insufficient agricultural resources and play an im-



Workers harvest hydroponic lettuce in a plant factory in Nantong, east China's Jiangsu province. (Photo by Xu Congjun/People's Daily Online)

portant role in promoting agricultural efficiency and increasing farmers' income.

The industry enjoys bright prospects, but also faces a bottleneck that needs to be shattered - high operational costs caused by big energy consumption.

China is currently working to lower the energy consumption in artificial lighting and air conditioning systems and to achieve intelligent management of plant factories, aiming to further promote research and industrialization of the sector and build a production system that's low-carbon, smart and efficient.

China is a populous country with relatively scarce land and water resources. Its per capita area of arable land and freshwater resources stand at around 1/3 and 1/4 of the world average, respectively. Therefore, it is necessary to conserve resources and improve resource utilization.

China's agricultural industrialization level continues to improve, and its first, secondary and tertiary industries highly integrate. New models of agricultural production are emerging, which are less seasonal and more geographically diverse.

Compared with traditional agriculture, plant factory, a type of modern facility agriculture, has overcome deficiencies such as high reliance on weather and weak disaster resistance. Relying on modern facilities and technologies that create a desirable environment, plant factory realizes high utilization of resources and is an important method to build resource-saving and environmentally friendly agriculture.

Facility agriculture experienced rapid development in China over the past four decades. The facility horticulture sector alone has reported an output of over 1.4 trillion yuan (\$205 billion), accounting for over 2/5 of the total horticultural output and over a quarter of the agricultural output of China. Its economic benefit is more than 20 times that of field crops and more than four times that of open-field horticulture crops.

The facility horticulture sector has saved over 30 million mu (2 million hectares) of quality land. Besides, water consumption by facility vegetable farming is less than half of that by traditional vegetable farming, and 10-million-mu unheated solar greenhouses can save coal consumption by more than 250 million tons each year.

Technology has become a main trend today to assist and vitalize modern agriculture. From developing plant factories and vertical farms to promoting modern cold-arid agriculture, Gobi agriculture and marine farms, China is advancing the three-dimensional utilization of space and constantly expanding agriculture production. It is believed that the continuous development of facility agriculture will inject a stronger impetus into China's modern agriculture.

People's Daily

EU exerting efforts to defuse Israeli-Palestinian tension in Jerusalem - official

RAMALLAH

THE European Union (EU) is exerting efforts to defuse the Israeli-Palestinian tension over the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem, and enable worshippers to perform religious rituals without any obstacles, a EU official said on Thursday.

Shadi Othman, a communication officer at the EU mission in Jerusalem, told the "Voice of Pal-

estine" that the EU follows up on what is happening in Jerusalem through all diplomatic and political channels and its member states.

"The EU's efforts aim to return to calm and enable the worshippers to perform their religious rituals in the month of Ramadan without any obstacles," he said.

Othman added that the EU communicates with all parties represented by Israel, the Palestinian

Authority, and Jordan to reduce tension and restore calm.

He noted that the EU calls for respect for the Jordanian role and the Hashemite kingdom's guardianship in Jerusalem.

"There is an escalating danger, and what is required at this stage is for all parties to work to calm the situation and prevent things from slipping into areas that we do not want to reach," Othman said.

Xinhua

less than one year after a provocative visit to China's Taiwan region by his predecessor Nancy Pelosi last August.

Since then, Tsai has been significantly weakened. In November's local elections, her Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) suffered a major defeat. Of the 21 positions of county and city chief contested, the Chinese Kuomintang party won 13, including in Taipei, Taoyuan, Taichung and New Taipei City, compared to the DPP's five wins, mainly in southern Taiwan.

Following DPP's poor performance, Tsai, who had promoted opposing the Chinese mainland and "defending Taiwan" during the campaigning, resigned as its chair.

Her approval rating has also crashed. Last December, the Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation poll found Tsai's approval rating had plummeted to 37.5 percent, and has not rebounded since.

Huang Chih-hsien, a writer and TV commentator in Taiwan, criticized Tsai's attempts to cling to Washington for "Taiwan independence."

"What Tsai Ing-wen wants during her 'transit' trip to the United States is to put the issue of 'Taiwan independence' on the international stage," Huang told China Media Group (CMG).

She added, Tsai is now "trying to cooperate with the U.S. in every way possible, because 'Taiwan independence' [forces] and the U.S. can use each other, and they need each other."

"The United States has been playing the 'Taiwan card,' and Tsai Ing-wen also wants to be played by this American card," Lai Yueh-tchienn, a current affairs commentator in Taiwan, told CMG.

"But the damage is borne by the people in Taiwan," Lai added.

CGTN

Biden Afghanistan report mostly blames Trump for chaotic US withdrawal

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden's administration on Thursday released a summary of classified reports that mostly blamed the chaotic August 2021 US pullout from Afghanistan on his predecessor, Donald Trump, for failing to plan for the withdrawal he had agreed on with the Taliban.

The Democratic administration's summary, drawn from top-secret State Department and Pentagon reviews sent to Congress, ignited angry reactions from Republican lawmakers who have demanded the documents for their own investigation of the pullout.

Michael McCaul, the Republican chairman of the US House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, strongly criticized the administration. Biden ordered the pullout and was "responsible for the massive failures in planning and execution," McCaul said in a statement.

McCaul, who is overseeing the Republican probe, charged that his multiple threats to subpoena the State Department and Pentagon reviews, which were completed last year, finally compelled the administration to send them to Congress.

"President Biden's choices for how to execute a withdrawal from Afghanistan were severely constrained by conditions created by his predecessor," said the summary of the reviews. "The outgoing administration provided no plans for how to conduct the final withdrawal or to evacuate Americans or Afghan allies."

The document acknowledged that the administration learned lessons from the withdrawal, and now errs on the side of "aggressive communication" about risks in a destabilized security environment.

Chaotic end to America's longest war

The withdrawal that ended America's longest war saw tens of thousands of Afghans desperate to flee a return of hardline Taliban rule besiege Kabul's international airport, some handing babies to US troops or breaking in and hanging onto departing aircraft.

The Trump administration also "guttered" refugee support services and virtually halted the processing of Special Immigration Visas for thousands of Afghans seeking evacuation because they worked for the US government, leaving a massive backlog, the summary said.

"Transitions matter. That's the first lesson learned here. And the incoming administration wasn't afforded much of one," National Security Council spokesman John

Kirby told a White House briefing.

The 12-page summary placed some responsibility for the chaos of the pullout and evacuation operation on flawed US intelligence and military assessments that failed to foresee the speed of the Taliban takeover and predicted that Afghan security forces would hold Kabul.

"As late as May 2021, the assessment was still that Kabul would probably not come under serious pressure until late 2021 after US troops departed," the summary said.

Pressed on whether Biden bore any responsibility for the Kabul airport disorder, Kirby replied, "Just by dint as the commander in chief, he assumed responsibility for the orders he gives."

Withdrawal postponed

The 20-year war in Afghanistan, the longest conflict involving US troops, was started under President George W. Bush and furthered under President Barack Obama. Over 100,000 people were killed and about 3 million displaced, according to data from the nonpartisan Costs of War project at Brown University.

Biden pledged during his 2020 campaign to end "forever wars" and withdraw from Afghanistan, although he postponed the pullout to which Trump had agreed by three months until the end of August 2021. The US-backed Kabul government collapsed on Aug 15 as the Taliban were entering the city.

The disorganization and chaos as the US left raised questions about Biden's leadership, the quality of US intelligence and America's commitment to human rights and thousands of Afghan citizens it had relied on.

An Islamic State suicide bomber on Aug 26, 2021, killed 13 US service members and 170 Afghans as they clustered outside a gate of the airport.

Thousands of American citizens, greencard holders, and Afghans who had applied for Special Immigration Visas were unable to leave on the largest US airlift on record.

Altogether, some 100,000 Americans, greencard holders and Afghans - many of whom were not vetted - were flown out before the US withdrawal ended just shy of the 20th anniversary of the US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

The Trump administration agreed in a February 2020 accord with the Taliban on the pullout of all US-led international forces by May 2021. The Islamist militants agreed to stop attacking American troops and hold peace talks with the Western-backed Kabul government. **Agencies**



Tulia Ackson, the founder of Tulia Trust, an institution that takes charge of the annual Mbeya Tulia Marathon.

More runners line up for 2023 Mbeya Tulia Marathon

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

ABOUT 500 runners from across Tanzania and outside the country are expected to participate in the 2023 Mbeya Tulia Marathon scheduled for May 5-6.

Such a number is an increase of 200 runners, given the previous season's Mbeya Tulia Marathon involved about 300 runners.

The showdown will see competitors take part in a 42km race, 21km event, 10km race, 100m race, and 1500m race.

According to Mbeya Tulia Marathon coordinator, Luiza John, the registration for the showdown is in progress and participants of the 42km race and 21km race are supposed to pay 35,000/- each in fees.

Luiza, also serving as Mbeya Regional Athletic Association's secretary-general, added a registration fee for 10km race and short distance races of 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1500m is 30,000/- for each runner.

She explained that the opening day of the showpiece will see competitors participate in short-distance races at Sokoine Stadium.

Luiza noted that the following day will witness athletes take part in 10km, 21km, and 42km races, which will start at Sokoine Stadium and come to a close at the same venue.

The winner of the 42km race is set to rake in 3,000,000/- in cash prize, 2000,000/- will go to the runner-up, and the third-place finisher is set to

walk away with 1,000,000/-.

In the 21km race, the champion will get 2000,000/-, the second-placed competitor will rake in 1,000,000/-, and the third-place finisher is set to walk away with 700,000/-.

In the 10km race, the champion is set to rake in 500,000/-, the runner-up is set to walk away with 300,000/-, the third-place finisher takes 200,000/-, and athletes finishing fourth and fifth will garner 100,000/- apiece.

The Mbeya Tulia Marathon is a spectacular annual race held in Mbeya City, Tanzania.

It is a spectacle that gives the participants and the sponsors the rare and memorable privilege of racing in the land of Mt. Kilimanjaro and Serengeti.

The 2018 Mbeya Tulia Marathon took place on May 6 and managed to create positive attention toward supporting underprivileged groups in our societies.

There has been a massive response in participation from locals, members of parliaments, and corporate participants.

A pool of local and international corporate organizations did partner with the Tulia Trust last year.

This has generously contributed to the success of the first Tulia Marathon and, more importantly, scaling up support for the cause that the race advocates.

Fountain Gate girls storm into CAF African Schools Football Championship semis

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

TANZANIA'S Fountain Gate Secondary School's squad is today expected to take part in the semi-finals of the inaugural CAF African Schools Football Championship Continental Final at the Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium in South Africa.

Fountain Gate Secondary School's side had good results in pool A of the tournament, while Gambia's Scan Aid finish secured second place on goal difference ahead of the home side, South Africa's Edendale Technical High School team.

The fourth team for the last four's round was yet to be decided in Friday's final pool fixtures.

Fountain Gate Secondary School was the first team to book a semi-final spot at the inaugural continental showdown after a thrilling first day at the King Zwelithini Stadium in Durban, South Africa on Wednesday.

Fountain Gate, who put in a solid performance to see off Scan Aid 2-0 on Thursday, are leading the three-team Group A.

Zainabu Karuka and Winifrida Gerald, with her sixth of the competition, got the goals.

Speaking to CAFOnline from the King Zwelithini Stadium, Fountain Gate's coach, Veronica Kiondo, cautioned against complacency, saying that there was still a lot of work to be done as the tournament will only get tougher moving forward.

"We have to keep our respect because these are champions from their respective zones so we cannot undermine anyone because it will get even tougher moving forward," Veronica cautioned.

While the school comprises less than 400 students, of which around 60% are girls, the team looks like a well-drilled machine that has dominated its opponents.

Veronica noted: "We are a school as well as an academy. We have children which we train regularly and develop them from the basic level for a long time."

"When it comes to the stage of playing competitions, it becomes an opportunity to assess where we are and where we are heading," the coach concluded.



Tanzania's Fountain Gate team player (R) negotiates her way past Gambia's Scan Aid team player when they locked horns in the African Schools Football Championship's tie that took place in South Africa on Thursday. The Fountain Gate girls notched a 2-0 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

The opening clashes of the pan-African schools' championship had plenty of goals and some wonderful football in a true celebration of youth football in the U-15 age group.

The matches were attended by South Africa's Minister of Sport, Arts, and Culture, Zizi Kodwa, CAF vice-presidents Ahmed Yahya, Souleiman Hassan Waberi, and Seidou Mbo-mbo Njoya, COSAFA president Artur de Almeida e Silva, and South African Football Association president Danny Jordaan.

Some 2,500 fans packed the stands in Umlazi as 23 goals were scored across the boys' and girls' competitions, which will culminate on Saturday with the semi-finals and final at the Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium in South Africa's majestic coastal city.

Home side Clapham High School lead the way in the boys' competition after the opening day, though CS Ben Sekou Sylla (Guinea) and CEM Belaouche Mouhend Oulhadji (Algeria) only begin their campaigns on days two and three respectively.

Clapham played to a 1-1 draw with Malawi's Salima Secondary in their opening fixture, a rematch from the final of the COSAFA qualification competi-

tion that was staged in Lilongwe last year. As the hosted zone, COSAFA has two sides to boys' and girls' events.

Kabelo Sibanda was on the scoresheet for Clapham, while Blessings Sakala netted for Salima.

Sibanda scored again in the 2-0 victory over Benin's CEG Sainte Rita, with Nkululeko Mabasa grabbing the opener in that game.

Sainte Rita made up for that disappointment with a 2-0 win over Salima in their second match thanks to two superb goals as Gedeon Djossou headed in the first and Achirafou Sabam doubled the advantage with a rasping shot that was Goal of the Day.

Clapham, therefore, has four points from their first two games, with Sainte Rita on three and Salima one. The top four teams in the group will meet in the semifinals.

Fountain Gate School from Tanzania were among the big winners on the opening day of the girls' competition after they completed a 7-1 victory over home side Edendale Technical School in Group A that has sealed their place in the semifinals from the three-team pool.

Winifrida Gerald shot to the

top of the goal scorers' charts with five goals to underline her rich potential, while there was a brace for Mary Siyame. An-ele Douglas got the consolation goal for Edendale.

The South African side then faced Scan Aid from The Gambia in their second match and drew 1-1 in a tightly contested fixture.

Samkelo Gwananda put them in front but Kaddy Camara grabbed a deserved equalizer for the West Africans.

Ecole Omar ibn Khatab lead the four-team Group B with a 6-0 victory over Anse Boileau in their second game of the day, their scoreline boosted by four goals from Malak Hajjam El Id-rissi, and further strikes by Aya Ayoub and Hiba Youssoufi.

They had been held to a goal-less draw in their first game by CEG Cobly from Benin, who also have four points after they beat Anse Boileau 1-0 in their clash. A penalty from Bassopa Yokossi separated the teams.

The teams are vying to be crowned champions of Africa, but also for the USD 300,000 first prize in each competition.

The Motsepe Foundation has donated USD 10 million to boost the competition in its inaugural year.

JKT Tanzania, Pamba FC in tough battle for promotion to Premier League

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

THE pursuit of a place in the 2023/24 Premier League will conclude on May 13, with JKT Tanzania, Pamba FC, and Kitayosce FC currently turning out to be the Championship League's serious challengers for top-flight promotion.

The trio has so far had impressive results after 24 matches of the ongoing Championship League.

JKT Tanzania is leading the 16-team league with 59 points, followed by Kitayosce FC now placed second after collecting 50 points after 24 matches.

Mwanza-based Pamba FC, alias 'TP Lindanda', has expressed its intention to make its way back to the top flight as the club is sitting third with 48 points after honouring 23 matches.

Pamba FC has a chance to knock Kitayosce FC off the second spot should the former come out victorious in the tie against Mashujaa FC slated for April 15.

According to the Champion-

ship League rules, the champion and an outfit finishing second will garner promotion to Premier League, whereas clubs finishing third and fourth are set to take part in promotion/relegation playoffs that will involve Premier League sides ending 13th and 14th.

JKT Tanzania took on Tanzania Prisons in the previous season's promotion/relegation playoffs, which ended with Prisons emerging victorious and staying in the top flight.

Mtibwa Sugar locked horns with Championship League's Transit Camp FC in the same season's promotion/relegation playoffs that were won by the former.

Efforts by Championship League's JKT Tanzania and Transit Camp FC to seal promotion to the 2022/23 Premier League, in the end, ended in vain.

Ihefu SC and DTB FC, which is later known as Singida Big Stars, booked a place in this season's NBC Premier League following the clubs' solid

showing in the 2021/22 Championship League.

Mara's Biashara United and Mbeya Kwanza FC, which sat 15th and 16th respectively in the previous season's Premier League, succumbed to relegation to the Championship League.

On April 15, JKT Tanzania will travel to Tanga to come up against African Sports in the 25th-round tie of the Championship League.

Dodoma's Fountain Gate FC will entertain Kitayosce FC in the tie scheduled to take place at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma.

Other Championship League matches slated for April 15 are Biashara United vs Pan Africans, Green Warriors vs Ken Gold FC, and Ndanda FC vs Mbeya Kwanza FC. On April 16 Mwanza's Copco FC will host Transit Camp FC.

JKT Tanzania last battled it out in the Premier League in the 2020/21 season and plunged into Championship League as was the case with Mwadui FC and Gwambina FC.



Pamba FC players are pictured before participating in one of the club's recent ties of this season's Championship League which took place in Mwanza. PHOTO: COURTESY OF PAMBA FOOTBALL CLUB

Bayern hope Mane can 'find himself' at familiar foe Freiburg

BERLIN

FRESH from knocking Bayern Munich out of the German Cup, Freiburg will hope to again spoil the party against the same opponents today, this time at home.

Bayern lacked firepower in Freiburg's 2-1 win at the Allianz Arena on Tuesday, with their goal coming from centre-back Dayot Upamecano.

Star summer arrival Sadio Mane's drought in front of goal continues to frustrate the German champions.

Mane has played seven matches for Bayern since returning from a leg injury which forced him to miss Senegal's World Cup campaign, but has registered only one assist and no goals.

After Tuesday's match, a smiling Mane told reporters "soon, I promise you" after he was asked when he would return to the spectacular form he displayed with Liverpool.

Manager Thomas Tuchel, just two games into his Bayern reign, said he had "no doubt whatsoever about Sadio's quality and what he can bring us", explaining "it's only a matter of time."

Club chief executive Oliver Kahn said that Mane might be struggling because there is "a lot of competition" for starting spots at Bayern.

"He doesn't know that (from Liverpool) and is perhaps not used to it."

"He's still looking for himself."

Bayern lead with eight league matches to play but Borussia Dortmund, who face, Union Berlin are just two points behind.

Freiburg have lost just one league match at home this season and sit fourth, on track for what would be a first-ever Champions League qualification.

While barely cracking a smile, understated Freiburg manager Christian Streich said on Thursday he was "delighted as hell" ahead of Saturday's 'second leg' against the Bavarian behemoths.

"This is the maximum challenge, right after the maximum challenge" the 57-year-old manager said.

"It was a great event, but that was it. Now it's about what happens on Saturday."

The gruff manager promised his side "two days off, probably" after the match, an extra incentive for his exhausted charges to secure a second-successive upset.

One to watch: Jude Bellingham (Borussia Dortmund)

After their 4-2 thrashing at Bayern last weekend cost them top spot, Dortmund were eliminated from the German Cup with a 2-0 loss at RB Leipzig on Wednesday.

A loss on Saturday at home to Union Berlin in a second consecutive top-three clash, would allow the visitors to overtake Dortmund. That would reduce the chances of a title celebration on Dortmund's famous Borsigplatz come season's end.

AFP

'Decisive' Chukwueze key weapon for Villarreal in Madrid clash

MADRID

VILLARREAL, inspired by winger Samuel Chukwueze, face champions Real Madrid today in La Liga looking to continue their push for Champions League qualification.

Quique Setien's Yellow Submarine have good reason to believe they can take three points from the Santiago Bernabeu, despite Madrid hitting 10 goals in their last two games.

Carlo Ancelotti's side have the game sandwiched between the 4-0 Clasico romp over Barcelona in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday, and a European showdown against Chelsea next week.

With Barcelona strolling to the title, 12 points ahead of Madrid, Los Blancos may rotate players against Villarreal and take their eye off the ball.

The biggest factor, though, is Chukwueze's sensational form, with the forward dazzling in recent weeks to help Villarreal, sixth, cut the gap on the teams ahead of them.

They beat Real Sociedad 2-0 last weekend, with Chukwueze winning a penalty to help open the scoring, converted by Dani Parejo.

Villarreal also drew with Real Betis, fifth, in March, and have won four of their last five league games.

The 23-year-old Nigerian winger has scored three goals and provided three assists across those matches, finding consistency at long last -- he scored just one goal in 20 league games prior.

Chukwueze did not get regular starts under Unai Emery but he has developed into an essential weapon for Setien, who took over at the end of October.

With 11 goals and 11 assists this season across all competitions for his club, Chukwueze is enjoying his best campaign at the club on both fronts.

"He was already a great player before I arrived," said Setien after the win over La Real, which reduced the gap on the Basque side to just four points with 11 games remaining.

"It's true that sometimes a certain context or a run in the side will help, but I already saw him do extraordinary things before I arrived."

AFP

Arsenal now brace for Liverpool test as relegation battle heats up

LONDON

ARSENAL face a test of their Premier League title credentials against Liverpool this weekend as the scramble to avoid relegation intensifies.

Manchester United and Newcastle will seek to consolidate their positions in the top four, while Frank Lampard takes charge for Chelsea's visit to Wolves after returning to Stamford Bridge as caretaker manager.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key talking points ahead of the action.

Liverpool lie in wait for Arsenal

Arsenal travel to Anfield tomorrow seeking an eighth consecutive Premier League win as they close in on a first English top-flight title for 19 years.

On paper, a match against faltering Liverpool does not look the toughest of tasks but Jurgen Klopp's team are a tougher proposition at home than away, winning nine of their 13 league matches at Anfield this season.

Klopp saw positives in the goalless draw against Chelsea in midweek af-



Mikel Arteta

Jurgen Klopp

ter three consecutive defeats in all competitions, praising his men for their attitude.

"Now let's carry on," he said. "Anfield is waiting for us and we want to deliver. We have another 10 games to play and the next one is Arsenal."

The Gunners, who have not won at Anfield in the league since 2012, face a daunting set of fixtures in April, with matches against Manchester City and Chelsea to come later in the month.

But if they beat Liverpool, even defending champions City, eight

points behind Arsenal with a game in hand, might begin to lose belief they can catch their title rivals.

Rashford reliance

Marcus Rashford was once again the match-winner in Manchester United's victory against Brentford on Wednesday, but Erik ten Hag is painfully aware that his side are over-reliant on the England forward.

United's 1-0 win at Old Trafford, which lifted them back into the top four, was their first in the Premier League since mid-February.

Ten Hag finally ran

out of patience with the blunt Wout Weghorst but despite their dominance, United were unable to add a second goal to Rashford's first-half strike.

The Red Devils have not won a league match without Rashford being on the scoresheet since before the World Cup.

Ten Hag, whose side host Sean Dyche's Everton today, admits it is "the truth" that United are too reliant on Rashford, who has 28 goals in all competitions this season.

But finding a solution is not easy. Weghorst

has scored just twice since he joined on loan in January and Anthony Martial is finding his feet again after an injury-ravaged season.

Relegation pressure

The pressure at the bottom of the Premier League is growing by the week, with clubs taking drastic measures in the fight for survival.

Crystal Palace, Leeds, Everton and Southampton have all appointed new managers in recent weeks, while Brendan Rodgers left Leicester on Sunday.

Nottingham Forest owner Evangelos Mari-

nakis said Steve Cooper would remain in charge of the struggling club but warned results must "improve immediately".

And David Moyes is clinging to his job as West Ham boss after a humiliating 5-1 home defeat by Newcastle in midweek, which left the club hovering above the relegation zone on goal difference alone.

Hammers captain Declan Rice is adamant he and his teammates cannot afford to sulk.

"We are positive that we have enough to get out of this," he said. "We can only worry about ourselves. We have picked up results. It is down to us. And if we win our games, we will be all right."

Fixtures

Today (1400 GMT unless stated)

Manchester United v Everton (1130), Aston Villa v Nottingham Forest, Brentford v Newcastle, Fulham v West Ham, Leicester v Bournemouth, Tottenham v Brighton, Wolves v Chelsea, Southampton v Manchester City (1630)

Tomorrow

Leeds v Crystal Palace (1300), Liverpool v Arsenal (1530)

AFP

No club fires and rehires as much as Chelsea - but should Frank Lampard have answered the call?

BY MIKE MCGRATH

THE old football phrase of "never go back" has been ignored in the last couple of weeks. Roy Hodgson came out of retirement to return to Crystal Palace, then in the whirlwind of finding a new manager at Chelsea they have asked Frank Lampard to take charge until the end of the season, two years after sacking him.

Perhaps it is inevitable that fishes in the pond of elite managers will be considered in clubs where they have enjoyed success or at least have familiarity. Of the 12 managers sacked in the Premier League this season, they had an average tenure of 1.57 years. High turnover, panicking chairmen and a limited number of solutions.

Why not bring Mauricio Pochettino back to Tottenham? He had input into some of the designs for the club's new stadium. He knows many of the current players and took them to a Champions League final.

While "never go back" is a football adage, it does not necessarily apply to modern managers, who have seen as many successes as failures during the Premier League era when returning to clubs. Lampard's appointment means Chelsea have rehired a former manager three times in the last decade, matched only by Newcastle in the Premier League era.

There have been cases of managers who, in



Frank Lampard

hindsight, should not have gone back. Kevin Keegan falls into that category having turned Newcastle into title contenders the first time around. But Lampard need look no further than the honours board, and his own playing career, at Stamford Bridge to see what is possible on a manager's second spell.

He was part of Jose Mourinho's glittering first era at the club when they swept the board for trophies, then played a season when the Special One came back. That campaign was trophyless but the following year Mourinho was celebrating another Premier League title, before his second reign unravelled.

Between Mourinho's spells came Guus Hiddink, who saw Chelsea through to the end of the season after Luiz Felipe Scolari's sacking and led the club to the 2009 FA Cup. Six years later, it was Hiddink fill-

ing season Portsmouth were playing AC Milan in the Uefa Cup.

Steve Coppell made his way back to Palace on more than one occasion and took them into the Premier League through the play-offs on one of his returns. There is also the case of Howard Kendall's return to Everton, which ended in survival on goal difference. While at the other end of the scale in terms of Kendall's glory years, there was no relegation on his CV.

Hodgson and Lampard's returns could lead to questions over why they were dismissed in the first place, given the regard they are held at clubs. Different owners in Lampard's case, different direction at Palace.

The League Managers' Association are concerned that owners are looking for short-term fixes rather than seeing what longevity can bring. Graham Potter didn't even last seven months at Chelsea this

season, and Lampard came into the picture after he lasted a year at Everton.

"The collective quality and experience of managers in the Premier League is arguably the best in world football," said LMA chief executive Richard Bevan. "Too often the owners and decision makers at clubs look for short-term fixes, rather than trusting managers to improve form and achieve their objectives, such as European qualification or avoiding relegation."

"We question the wisdom of removing the most important decision maker in the performance environment without empirical evidence that this has a long-term effect on performances and results."

"Through our one-to-one programme, we continue to support our members working in the Premier League, focused on developing the manager's personal skillset, enabling them to make

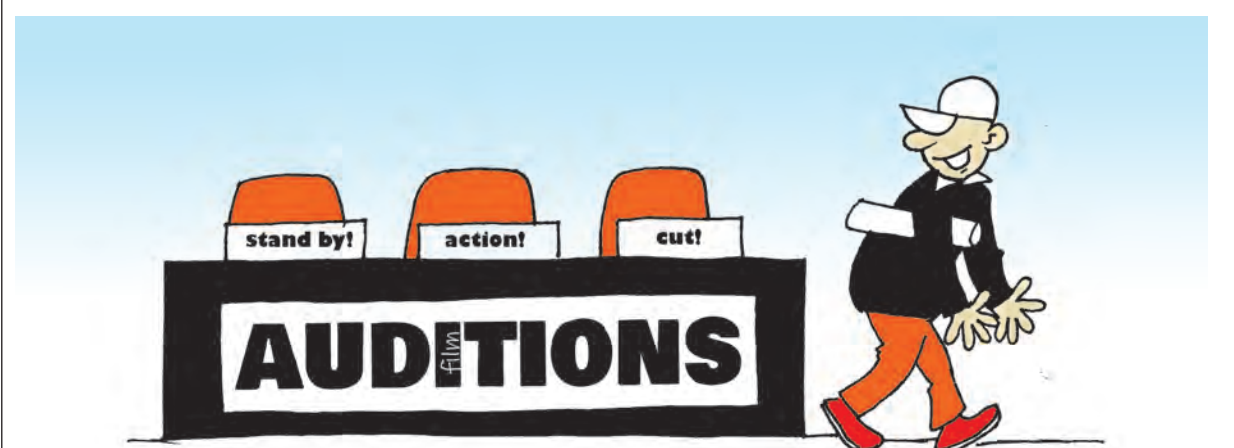
informed and strategic decisions to excel in elite-level management."

One of the most successful examples of "going back" was David Moyes at West Ham, where he returned and took them to the Europa League semi-finals last season. Less than a year on and he finds himself under scrutiny after getting thrashed by Newcastle United in midweek. He was linked with Everton when they were looking for a manager earlier in the season, in another case of going back to what you know.

This season the Premier League is three dismissals away from the record 15 sackings set in 2017/18. Given the time left in the campaign and the number of panicking chairmen, there is every chance of a new record. And inevitably there will be clubs looking at their former managers for the solutions.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal now brace for Liverpool test as relegation battle heats up

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Yanga looks for another step towards domestic treble



Yanga's left fullback, Lomalisa Mutambala (R), dribbles past Geita Gold FC's winger Edmund John when the teams met in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League duel which took place in Dar es Salaam on March 12. Yanga garnered a 3-1 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

nine-game unbeaten run in the Federation Cup.

Having beaten Geita Gold FC three weeks ago, Nabi's men will be confident of progressing to the semi-finals. They will rely on goal-getter Clement Mzize to do the job in front of the goal.

The young striker has been the default starter in ASFC games and has scored six goals so far.

This is a repeat of a league game that took place three weeks ago when Yanga came from behind to win 3-1 to extend their winning run to 11 league games.

It is also a repeat of last year's ASFC quarterfinals match that Yanga won in a penalty shootout after the two sides were tied 1-1 in 90 minutes.

In head-to-head records, Yanga has won all five games against Geita Gold FC and is expected to flex its muscles once again to reach the semi-finals.

Geita Gold FC, meanwhile, is comfortably a mid-table club in the club's second top-flight season.

The team is in no danger of relegation this season nor are they fighting for a top-four place.

They are coming off back-to-back Premier League defeats. A 3-1 loss to Yanga was preceded by a 2-1 loss away to Namungo FC.

Fred Felix-coached Geita Gold FC began the squad's ASFC journey with a 1-0 win over Championship League side Transit Camp FC in the qualifying round.

The squad then claimed another slim 1-0 victory over non-league side Nzega United in the round of 32.

A round of 16 followed against Green Warriors, who went down 3-1 to Geita Gold FC.

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

YANGA's quest for a treble continues today when the club faces Geita Gold FC in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinals.

The Jangwani Street club hosts the gold miners at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam this evening in a battle for the last quarterfinal berth in the ASFC.

With the Community Shield safely in the bag, a second successive Premier League title looking highly likely, and a place in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals already on Yanga's list of achievements for the season, a further step towards ASFC glory will be expected from the squad.

Head coach Nasreddine Nabi's boys are the ASFC defending champions as they won the showdown trophy last season as part of the famous 2021/22 treble-winning season.

This game comes after a great performance in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup's away duel against Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'s TP Mazembe where

Yanga won 1-0 to top Group D ahead of Tunisia's US Monastir.

Yanga booked its passage

to the ASFC quarterfinals after thrashing Championship League side, Rhino Rangers, 7-0 in the round

of 32 and edging Tanzania Prisons 4-1 in the round of 16.

They are on a remarkable

5 EATV Sports

TONIGHT @ 9:00

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zote kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

Singida Big Stars FC denies seeking Mkude's signature

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SINGIDA Big Stars FC head coach, Hans van der Pluijm, has denied reports that he is planning to have his outfit sign Simba SC defensive midfielder Jonas Mkude at the end of this season.

Mkude is said to be on the Dutch coach's plans given the footballer's contract with Simba SC is nearing expiry.

The midfielder is moreover finding it difficult to secure a place in Simba SC's first team.

Pluijm, who once coached Yanga and Azam FC, disclosed that he has no plans to sign the midfielder because the gaffer has many players in Singida Big Stars that have what it takes to garner good results.

The tactician noted he recognizes Mkude's competence and appreciates his quality very much but he also has a lot of trust in Singida Big Stars FC players playing in the midfield.

Pluijm said it will, as a result, become difficult for him to decide to sign Mkude.

"There are many players in the position so it is very difficult to say I will take him... I respect the players in my squad, and I also respect Mkude."

"Mkude needs time to play, whether in the country or abroad, for him, it is difficult for him to play at Simba SC lately because there are players who are doing well in his position," Pluijm revealed.

Kelvin Nashon and Yusuph Kagoma roped in from Geita Gold FC in the mini-registration period, are footballers featuring in defensive midfield in Singida Big Stars.

While Pluijm denied the plan to sign Mkude, Simba SC's head coach Roberto Oliveira disclosed that he has no problem with the midfielder, quashing the allegations.

The coach noted: "There are many players (at Simba SC) who have not played matches recently, Mkude is not the only one... I realize that he is a good and beloved player, and he has been at his best for a long time."

"I don't have a problem with him at all but what is happening in the type of matches we had recently and the way we wanted to play them, that's why you haven't seen him on the list," Oliveira noted.

The tactician said: "As I said at the beginning, Mkude is here and you have seen him, and he has been training with the team. What is happening is that there is limited time to prepare the team, and there are players that have played well in his position and you cannot use them all in one game."

Senzo backs Yanga to knock out inconsistent Rivers United

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FORMER Yanga Chief Executive Officer, Senzo Mazingiza, has backed the club to reach the semi-finals of this season's CAF Confederation Cup after showcasing stellar performance in the tournament.

Mazingiza, currently serving as the Botswana Premier League's Chief Executive Officer, is remembered for his successful performance when working for Tanzania's Simba SC and Yanga.

Yanga has an advantage of starting on an away venue in the continental tournament's last eight duels against Nigeria's Rivers United, with the first leg scheduled to take place on April 21-23 and the return slated for April 28-30.

The Tanzanian side cleared its path into the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals after finishing at the sum-



Senzo Mazingiza

mit of Group D with 13 points generated from four wins, one draw, and one loss.

They scored nine goals

against eight goals netted by second-placed Tunisia's US Monastir which also collected 13 points from six games after

winning four games, drawing one match, and conceding one loss.

Yanga's best record came about following the outfit's victory in all their three home fixtures which guaranteed the squad nine points and the outfit is upbeat to go as far as qualifying for the final.

Mazingiza pointed out that with the quality Yanga has showcased in this season's CAF Confederation Cup, the club has great potential to reach the tournament's semi-finals.

The South African football administrator noted: "Yanga has played very well so far, if you look at the way they introduced themselves into the quarterfinals, you will see that they are a team that has a lot of power in this tournament."

"I believe they will go further than they have reached now, their statistics have

been better in line with their results on the pitch," the official noted.

"Yanga can reach the semi-finals, they have what it takes to overcome Rivers United, the club has been inconsistent in the past six games of this season's Nigeria Premier Football League and this is where Yanga will exploit them," Mazingiza noted.

The winners of the last eight duels between Yanga and Rivers United will face either Pyramids FC of Egypt or Marumo Gallants of South Africa in the semi-finals.

In other 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup last eight fixtures, USM Alger (Algeria) confronts AS FAR Club (Morocco), US Monastir (Tunisia) locks horns with ASEC Mimosas (Côte D'Ivoire) while Pyramids FC (Egypt) plays against Marumo Gallants (South Africa).

Flexibles by David Chikoko

