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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi bids farewell to his laureate guest, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature (2021) Prof. Abdulrazak Gurnah after a courtesy call at the Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: State House

## Traders appeal for reopening of depots shut in crackdown

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has called for the opening of more Inland Container Depot (ICDs) to facilitate smooth handling of goods and ease transportation. Angelina Ngalula, the TPSF chairperson, said at a breakfast meeting organized by transport and logistics stakeholders that there is a lack of ICDs due to the big flow of goods at the port of Dar es Salaam. There is currently an increase in cargo flowing into the country, leading to existing ICDs in the city failing to accommodate the heightened storage facility requirements, she said. Availability of ICDs implied increased storage space, while lack of the same makes traders shift to other ports where their goods will land and be

stored while other procedures take place, she stated. ICDs are physical facilities that store containers temporarily, with customers allowed to store containers, the trouble being that traders were instructed to build private ICDs outside of the city. There is lack of business as not much investment takes place there, so no businessman will invest in a place which is likely to be loss making, she said, urging the government to reconsider the ICDs license renewal period, as at present a one year interval is operating, which is bad for business. Dr Godwill Wanga, executive secretary for the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) said that since those challenges have been brought

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## AfDB setting up \$1.5bn fund to avert food crisis

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) Group has approved a \$1.5bn loan facility to help African countries avert a looming food crisis in many localities. The bank said in a statement yesterday that with the disruption of food supplies arising from the Russia-Ukraine war, Africa faces a shortage of at least 30 million metric tons of food, chiefly wheat, maize and soybeans sourced from the two countries. The \$1.5bn African emergency food production facility will support smallholder farmers fill the food shortfall, it asserted, noting that African farmers urgently need high-quality seeds and inputs. The planting season begins in May for a range of producers and towards the end of the year for others, and still others farm at the start of the second quarter of next year, or have finished planting or weeding by this month. The facility will enable 20m smallholder farmers being provided with certified seeds, increased access to agricultural fertilizers, and thus rapidly produce 38m projected tons of food, the statement noted, affirming that the facility is a \$12bn increase in food production in just two years. Dr Akinwumi Adesina, the AfDB Group president, affirmed that food aid is unreliable to stave off hunger. Africa does not need bowls in hand. Africa needs seeds in the ground, and mechanical harvesters to

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## Minister: Digital system over land cases to solve disputes

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

INFORMATION and communication technology (ICT) is being prioritised by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development in its 110.32bn/-

estimates for fiscal 2022/23, partly in order to set up an integrated land cases management system (LCMS). The system will be functional by the end of the next fiscal year, on the basis of affirmations by the minister, Dr Angeline Mabula, who

cited ICT adoption as the ministry's key target in ceasing the issuance of residential building licenses and title deeds during the current financial year. The move to shift the ministry's operations to online platforms enlisted

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## Tanzania, China pact to boost cultural ties

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA and China yesterday signed an implementation programme for cultural ties stretching from 2022 to 2025 to strengthen bilateral exchange and cooperation in culture, arts, tourism, journalism, sports and education. Culture, Arts and Sports minister Mohamed Mchengherwa (pictured) observed the signing, along with resident Chinese ambassador Chen Mingjian, cultural counselor Wang Siping and various government officials, in a ceremony at embassy premises. Mchengherwa said implementing the program will further deepen the traditional friendship between China and Tanzania, as cultural cooperation between China and Tanzania entails many benefits, with Tanzania set to participate in a number of culture festivals in the Far East state. Tanzania is satisfied in its cooperation with China in culture, arts and sports, so it will carry out the programme with vigor and vitality, he said, referring to the fact that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has launched a tourism documentary, "The Royal Tour," heightening global exposure to Tanzania's tourism attractions. "Tanzania hopes to further strengthen cooperation with China in the tourism sector, hoping that the charm and vitality of the country will attract more peace-loving and hospitable friends from the Asian giant," he affirmed. Ambassador Chen said the two governments signed a bilateral cultural agreement in April 1992 with a view to promote exchanges and cooperation in culture, arts, press, radio, film, television, sports and education. The two governments have been communicating to review the agreement in

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango exchanges greetings with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa just after landing at the Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam yesterday from Davos in Switzerland, where the VP represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the World Economic Forum high level gathering. Photo: VPO



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## Traders appeal for reopening of depots shut in crackdown

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forward they will be discussed and solutions be brought up.

Those who were grieved or offended in such matters need to handle the issues by adhering to the rules and regulations, he said, underlining that the logistics and transportation business chains need to work in harmony in order to ensure profitability.

Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa said last month that ICDS would be reopened to decongest the port of Dar es Salaam as it had seen

a significant increase in cargo flows lately.

He was officiating at a reception for the biggest ever cargo ship to dock at the port with 4,041 vehicles from Japan. He said port storage facilities were full and this causes congestion as ships are forced to wait for days owing to lack of storage space.

The government minimized the use of ICDS following a crackdown in 2016 to track tax evasion networks. All cargo and especially vehicles are stored at the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) storage facility at the port.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa talks to councilors, village chairpersons who included Ngorongoro MP Emmanuel Shangay, youth and women representatives when he received suggestions from the people of Ngorongoro, Loliondo and Sale divisions in Ngorongoro District on how to maintain the Ngorongoro Conservation Area at the Prime Minister's Office in Dodoma on Wednesday. Photo: PMO

## AfDB setting up \$1.5bn fund to avert food crisis

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harvest bountiful food produced locally. Africa will feed itself with pride for there is no dignity in begging for food."

The facility has benefited from stakeholder consultations, including those with fertilizer producers and separately with African Union agriculture and finance ministers earlier this month. The ministers agreed to implement reforms to address systemic hurdles that prevent modern input markets from performing effectively, he stated.

The price of wheat has soared in Africa by over 45 per cent since the war in Ukraine began, with fertilizer prices tripling, so the continent faces a fertilizer shortage of two million metric tons. "Many African countries have already seen price hikes in bread and other food items. If this deficit is not made up, food production in Africa will decline by at least 20 per cent and the continent could lose over \$11bn in food production value," he declared.

The \$1.5bn package will enable the production of 11m tons of wheat, 18m tons of maize, 6m tons of rice, and 2.5m tons of soybeans, the statement indicated, pointing out that the initiative will provide 20m farmers with certified seeds, fertilizer and extension services. It will also support market growth and post-harvest management, it elaborated.

This will last over the next four farming seasons, where the bank will use its convening influence with major fertilizer manufacturers, loan guarantees and other financial instruments to see it through, the AfDB board underlined.

The facility will also create a platform to advocate for critical policy reforms to solve the structural issues that impede farmers from receiving modern inputs. This includes strengthening national institutions and overseeing input markets, with AfDB enlisting multilateral development partners on the issue, it said.

This kind of convergence will ensure rapid alignment and implementation, enhanced reach and effective impact, increasing technical preparedness and responsiveness. The initiative is geared for short, medium and long-term measures to address urgent food needs and the sustainability and resilience of Africa's food systems, it further noted.

Beth Dunford, AfDB vice president for agriculture, human and social development, said the facility builds on lessons learned from the 'Feed Africa,' a response to the Covid-19 break out, which has enabled a strategic roadmap to support Africa's agriculture and safeguard food security.

Over the past three years, the 'Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation' initiative has delivered heat-tolerant wheat varieties to 1.8m farmers in seven countries, increasing wheat production by 2.7m metric tons priced at \$840m.

A five-year ramp-up phase will follow the two-year food production facility, to build on previous gains and strengthen self-sufficiency in wheat, maize, and other staple crops, expanding access to agricultural fertilizers.

The five-year phase will deliver seeds and inputs to 40m farmers under the program, 'Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation,' all this gaining momentum in the wake of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, appointing Dr Adesina to a select steering committee of the 'Global Crisis Response Group.'

The U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on state and foreign operations recently invited the bank CEO to make a presentation about the food production facility, while the Global Alliance for Food Security that is spearheaded by Germany backs the bank's initiative.

This is part of a collective effort by the development partners and African states to accelerate food production in the short term while remaining focused on medium- and longer-term actions to build resilience," it added.

## Minister: Digital system in land cases to solve disputes

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developing the land cases management model to ease daily operations among district land councils

"The system will bring efficiency in storing references of land case rulings, filing of new land cases, monitoring performance of district council officials and easing access to land case rulings," the minister noted.

Up to late April, land councils through regular meetings had resolved 1,898 land disputes and cases, way above the targeted 1,000 cases, with the new online system likely to enable the general public to reach land adjudication services directly.

During the next fiscal year the ministry will conduct a property census to ease access to social services for the general public with improved urban planning. Property owners and occupants of residential units need

to fully participate in the census by giving correct information on the use, quality and ownership of such units, she stated.

The ministry also seeks to establish a real estate unit mandated to oversee transparency in the real estate business, the minister stated, highlighting that 1.18bn/- has been allocated for compensation among communities abandoning land the construction of the East African crude oil pipeline.

Similarly, property tax payments deadline has been extended from six months to 12 months, with taxpayers subjected to penalties in case of failure to comply.

ICT solutions developed during 2021/22 facilitated initiation of the integrated land management information system (ILMIS), enabling issuance of 18,063 residential licenses and 6,861 traditional land occupancy

certificates.

The certificates and licenses were issued in Mwanza, Arusha, Mbeya, Rukwa and Singida, she said, noting that by early May 6,138 title deeds were issued electronically in Dodoma region with its application, now improved with advanced features, she stated.

Zeroing in on ICT in the ministry's operations has pushed the building of local areas networks (LAN) at regional land offices in Iringa, Lindi, Mwanza and Mbeya, set for completion by end of next month.

The regional networks will be connected to the national land information database, with a call center set up in Dodoma in the previous financial year for receiving land related complaints from the general public.

By mid-May the center had received 3,947 complaints, she elaborated.

The ministry had procured a drone for aerial photographing and scanning

at 189m/- to facilitate town planning, and has so far been used in scanning 100 square kilometers of land in Dodoma, she said.

MPs had approved 97,55bn/- in estimates for the past fiscal year but 18,54bn/- was added to the budget late last year for development plans, while the ministry plans to collect 250.1bn/- in revenues, up from 221bn/- projected for the outgoing fiscal year, where up to 115bn/- had been collected by the start of this month, she asserted.

During the financial year, 142 village land ownership certificates were registered, 42,684 traditional land occupancy certificates issued, along with 65,441 title deeds. During the next fiscal year 100 village land occupancy certificates are expected to be issued, 520,000 traditional land occupancy certificates and 500,000 title deeds through the digitally based system, she added.

## 11 newborn babies killed in Senegal hospital fire

TIVAOUANE

A similar incident occurred in the northern town of Linguere in late April, when a fire broke out at a hospital and four newborn babies were killed.

Eleven newborn babies died in a hospital fire in the western Senegalese city of Tivaouane, the president of the country said late Wednesday.

Just before midnight in Senegal, Macky Sall announced on Twitter that 11 newborn babies had died in the fire.

"I have just learned with pain and dismay about the deaths of 11 newborn babies in the fire at the neonatal department of the public hospital," he tweeted.

"To their mothers and their families, I express my deepest sympathy," Sall added.

The tragedy occurred at Mame Abdou Aziz Sy Dabakh Hospital in the transport hub of Tivaouane, and was caused by "a short circuit", according to Senegalese politician Diop Sy.

"The fire spread very quickly," he said. The city's mayor Demba Diop said "three babies were saved".

According to local media, the Mame Abdou Aziz Sy Dabakh Hospital was

newly inaugurated.

A similar incident occurred in the northern town of Linguere in late April, when a fire broke out at a hospital and four newborn babies were killed.

The mayor of that town had cited an electrical malfunction in an air conditioning unit in the maternity ward.

Wednesday's disaster comes over a month after the nation was rocked by news of the death of a pregnant woman who waited in vain for a Caesarean section.

In early April, a pregnant woman waited at a public hospital in the northwestern town of Louga for a Caesarean section. She died before she was able to get medical attention.

Her death caused a wave of outrage across the country on the dire state of Senegal's public health system.

Three midwives were sentenced on May 11 by the High Court of Louga to six months of suspended imprisonment for "failure to assist a person in danger" in connection to her case.

Three other midwives were acquitted.

AGENCIES



Tanzania Mainland Census commissioner Anna Makinda speaks to the religious leaders at a meeting on the preparations of the 2022 Population Census in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Tanzania, China pact to boost cultural ties

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accordance with developments in the specific areas, thus signing implementation programs every four years periodically.

Signing the new implementation program deepens the friendly ties between the two countries, upgrading

it to another level, people-to-people exchanges, she said.

The implementation program for 2022-2025 facilitates cooperation in culture, arts, education, press and publication, radio, film, television and sports as included in the previous implementation program, while also covering tourism, she

stated.

It was agreed that exchanges and cooperation in tourism be strengthened, encouraging the broadest participation in tourism promotions and sharing of cultural and tourist products, she remarked.

"The two countries enjoy profound traditional friendship and have been

cooperating, coordinating closely and fruitfully in the cultural sector," he said, indicating that science and technology was also covered.

Cultural and scientific cooperation has a role in promoting economic and social development and in facilitating friendly exchanges between the two peoples, the envoy added.





NMB central zone manager Nsolo Mlozi (C) explains a point to a tailor Jeni Ndembeka at Maduka Bus Stand during the launch of "NMB Teleza Kiditali" campaign aimed at reaching more unbanked citizens to access to financial services. Right is NMB Wami branch manager Harold Lambileki. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## EU, AKDN offer 188m/- subsidy to small traders

By Guardian Reporter

THE European Union (EU) in collaboration with Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) has provided 188.32m/- subsidy to empower small entrepreneurs in Lindi and Mtwara regions.

The money will assist them to address economic impacts as a result of COVID-19 pandemic.

A statement issued by AKND supervisor of the project, Tarcile Mbala, the subsidy is part of EU/AKDN project to fight the effects of COVID-19 in Tanzania, Kenya Uganda and Mozambique.

Mbala said in the statement that they mooted the project from Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) as well as other institutions that provide subsidies.

He said for more than one decade AKDN has been working together with various lending and saving groups whose activities were significantly affected by the coming of the pandemic.

"The project's aim is to make sure the groups return to normal, as the aim is not merely dishing out subsidies, but new also expect to strengthen them," Mbala said in the statement.

The project's coordinator, Japhet Wangwe said in addition to giving subsidies, AKDN, in collaboration with other stakeholders have established a digital system to monitor the groups' activities to enhance the safety and ease in conducting their activities at all times.

Lindi district commissioner, Shaibu Ndemanga said COVID-19 had caused two main impacts in health and the economy.

He said what AKDN did is to support the government that has been making efforts to make sure the people continue with their economic activities.

One of the beneficiaries of the subsidy, Deogratius Mbiku said during the COVID-19 pandemic their businesses were adversely affected and could not revive them.

## 'Govt plans to build 500 cattle dips countrywide'

By Guardian Reporter

The government plans to build 500 new cattle dips countrywide and setting aside areas for the livestock grazing.

This was revealed in Dar es Salaam Wednesday this week by Mashimba Ndaki, the Livestock and Fisheries minister at a function organised by AgResult, an institution dealing in farming and livestock to award best farm inputs sellers from Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Iringa regions.

Speaking after the event Ndaki said in supporting efforts of the private sector in farming and livestock, he said the government will embark in building 168 cattle dips this year and already funds for the 500 cattle dips have already been set aside.

"The government recognizes efforts of the private sector such as AgResult, and we support them by directing our efforts in various areas in regard to the livestock sector," said Ndaki.

He said when completed, the cattle dips will bring the total number of dips constructed in the last two years to 668.

He also said the government recognizes the importance of AgResult contest that award prizes

to small scale sellers of farm inputs.

"This gives us confidence that through collaboration between the public and private sectors, we can solve many challenges facing the livestock sector in the country," the minister added.

For his part, Rodrigo Ortiz, an official from AgResult Secretariat explained that the project concentrates in making sure that intended goals are realised through motivation plan in innovation by handing out cash prizes in order to involve the private sector aimed at the entire value adding chain.

The project's supervisor, Neema Mrema said AgResult recognizes efforts of every contestant in competition.

She mentioned some of prize winners as including Abea Animal Breeding East Afrika of Dar es Salaam, Gricare Enterprises (Tanga), A-Z Universal Co LTD (Iringa), Damian Agrovet (Morogoro), Idd Veterinary Center (Tanga), and Kile Agrovet Veterinary (Morogoro).

Other winners were Kilosa Veterinary ya Kilosa, Mil-Animal Nutrition Innovation Center (Arusha), Oiso Vet Center (Lushoto), Twins Agrovet & General Supply (Morogoro) and Vetfarm of Dar es Salaam.

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Gwajima calls for strategies to fight GBV and child abuse nationwide

DR Dorothy Gwajima, the Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups has called on Dar es Salaam Region's Women and Children's security committees to continue apply strategies that will assist in eradicating all acts of violence in the community.

The minister made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening the committee's two-day meeting that focused in strategies to fight acts of gender based violence and child abuse in the society.

She said the government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has been making efforts to make sure it facilitates strategies for the protection of women and children against these acts that affects them both physically and psychologically.

"In this gathering make sure you come up with a solution that will help your committee to win the war against acts of gender based violence and child abuse

that are increasing in our communities," said Dr Gwajima.

She added that the step will assist in having a better nation in the future, saying the situation was still not good, especially from the large number of children roaming the streets after running away from these acts of violence from their homes.

"Children have been fleeing rural areas to towns but they end up in sleeping at bus stands and others under the bridges..the situation is not good at all, we are making a bad future nation," she said.

She explained that the committees are required to follow up challenges facing the children, know their numbers starting from their homesteads and quickly work on them before they flee their homes.

"But also the men who abandon their children must stop the habit, as the aim of the

government is to build a better nation, hence every one of us should make sure we provide better upkeep of our families," Dr Gwajima added.

The ministry's permanent secretary, Dr Zainab Chaula expressed her ire by the 'street children' terminology, saying there are no street children as every one of them has parents.

The Officer Commanding District (OCD) for Chang'ombe, SSP Ariziki Makwaya said due to the continuing acts of gender based violence and child abuse in the community, there is the need of having many 'safe' houses to assist victims of these acts.

SSP Makwaya said when victims come, or a brought to police stations, it is due to their safety, but when they return to their homes they confront the same environment, hence there is a need for the 'safe' houses.

### GLOBAL PROGRAMS

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## Regional Linux Servers Administrator

### JOB DESCRIPTION

#### The Company

The University of California San Francisco (UCSF) through its affiliate international NGO Global Programs Training (GP) is engaged in several projects in Tanzania, Namibia, Kenya, the Caribbean region, Uganda, and Burundi that are funded by the U.S. Government to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and its partners. The Health Information Systems (HIS) that are used in these projects need to be deployed, secured, improved and maintained by a fully qualified and experienced server administrator.

#### The Position

Under the supervision of the Information, Communication & Technology (ICT) Manager the Regional Linux Servers Administrator will oversee administering and maintaining the Linux installations for UCSF Global Strategic Information (GSI) Projects in Tanzania, Namibia, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Cambodia, USA and Jamaica. The specific roles will be:

#### Roles and responsibilities:

- Designing and maintaining critical infrastructure for GSI systems. Coordinate with compliance specialists to document, isolate, and resolve any breach in server security.
- Technical advisory on specific solutions based on requirements for each country's server needs.
- General Linux server administration and management
- Manage, coordinate, and implement software upgrades, patches, hot fixes on servers.
- Manage and implement best security practices including encryption on Linux servers.
- Always be aware of newly discovered server, infrastructural or system vulnerabilities and plan for immediate remedies.
- Ensure high server availability and continuously review and implement redundancy plans
- Install software and databases services required on the servers e.g. NGIX, APACHE, TOMCAT, DJANGO, MySQL etc.
- Manage users, permissions, and secure access to the systems.
- Proactively monitor system performance, log faults, analyze and resolve performance exceptions and document solutions.
- Work with HIS developers and other constituents for server capacity planning.
- Create and modify scripts or applications to perform tasks.
- Provide input on ways to improve the stability, security, efficiency, and scalability of the server environment.
- Collaborate with other teams and team members to develop automation strategies and deployment processes.
- Document and maintain SOPs for server management.
- Support international projects through close coordination with local teams, on-site travel, and capacity building as needed.
- Maintain inventory of all server and software installations done for each country and ensure timely upgrades and decommissioning of servers and resources.
- Assist the ICT manager in maintaining Windows servers, Microsoft SQL servers, and Power BI servers.
- Any other related duties assigned by the supervisor

#### The Person

##### Minimum requirements

- A Bachelor's degree or Master's degree in Computer Science, or a related field with sufficient training in server administration disciplines
- At least four years of working experience managing multiple Linux servers or a server firm.
- Demonstrable expertise in securing Linux servers
- Demonstrable experience in server diagnostics and troubleshooting

#### Interested?

We offer an attractive package commensurate with qualifications and experience. The closing date is **16<sup>th</sup> June 2022**. Email your cv and application letter to [info.tanzania@ucglobalprograms.org](mailto:info.tanzania@ucglobalprograms.org).

**Only electronic CV's will be accepted.**

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## TENDER NOTICE

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES

1. National Bank of Commerce Limited has set aside funds for the procurement of various services during financial year 2022/2023, it is intended that, part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the various contracts.
2. Request for proposal is open to all eligible service providers with proven experience and capacity to offer the required services. Interested eligible bidders are invited to apply for the provision of below list of services;
  - i. Litigation Management System
  - ii. Workflow and Integrated Document Management Suite
  - iii. Third Party Screening Tool
  - iv. Data Warehouse Services,
  - v. Business Processes and reporting tool
  - vi. Data Virtualization Tool
  - vii. Enterprise Middleware,
3. Request for Proposal documents can be downloaded from the website [www.nbc.co.tz](http://www.nbc.co.tz) and then click 'Procurement' to access the document.
4. All Proposals in one original and one copy set properly filled in, and enclosed in sealed envelope marked as per service name written on the RFP Document and should be addressed to; **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED, HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, and P. O. BOX 1863 DAR ES SALAAM.**
5. Sealed applications and Bids must be submitted not later than **Thursday, 09<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 1600hrs**. Proposal shall be delivered by hand to the Tender Box located at reception of Head Office building, ground floor along Sokoine Drive / Azikiwe Street.

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED**





# IPRT announces plan to start professional training to improve communication skills

By Guardian Reporter

A Newly established Institute of Public Relations in Tanzania (IPRT) has announced its ambitious move to provide training on customized strategic communication and leadership.

The training targets senior executives, communications officers, HR personnel as well as officers at corporate levels.

IPRT training co-ordinator Evarist Ngalmuwili unveiled this yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a press conference to launch the organisation which was also attended by representatives from different institutions.

He said that the idea to introduce the course is driven mainly by a widening gap in conflicts in the society which emanate from lack of strategic communication and leadership.

IPRT will work with highly reputable local and international institutions such as the Daystar University of Kenya and veterans in the media and leadership to offer the courses.

"While the courses will initially be open for communication officers as well as all officers at corporate levels, the plan is to eventually to make this service available to journalists from media companies, including those wishing to become media practitioners from higher learning institutions," he said.

He said the trainings have come at a time when the quality of communication and leadership among officers at all levels in many offices has declined markedly.

"The courses on offer currently include communication and strategic communication programmes for organisations staff such as corporate communication, crisis management, brand management, effective communication, personal communication and organization communication as well as a range of courses that focus on producing quality communication skills," he said.

Further, to ensure specific industries and economic sectors' stories are told the right way, Ngalmuwili said the institute has also organised trainings for journalists in a number of areas such as financial statement analysis, court reporting, sports reporting and analysis, extractive industry (mining, oil and gas), agriculture and livestock, banking and insurance, health (medical reporters), environmental

reporting and blue economy (ocean, lakes, rivers, fishing, marine travel, tourism, etc).

"The aim is to skill local journalists so as to ensure stories based on specific industries and economic sectors are told the right way. So Journalists will undergo a foundation programme on the respective area which will equip them with the skills and knowledge for proper reporting," he said while mentioning that the foundation programmes will be run under involvement of professional and experts from the relevant sector as well as apex bodies.

To disseminate accurate and reliable information in the areas of Public Relations, Corporate and Marketing Communications, Leadership and Governance, the institute is further set to introduce a new PR professional standard magazine named Reputation Today that is positioned to become the leading professional brand magazine in the whole of Tanzania.

Commenting on the move, the Executive Secretary of the Tanzania Chamber of Mining (TCM) Engineer Benjamin Mchwampaka said the advent of the strategy has come at a time when the nation needs to have competent writers in various strategic areas including the mining area so that the information provided is productive for the public.

"As stakeholders in the mining industry we are deeply touched by the advent of this training not only for our communication as an institution but also for the journalists in the country. The mining industry involves huge investments so even the preparation of its information requires great care and professionalism. The presence of well-trained writers to report on mining information will help us a lot as a nation," he said.

Commenting on the move, Mwananchi Communications Limited Managing Director, Bakari Machumu said it is important for journalists and all communicators to continue learning throughout their careers and lives as to develop new skills of doing things in a fast-paced industry.

"So much is changing in this industry of ours that it often seems that we have to play catch-up all the time," Machumu said.

He said the programme will be a key component of the country's PR and communication development and retention efforts.

# Govt, Vodacom accelerate innovation in health sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has pledged to continue supporting institutions like Vodacom Tanzania that have been playing an instrumental role in coming up with innovations that support and provide necessary statistics within the health sector. This was said by the Director of Health, Social Welfare and Nutritional Services in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments, Dr Ntuli Kapolongwe during one of the dialogues that were coordinated by Vodacom Tanzania as part of activities for the just ended Innovation Week Tanzania 2022 in Dodoma City.

Dr Kapolongwe also urged on stakeholders to use such verified statistics that are a result of innovations that have been coordinated by the government and institutions like Vodacom Tanzania.

"We have been working so well with Vodacom Tanzania and I applaud them for investing a lot in the health sector. Their innovations have helped a lot by providing necessary statistics in the health sector," he said as he called on stakeholders to seek for this information at the Ministry of Health and TAMISEMI instead of complaining.

"Most of them do not inquire for these statistics from the relevant ministries yet it is all there and as you heard Vodacom have pledged to continue supporting more innovations, which means more statistics will be

available," he said.

He said more research on various innovations in the health sector is a complementary to government efforts hence more institutions should emulate Vodacom.

"During the past two to three years, the government has received a lot of innovations at different levels within the health sector and this has helped the government in planning and making informed decisions," he said.

Vodacom Tanzania director of digital services, Nguvu Kamando said the mobile company realized the importance of innovations hence started the Vodacom Digital acceleration which aimed at ensuring various local innovators reach their goals within a short period.

He said Vodacom in collaboration with the government, has supported more than 15 local institutions to grow and four out of them excelled internationally.

"The Vodacom Digital Acceleration season two is open and called on youths to enroll and apply for support from Vodacom Tanzania," said Kamando.

The Innovation Week was organized by the Ministry of Education Science and Technology in collaboration with the Commission for Science and Technology and United Nations Development Program through the Funguo Programme and the main sponsor was Vodacom Tanzania.



Mwananchi Communications Limited managing director, Bakari Machumu addresses the media and invited guests during the brief launch of the strategic communication training programme for senior executives, communications officers, HR personnel as well as officers at corporate level coordinated by the institute in collaboration with other institutions of higher learning from within and outside the country. Others are the Institute's of Public Relations in Tanzania (IPRT) training co-ordinator Evarist Ngalmuwili (C) and executive secretary of the Tanzania Chamber of Mines (TCM) Engineer Benjamin Mchwampaka (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed the ministry of Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development to make sure that land owners are compensated on time once their lands are acquired by the government.

Responding to a question by Mwita Waitara (Rural Tarime) who wanted to know the central government's position on compensation payment delays to people whose lands have been acquired for mining activities, the premier said though delay cases have decreased the ministry needs to act more seriously on the matter.

"The Lands Act No. 4, 1999 and the Village Lands Act No. 5, 1999 stipulates all the rights and responsibilities of land owners whose lands are

# Majaliwa directs land ministry to compensate land owners timely

being acquired by the government for different purposes. People are supposed to be compensated on time," said Majaliwa.

The premier asserted that land owners must be consulted from the evaluation process. If it is, the government of investors in need of the land is supposed to clear the evaluation costs and pay the land owners compensation on time.

"I would like to call upon legislators to work closely with the ministry so that they can be informed on the progress of land acquisition for

development or investment projects in their constituencies. This will help reduce complaints from the people they represent," said Majaliwa.

On the other hand, Dr Christina Mzava (Special Seats) asked the prime minister about the government's plan in filling the gap of health shortage professionals in public health facilities.

Responding to the question, Premier Majaliwa said that the government has allocated funds in the 2022/23 for procurement of medical facilities and improvement of infrastructures.

"The president has already issued a recruitment permit in the sectors of health, agriculture, education, finance and administration.

The government expects that after all processes related to the issuance of the permits to the respective ministries staff shortage in public health facilities will be addressed," said Majaliwa.

The premier commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for allocating funds to strategic areas in the 2022/23 financial year such as the health and education sectors.



Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian and minister of Culture, Arts and Sports, Mohamed Mchengerwa sign the Implementation Programme for 2022-2025 under the cultural agreement between the government of the People's Republic of China and the government of the United Republic of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Chinese embassy

# MPs to be drilled on PURA activities during Energy Week

By Guardian Reporter

THE Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) is set to educate Members of Parliament and various government officials in its activities at the ongoing exhibitions of the Ministry of Energy and its institutions in Dodoma.

A statement issued by PURA yesterday stated that the exhibition, which commenced on Monday at the Parliament grounds in Dodoma, is themed: 'Energy for Sustainable Development' and will go until May 26, 2022.

Minister for Energy, January

Makamba said the exhibition aims to answer MPs' questions on various issues concerning the energy sector and thus help the government to take required measures to address industry-related challenges.

He said PURA experts will raise awareness to the MPs on issues such as the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project, locals' participation in various oil and natural gas sub-sector projects as well as opportunities available in the implementation of the petroleum upstream projects.

Geologist Ebeneza Mollel said the exhibition is an important platform for PURA to reach out to wananchi through

their leaders by raising awareness and how best to take advantage of the opportunities available in the implementation of various petroleum projects.

"These leaders are the right group to be aware of these opportunities as they can reach out to the people more easily including helping them and building their capacity on how to utilize these opportunities," he explained.

PURA's geologist Wangese Matiko noted that lawmakers visiting the PURA pavilion will also have an opportunity to learn technical issues such as the oil and natural gas value chain, ongoing

exploration and production activities in the country and more.

He said the authority was determined to increase participation of Tanzanians in the extraction sector through building capacity to enable the locals to exploit opportunities in the natural gas value chain.

Matiko added the lawmakers will understand deeply on the ongoing natural gas exploration activities in the country as well as locals' participation in the implementation of various petroleum upstream activities and opportunities available in the implementation of such projects.





The head of gender desk from police force in Manyara Region Pili Saburi educates entrepreneurs of Selentini market in Babati Town on how to end violence against children and mothers yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jason

## Africa CDC warns against vaccine hoarding over monkeypox outbreak

By Special Correspondent

THE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has warned against vaccine hoarding over monkeypox outbreak.

In a statement, acting director of Africa's top public health agency Ahmed Ogwell Ouma says he hopes rich countries will not hoard vaccines during the current monkeypox outbreak, as they did with the jabs against COVID-19.

Monkeypox, a mild viral infection, is endemic in 11 African countries including Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria.

Since early May, more than 200 suspected and confirmed cases of the virus have been detected in at least 19 countries, mostly in Europe.

Last weekend, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said it expects to identify more cases of monkeypox as it expands surveillance in countries where the disease is not typically found.

"Vaccines should go to where it is needed the most and equitably, so based on risk, and not on who can be able to buy it," Ahmed Ogwell Ouma, acting director of the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, told a weekly press briefing on Thursday.

"We are working with all our member states on the continent to

step up surveillance for monkeypox," he said.

There are no current vaccines for monkeypox but the smallpox vaccine has been shown to offer up to 85 percent protection against monkeypox.

Available supplies of smallpox vaccines will be prioritised for health workers and areas with confirmed cases of the virus, Ouma added.

"The prioritization is first health workers who are in the front line, and then the affected communities where the outbreaks are first characterised, before contemplating the general public," he said.

"We do not have yet enough stocks to be able to go into the general public."



**Vaccines should go to where it is needed the most and equitably, so based on risk, and not on who can be able to buy it**

By Guardian Reporter

## Tanzania launches crackdown on cannabis cultivation

THE Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has launched a countrywide crackdown on cultivation of cannabis, a senior official has said.

DCEA commissioner general Gerald Kusaya said that 21 hectares of cannabis have been destroyed since the crackdown was launched on May 20.

"The 21 hectares of cannabis were found in Arumeru and Monduli districts in Arusha region," Kusaya said, adding that the crackdown has started in Arusha region because the region is notorious for cannabis cultivation.

He said two suspects were arrested in connection with the ownership of

the cannabis farms, adding that two other suspects were found ferrying 220 kilogrammes of cannabis on a motorcycle.

"This crackdown is continuous and we will visit all regions in the country," said Kusaya, adding that the crackdown was being conducted by

the DCEA in collaboration with other security organs, including the police.

He said DCEA was in the process of proposing amendment of laws on drugs to enable the authority to confiscate to the government farms engaged in cultivation of cannabis.

Cannabis in Tanzania is cultivated in

coastal zone of Tanga, northern zone of Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro, southern highland of Iringa and Lake Zone of Shinyanga and Mara Cannabis is mainly produced in rural areas. It takes four to five month for cannabis to mature.

UK's New Frontier Data ranks

Tanzania fifth in Africa, with 3.6 million of its citizens said to take marijuana. In EAC, Tanzania leads the two other populous nations Kenya with 3.3 million consumers and ranked sixth in Africa while Uganda with 2.6 million consumers is ranked eighth in Africa.



## A New Dawn as KCB Group Plc appoints Paul Russo as Group Chief Executive Officer

The KCB Group PLC Board has appointed Paul Russo as the company's Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) effective May 25, 2022.

He replaces Mr Joshua Oigara who has been the GCEO for the last nine and a half years. Joshua will be available for a period of time to support a smooth transition. The appointment follows a competitively run selection process that kicked off in March 2022.

Paul brings a wealth of experience in banking, operational management, people management, strategy, and a sharp business acumen. He is currently the Managing Director National Bank of Kenya and the KCB Group Regional Business Director. He has over 20 years of work experience spanning executive and key roles including Group Human Resources Director, KCB Group Plc.

He holds an MBA from Strathmore University Business School and a Bachelor of Business Management from Moi University. He also holds a Senior Executive Program for Africa Certificate from Harvard Business School and a Higher Diploma in Human Resource Management from the Institute of Human Resource Management (Kenya). Paul has consistently been a great leader of outstanding performance. Over the past 8 years while at KCB, he has been involved in the running of key strategic assignments within the Group business, lately looking after the regional businesses (KCB's businesses in Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, South Sudan as well as KCB Capital and KCB Bancassurance Intermediary) and National Bank of Kenya.

"He is therefore the right person for the job and will take the Group to the next level in its growth ambitions to become the undisputed regional leader and drive much-needed business transformation for greater impact of economies and communities around us" said KCB Group Chairman Andrew Wambari Kairu adding that the Board is confident that he will carry on with the Group's resolve to simplify the world of our stakeholders to enable their progress.

"During his tenure at NBK, he has executed a significant turnaround, moving the previously loss-making business into profitability and on a trajectory for stronger growth into the future," said the Group Chairman.

The Board commended Joshua for his service to the Group since joining in 2011. "Joshua has had a fantastic run as the Group CEO and MD and has led the Group through its fastest growth in a decade. "He has left a solid legacy for the Group across Africa and beyond that is dotted by transformation of millions of lives, enhanced financial inclusion across the region, digital banking innovations and has built a Group that is anchored on sustainable business practices," he added.

The board appreciates Joshua's immense contributions and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

### About KCB Group PLC

KCB Group PLC is East Africa's largest commercial Bank that was established in 1896 in Kenya. Over the years, the Bank has grown and spread its wings into Tanzania, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Ethiopia (Rep). Today KCB Group Plc has the largest branch network in the Region of 258 branches, 962 ATMs and over 16,600 merchants and agents offering banking services on a 24/7 basis in East Africa. This is complemented by mobile banking and internet banking services with a 24hour contact center services for our customers to get in touch with the Bank.

The Bank has a wide network of correspondent relationships totaling over 200 banks across the globe and our customers are assured of a seamless facilitation of their international trade requirements wherever they are.



Paul Russo - KCB Group Chief Executive Officer



# SNV CLAFT calls upon farmers to turn to drought resistant crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

FARMERS in the country have been urged to grow crops that withstand drought and protect the environment by desisting from wanton tree cutting and setting fires to the land that causes soil destruction.

The remarks were made here recently by a Senior Agricultural Officer from SNV CLAFT, Godfrey Kabuka when addressing groups of farmers at demonstration farms from Masasi, Nanyumbu, Tunduru and Namtumbo districts engaging in sunflower cultivation.

Kabuka said it is important for the people to cultivate crops that withstand drought in order to abide by the dictates of climate change that cause environmental destruction.

He said SNV CLAFT at present aims to assist a farmer by making sure he gets quality seeds to benefit from reliable harvests, as opposed to what it was in the past.

The project implemented by SNV CLAFT aims to assist the community, especially poor households to get quality seeds as well ensuring food security, and their economic enhancement through sunflower cultivation.

For his part, SNV CLAFT Public Relations Officer, Janet Muya stressed on the importance for farmers in the country to abide by the dictates of climate change by growing crops that withstand drought and abandon traditional farming practices that yield poor harvests.

He called on them to utilise weather stations in their areas to know about the availability of rains to enable modern farming practices with certainty.

For now, SNV CLAFT sponsors institutions that deal in the cultivation of sunflower, sorghum, potatoes and

beans by providing funds for growing crops that have the ability to withstand drought.

Speaking to this paper, some of the farmers interviewed thanked SNV CLAFT for offering to assist farmers to do away with food shortages by adopting modern farming practices by adhering to directives from farming experts.

Meanwhile, Mtonya District Chairman, Haji Mtumbei praised SNV CLAFT's by having in mind farmers by empowering farming stakeholders who are engaged in farming, especially of crops that withstand drought, including sunflower.



**For his part, SNV CLAFT Public Relations Officer, Janet Muya stressed on the importance for farmers in the country to abide by the dictates of climate change by growing crops that withstand drought and abandon traditional farming practices that yield poor harvests**



Zainab Katimba, Special Seats MP reads a statement to congratulate President Samia Suluhu Hassan for being one of the most influential leaders in the world who received a trophy for the country's successful infrastructure. The event took place in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Energy has been required to continue with countrywide expansion in the use of natural gas in order to reduce environmental effects from wanton tree cutting for wood fuel.

The remarks were made Wednesday this week by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa during his visit at the exhibition displaying activities of the ministry and its institution Parliament Grounds here.

Majaliwa said as of now the ministry should engage itself in expanding

## Energy ministry advised to increase use of natural gas

the use of natural gas to reach more Tanzanians in all regions of the country.

"We must extend this service to reach many people, we have started with Dar es Salaam, we should go to other cities, municipalities and even here in Dodoma we should have a branch," he said.

He also called upon all officials in

the energy sector to make sure they supervise the adequate availability of electricity and other forms of energy including oil to enable the country develop its economy.

He added: "CCM Election Manifesto called on the government to make sure the production of electricity from our own sources is strengthened and

developed and that the distribution thereof reaches all the people so that every Tanzanian enjoys the service."

The three-day exhibition that began May 23 this year at Dodoma's Parliament Grounds aimed to enable Members of Parliament to ask questions in regard to services by the ministry of Energy.

## WEF head applauds China's commitment to combat COVID-19

DAVOS

SHYAM Bishen, head of Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare at the World Economic Forum (WEF), welcomed China's calling for the building of "a community of common health for mankind" amid the global public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The WEF applauds this commitment from the government of China and President Xi of both funding and resources to combat the ongoing (COVID-19) pandemic," Bishen said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting here yesterday.

He also underlined the problems of access of developing countries to COVID vaccines, naming it, a problem that links to health equity.

"The problem was that most of the production for vaccine was coming from rich nations and was concentrated in just certain areas in the developed world. It was very hard to get out vaccines to developing low and middle-income countries in Africa and other parts of the world," said Bishen.

"Even now we only have about 16-17 percent of the African population vaccinated, whereas there is an oversupply of vaccine in the developed world," he said, urging for a more distributed vaccine manufacturing capacity.

China, he said, has made a significant contribution with it at least three listed COVID vaccines approved for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO).

"COVID vaccines from China are being used in many developing countries. China has made very good contributions," he said.

Bishen said the goal of health equity can only be achieved if "both the social determinants as well as non-social determinants of health equity" are looked at.

"We have challenges with regard to the access to health care products and services because of the social determinants, and because of poverty and inequality in society where many people do not have access to good education," Bishen said.

"They don't have access to transport or to good food, and that leads to health inequality," he noted. "At the same time, people don't have access to health care products because of the places or the regions they are living, and because of their social-economic situation."

"We are trying at the World Economic Forum to create public-private partnerships to bring about better health equity so that products and services can be made available across the world, irrespective of the geography," he added.

Looking ahead to the next pandemic, Bishen said it would require global cooperation, including a pathogen surveillance and timely share of information.

"If (the next pandemic) happens, we want to make sure we do a better job of controlling that pandemic through easy access to vaccines, easy access to diagnostics, as well as treatments," he said.



Moa ward fishermen in Mkinga district, Tanga region; look at a 174 kg sharks, caught in the Indian Ocean yesterday. The fish is said to be the largest ever caught by fishermen in the district. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

## Morogoro residents demand for abattoir relocation

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

RESIDENTS and investors in Morogoro municipality have urged the government to relocate the current abattoir from the residential areas to rescue them from air pollution and waterborne diseases.

In separate interviews, the residents said that the abattoir has been causing endless pollution in their homes, something that also poses a huge risk to people's health.

Ruth Reuben, a food vendor said that she was tired of the municipal authority's fake promises on the removal of abattoir and the

construction of modern ones since the 1980s. "We need the central government to solve this problem because the municipal council has failed and is not considering how much we are suffering from this. As days go by, my customers decrease due to air pollution from waste materials and leather processing," Ruth said.

She pointed out that cholera is among the serious diseases in the Mwembesong ward, caused by poor drainage systems from slaughter centres constructed in residential areas.

One of the investors who requested anonymity said poor sanitation and

hygiene in the area discouraged them to invest and provide job opportunities to native Tanzanians.

"My plan is the construction of a big building here after the removal of slaughter as I cannot do it now due to the disturbing air pollution and wastewater for many years, despite the situation, no serious measures have been taken," he said.

National Environment Management Council (NEMC) regional officer, Amina Kibola said the slaughter has been overused due to population increase, and other challenges which are inevitable.

She said the council has been

receiving claims every day from the community and it has already submitted them to the municipal council.

"Slaughterhouse serves the region; NEMC can't put a stop order but we are still pressurizing the municipal council to construct a modern one. It is a daily claim which is reported here," she said. Municipal environmental official Samwel Subi urged residents to remain calm as the construction of a new abattoir will be completed soon.

"I'm insisting on daily cleanliness while we are waiting for the completion of a modern slaughter centre away from people's settlement," he said.



# Chemka villagers decry destruction of infrastructure at tourism site

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

CHEMKA villagers in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region have called on the Chinese-SINO Hydro Corporation Company implementing a water project in the area to ensure road infrastructure are improved for the area to continue providing its tourism services.

The area surrounds the famous tourism destination-Chemka Hot Spring that attracts hundreds of tourists from all over the world.

Speaking to reporters who visited the area, villagers said the implementation of the project by the company has led to the destruction of road infrastructures that are used by visitors, traders and other people thus affecting daily economic operations.

One of the villagers, Sembuli Mkilaha said the road has been damaged and thus causing great inconvenience to tour operators, tourists, and other people visiting the famous tourism site-a natural hot water tourist dam popularly known as Chemka Hot Spring.

"The company has been diverting water in our residential and tourism areas, something which causes severe damage to our daily activities," he said, adding that the contractor has dug a channel and blocked the road used by people from various places who come to visit Chemka village which is one of the famous areas attracting tourists to visit the Natural Spring Hot water.

"I am one of the victims; the contractor has dug ditches to drain the groundwater. When they draw it they direct this water to residential areas and this has caused damage to many houses including mine," Mkilaha claimed.

He said apart from destroying human settlements, the water has caused severe damage to the hot spring, where people from all over the world visit the area for tourism.

Another resident, Mussa Mangarika who owns a food kiosk in the area, said that on April 28, this year, the contractor started pumping the water directing it to people's houses, where his house was destroyed.

"We urge the government to address this issue by ensuring that this contractor compensates all whose property has been damaged by the water they draw while implementing the project," he said.

A representative from Sinohydro Corporation Company, Idd Mashashi, acknowledged that they had received the complaints on the challenge and decided to go and witness the damage.

"I have witnessed the damage, I have spoken to the people, what I promised them is that we are going to remove the water that has reached the homes,"

Mashashi said.

He added: "The next step would be for the company to assess the damage caused by the water entering the residential areas and then contact the management of the contracting company to look into the possibility of compensating them."

Project Engineer from the Arusha Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (AUWSA), Eng Mandela Augustine promised to sit down with the company's management to discuss how to address the problem.

"It is true that even when I was leaving the project area at night, I found the road used by various people being closed which has caused a great challenge," he noted.

Hai District acting executive director David Buremo, urged the contractor to ensure that the mud that entered at the Chemka tourism site is removed immediately so that it does not continue to damage the project which is a major source of the district's revenues.

He said: "It is sad to see that five tourist vehicles from Kenya have been stranded while transporting tourists to visit the Chemka Hot Spring, which has caused inconvenience to visitors and could have hampered tourism in the area."

Chemka Hot Springs, locally known as kikuletwa Hot Springs is the only oasis amongst the Tanzania savannah and a unique phenomenon. Here the groundwater actively interacts with geothermal sources; it forms a small number of lakes with warm water.



**I am one of the victims; the contractor has dug ditches to drain the groundwater. When they draw it they direct this water to residential areas and this has caused damage to many houses including mine**

## AU youth envoy launches survey to promote youth inclusion and participation in AU processes

ADDIS ABABA

THE Office of the African Union Youth Envoy launched a youth survey to facilitate the advancement of youth mainstreaming and advocacy for the implementation of progressive policies and impactful actions that promote youth participation, engagement and leadership towards the realization AU Youth Charter and Agenda 2063.

The survey dubbed 'AU Youth Survey' is part of an effort to increase the participation of young people across the continent in the development of policies and recommendations that address key issues affecting them.

"Young people are the core for development. They need to be part of the integral process from its onset. This survey is in line with the Youth Envoy's priority areas; I encourage all youth to get involved, and leverage on this survey to table their need," Chido Mpemba stated.

She further explained that the roll-out of the Survey provides the opportunity to listen, engage and

synergize efforts to better serve the youth under the guidance of the Chairperson of the AUC.

The AU Envoy further added that the outcome of this survey will further contribute to the development of youth-led, meaningful programs and plans of the African Union towards achieving Agenda 2063.

African Youth (including diaspora) are invited to contribute to this knowledge generation process that will be further complemented with a series of physical and virtual consultations. This participatory process will ensure the development of inclusive and robust frameworks and programs for the continent's Youth.

The listening tour kicked off in Nairobi on the sidelines of the youth pre-summit on humanitarian pledging conference with dialogues with young refugee's policy group to gain insights that will further contribute to the development of youth-led, meaningful programs and plans of the African Union towards achieving Agenda 2063.



Spice farmer Bakari Mataka shows vanilla crop to journalists (not pictured) who visited his farm at Mtambwe organised by the Tanzania Environmental Journalists Association (JET) yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahima Suleiman

## NGO provides 1,878 sanitary towels to schoolgirls

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika, Ruangwa

A TOTAL of 626 students from four secondary schools in Ruangwa District, Lindi Region have been provided with 1,878 sanitary towels as assistance that for three months.

The secondary schools that benefitted by the assistance donated by Victoria Foundation, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) include Hawa Mchopa in Malolo Ward, Mary Majaliwa (Nandagala Ward),

Lucas Maria and Mnacho both in Mnacho Ward.

Speaking before handing out the towels, Vicky Kamata, the Director of Victoria Foundation said the students have been reached through the national "Binti N'gara Fikia Malengo" project.

"Victoria Foundation implements the project at the national level, since it is regarded as important and aims to provide assurance to students to learn at all time with confidence," Kamata

said.

She explained that the project started in Simiyu Region and has now reached Ruangwa Region thereafter she will take it Mtwara where they will also hand out the towels to more girl students.

Apart from the towels handed to girl students, boys have also benefitted by the training given on the best way to use social networks while at school.

The project's programme

coordinator, Steven Mruma said apart from handing out the towels, Victoria Foundation had also the opportunity to conduct a training seminars for students of the schools whose topics were provided by Zamaradi Mketema to girls and Emmanuel Mathias to boys.

Meanwhile, Ruangwa District Commissioner, Hassan Ngoma expressed his pleasure by the project and its goals to girls at schools and advised it to do so countrywide.



Maili Mbili residents at Mnadani ward in Dodoma region keep environment clean and safe along Dodoma-Arusha highway on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

NAIROBI

CANADA has announced a contribution of 100 million Canadian dollars to the African Development Bank (AfDB) to support the growth of Agricultural small- and medium-sized enterprises (agri-SMEs) in Africa particularly those run by or benefiting women.

Harjit Sajjan, Minister for International Development and Minister for the Pacific Economic Development, said that the funding will go a long way in strengthening the food security of African countries including Kenya in the wake of global food supply disruption.

Sajjan, who begun a tour of three East African countries in Rwanda on Saturday, noted that Africa's agri-SMEs are dynamic but face challenges in accessing finance for growth and expansion adding that the financial support will play a key role in addressing some of the challenges.

"We want to help small and medium

## Canada targets women-run Agri-SMEs In CAD100mn AfDB-administered fund

size entrepreneurs, especially with a focus on food for women as well because we know that when women have the opportunity in agriculture there is a significant positive impact," he said.

He stated that AfDB will be able to determine for themselves how they will spend the money noting it has the necessary expertise and networks to leverage the opportunity.

Though Sajjan could not specify the number of countries targeted under the funding, Sajjan said the decision rests on AfDB.

He added that food security is currently a serious issue in the horn of Africa noting that Africa has the skills set and knowledge to be self-reliant in terms of food production and be an economic powerhouse by tapping into

the agriculture sector.

"That is why these 100 million dollars will go a long way in providing the support, I am here to ask the same questions to government officials as well, what are their plans, and how we can better support initiatives to increase food production, water management and let us not forget, when we do good agriculture, it is also better for the environment as well," he added.

Sajjan partly blamed the current food crises in the region on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war which he said has made it difficult for exports and imports from Ukraine.

"The grain in Odessa right now can't get out. It is because of his (Vladimir Putin) actions, and he is not allowing that grain to go out. Ukraine does help to

feed the world, and if that grain doesn't go out it is going to make it difficult for us but nonetheless, Canada and the rest of other nations are going to come together to provide their support," Sajjan said.

He added that Canada's focus in their relationship with Kenya is ensuring that Kenya has the right tools and support in efforts to improve food production which he said will benefit the region.

The funding for this initiative comes from the International Assistance Innovation Program, which helps accelerate private sector development that contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Canada is seeking to mobilize up to 200 million Canadian dollars in additional financing from public and private sources to support the initiative.



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## International Day of Action for Women's Health misguided; let's help young women

STRIDENT calls were being issued online for an international day of action for May 28, which a series of organisations especially in western countries recognize as the International Day of Action for Women's Health. There were calls for action under a number of militant slogans like 'ResistAnd Persist,' or 'Women's Health Matters,' imitating "Black Lives Matter" campaign in the United States, as well as SRHRisEssential,' apparently 'sustainable reproductive health rights' or 'subsidised' health access rights for that matter. The core issue is abortion rights, a thorny issue in cultural references.

Western countries debate the issue to huge divisions of sentiments. Those supporting simple access to ending pregnancies cite all sorts of circumstances involved in how a woman becomes pregnant, but they define the right to life in a restrictive way, that it doesn't involve the fetus. That isn't accepted by the other camp, who sees a fetus moving in the stomach as life, and in principle even if that motion has not yet been registered, it is a bona fide life that shouldn't be cruelly cut out. It is the social setting that is at times frustrating, and an avalanche of non-believers who don't especially care of unborn fetus as a life.

While these things aren't being debated in the public arena due to the cultural and religious resistance to abortion, the issue forms an undercurrent in what people do on a day to day basis. It is looked upon in

terms of gains and losses if a child will be born, where rejection of responsibility brings a young woman close to contemplating an abortion. What helps out is a supportive household, from enlightened parents in particular as the domestic scenario is crucial to a balanced temperament, as outside the feelings are mixed.

There are instances where a fetus denied by the responsible man grows to become the most talented child in a family, such that the erring parent, if he is within the vicinity, starts looking for ways to be recognized as the father. Whatever happens thereafter, it is an indication that a fetus isn't a bad sign in a woman's life merely by not being recognised by the other parent. It is a common failing as men aren't most of us aren't known for being just and fair in everything that we do, so a woman ought to understand she is not alone in that situation, and that the child in waiting can turn out to be a great blessing for her.

Sailing through life is not an easy matter, and without the best of counseling and assurances, a teen age girl faced with that kind of situation can easily lose her bearings. In that case this day of action for shouting to the roof about the right of abortion will remain contested by the majority around the world, whom some publicists in the United States say is the 'moral majority.' Anger for the misdeeds of a man, and not a life threatening situation for a woman, should not lead to killing a fetus. It is a moral issue.

## Africa must fill gaps in the current model of growth, tuned to trading

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has lately been making profound reflections on what Africa needs to steer its economic growth, where she made some acute observations on what is being done to move Africa to become an integrated market. This objective has been there since independence, underlying the idea of African unity and the wish for economic size to attract investments. What has changed in that regard is that some things are coming into reality, like integrated road networks within a country and between countries. With information technology, clearance of goods is quick, by reconciling data, etc.

Receiving the Babacar Ndiaye Africa Road Builders Trophy in Accra on Wednesday, President Samia took the audience on a long road of road building efforts for six decades, with heightened modernization in the past three decades enabling greater strides to be made. Enviably strategic infrastructure projects with enviable strategic projects initiated by the fifth phase government. While in part this effort reflected the gradual rise of economic capacity and financial ability, it also had to do with a brand of leadership that was less tolerant of some indulgences Africa's bureaucrats and politicians are used to. It is another story.

All the same there were elements of that aspect when President Samia said that Africa is missing the late president Magufuli's brand of leadership, despite that her audience was more upbeat about the changes she had introduced

in the style of leadership. The fifth phase zeal on strategic projects was unsurpassed, and friends of parts of the audience shouted discouragement for instance on the pivotal Julius Nyerere hydropower project. Those objections are now forgotten and perhaps they also realize they were wrong.

The more engaging part of the president's remarks was that Africa has all it needs for self-sufficiency, including vast arable land, minerals and marine resources but these resources risk remaining unused if no effective strategies are devised and taken up. "Now, in order to better manage these resources, Africa must produce, process and trade within the borders of our continent. It is in this context that the free trade zone of Africa can make sense," the president emphasised.

What no one has said so far, including those at the African Development Bank (AfDB) hosting the trophy award event, is how Africa becomes a large market. Often we rely on drought in a neighbouring country to sell staples like maize or rice, and many people fail to survive if they simply live a rural agro-based peasant life. This will be solved gradually, as more money creeps into land, property and agriculture, rooting out traditional occupations one villager after another. President Samia was categorical that without adequate road networks, trade in Africa would just stagnate, but factually the roads must be accompanied by land purchases and transfers to investors to create jobs, investible savings and a rapidly growing market.



By Aisha Waziri Umar

SUFFICIENT women representation in politics will increase creativity, originality and help to diversify the pool of talents, skills and abilities.

Current statistics has it that we have a paltry 11.2 per cent of female membership in both chambers of the Ninth National Assembly (seven females in the Senate and eleven in the House of Representatives). This, in my opinion, is very poor in juxtaposing these with the 479 members of the federal parliament, because the participation of women in governance leads to higher responsiveness to the yearnings of citizens.

Our great nation is at a cross road. We are confronted and bedeviled by the hydra-headed monsters of banditry, terrorism, kidnapping, alongside unprovoked, gruesome and wanton killings across the country, especially in the northern regions. This, I strongly believe, could be reasonably checked if we make sacrifices and adjustments to our style of selection of leaders at all levels of government to include women. With gender inclusion comes economic empowerment. There is no gainsaying the fact that Nigeria is greatly wasting a precious resource in the gross underutilisation and poor representation of women in governance and politics i.e. playing with a half team, when we have the capacity of playing a star studded full team.

As the 2023 elections approach, Nigeria must therefore address the sizable gender gaps that undermine women's inclusion in governance. There is sufficient and ever-increasing evidence that women inclusiveness in governance and political decision-making processes help nation-building. For example, research on local councils in Nigeria revealed that the number of potable drinking water projects in local government councils led by women was 62 per cent higher than those led by their male counterparts. It can also be safely said that there exists a strong relationship between the presence of women in area councils and child care coverage.

Current statistics has it that we have a paltry 11.2 per cent of female membership in both chambers of the Ninth National Assembly (seven females in the Senate and eleven in the House of Representatives). This, in my opinion, is very poor in juxtaposing these with the 479 members of the federal parliament, because the participation of women in governance leads to higher responsiveness to the yearnings of citizens. When there is gender balance in governance and leadership, the quality of lives amongst the populace is greatly improved. Upon the involvement of women in governance, they succinctly capture the needs of respective families and will ensure that policies are developed to suit the needs of their respective communities. When women are in governance, minority ethnic

## 2023 and imperative of women's inclusion: Righting the wrongs

groups are less likely to be relegated to the background, rather they will be given their rightful places in the affairs of the nation. Women in power can be counted upon to cover issues others overlook, to support causes or ideas that other persons stoutly, vehemently oppose and make concerted efforts in the efforts to putting abuses that others accept to an end.

The necessity of women's participation in politics and governance is undeniable. Studies all over the world have shown that there is no instrument more effective in promoting good governance than the adequate empowerment of women. No other policy has the potential to reduce the rate of child and maternal mortality, which is a major cause of death amongst women in Nigeria and a bane in our society, than the conscious inclusiveness of women. Statistics show that Nigeria has a maternal mortality rate of 576 per cent.

It goes without saying that when women are accorded their deserved, appropriate and acceptable positions in governance, it will enable them formulate and implement robust educational policies that will benefit the entire citizenry, most especially the less fortunate ones in our society. When children are acquainted with requisite knowledge, the society becomes saner and more habitable for all of us.

Several factors restrain women from actively participating in governance and politics in Nigeria. These include, but are not limited to the following: insufficient resources; lack of viable information; disproportionate access to quality education; cultural barriers; diversities; and discrimination against rural women. These are among the essential factors contributing to the passive involvement of women in governance and politics. A woman who has no quality education will naturally shy away from the political turf, hence this has continually kept intelligent and dynamic women from active participation in politics. This has, in turn, made these women docile, more malleable and easy to manipulate. Government has a great role to play in reversing these retrogressive practices and this can be achieved by implementing the right mechanisms, providing incentives to women, encouraging them, reserving some elective political positions only for females and lastly, we must endeavour and ensure to make the political space less violent. These steps, I strongly believe, will encourage the massive participation and inclusion of women in politics.

It goes without saying that when women are accorded their deserved, appropriate and acceptable positions in governance, it will enable them formulate and implement robust

educational policies that will benefit the entire citizenry, most especially the less fortunate ones in our society. When children are acquainted with requisite knowledge, the society becomes saner and more habitable for all of us. The alarming rate of out-of-school children in our country is worrisome, no wonder why we are ignominiously leading the pack around the world. This has unwittingly led to the myriad and avalanche of challenges and upheavals that we are unrelentingly battling as a nation. As an uneducated mind is susceptible to all manners of deceit and delusions, we need to reverse the trend for the good of all of us!

Increasing the number of women in public decision-making will act as an incentive for policy makers to respond to women's interests. A new report by the World Bank has lent credence to this view and concluded that closing the gender disparity gap will be of immense benefit to the Nigerian economy. The report titled: "Closing Gaps, Increasing Opportunities: A Diagnostic on Women's Economic Empowerment in Nigeria," was launched in Abuja by the World Bank Country Office in Nigeria. The report sought to establish that women's empowerment in the economic sector should take a centre stage as a policy agenda, if the nation intends to increase its domestic earnings, which it projects should yield additional gains of US\$9.3 billion or up to US\$22.9 billion simply by closing this gender disparity.

Having more women in our nation's governance process and political landscape will tremendously boost our socio-economic development. Conversely, the continued underrepresentation and underutilisation of women has been our greatest undoing as a nation and fledgling democracy. This has kept us lying prostrate, despite our enormous economic potentials as a country. When women are properly mainstreamed in governance and politics, it absolutely rubs off on their households, communities and ultimately on the nation.

I make bold to restate that in order to build strong, robust and virile governance, women must not only be encouraged but empowered and supported in becoming strong political colossuses and amazons. Consequently, my call with a very loud voice is for all hands (the political parties, the executive and legislative arms of government, the clergy, the NGOs and the women themselves) to be on deck to make this a reality.

How do we achieve this? Simply by the systematic and representative inclusion of women in governance and politics. Research has it that when women are involved in peace processes and conflict resolution, the resulting agreement always stands the test of time and this

agreement is well implemented to the letter. Higher levels of gender equality and inclusion engenders peace in the nation. An international peace institute study of 182 signed peace agreements found that when women are involved in peace processes, there is 35 per cent possibility that such peace agreement will last for over 20 years.

History is replete and filled with outstanding, distinguished and accomplished female political leaders around the world who have proven their mettle and sagacity in governance, thus becoming the cynosure of all eyes. They include Angela Merkel, the first woman to be elected as Chancellor and the third longest serving Chancellor in Germany, and Jacinda Arden, New Zealand's current prime minister. The latter is widely credited with formulating policies that helped to promptly and drastically reduce the spread of coronavirus in her country. Sheikh Hasina Wazed, the longest serving prime minister in the history of Bangladesh, who graciously opened the door of her country to Rohingya refugees fleeing the onslaught, massacre and genocide in Myanmar. Kamala Harris, currently serving as the first female vice president in the history of the United States of America. Magdalene Anderson, the prime minister of Sweden. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Liberian and the first woman to be elected president of an African country. She led Liberia through a laudable and enduring reconciliation, following the nation's long and tortuous civil war. Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the United States House of Representatives. Indeed, the list is endless. We can also replicate this giant strides in our clime as our democracy is still young, and fledgling. Hence, it is necessary, expedient, politically healthy and correct that every segment and entirety of our populace is given equal representation in both elective and appointive positions. Sufficient women representation in politics will increase creativity, originality and help to diversify the pool of talents, skills and abilities.

In conclusion, I make bold to restate that in order to build strong, robust and virile governance, women must not only be encouraged but empowered and supported in becoming strong political colossuses and amazons. Consequently, my call with a very loud voice is for all hands (the political parties, the executive and legislative arms of government, the clergy, the NGOs and the women themselves) to be on deck to make this a reality.

*Aisha Waziri Umar, a lawyer and founder of Inara Foundation, is a 2023 contestant for House of Representatives in the Jere Federal Constituency, Borno State.*



THINGS are currently tough and rough not only in Tanzania but all over the world. The job market is unsteady and key economic sectors including tourism and aviation have been ravaged.

Is it possible for someone to cling to a dream of making it for example in a career which is in tatters? I mean, where do you gather the strength to soldier on in such a discouraging environment?

We all remember that childhood conversation we had with our parents. The one where you're told that you can be anything you want to be, just as long as you put your mind to it or the Ben Carson's book *Think Big* which for the majority teens that read it during those days were gracefully imparted with those beautiful thoughts of putting in the work and accomplishing whatever we desired.

Ben Carson is a great narrator and he changed our ways of thinking and our lives literally!

With the books I have read, the experience I have had with various people who took rare career paths and ended up on top, have always made me believe this to be true: you really can be anything.

It is even easier for younger ones because they are blank canvases, able to collect and create a multitude of experiences and opinions that make them ideal for their own futures.

But thinking back to my childhood dreams, I had to wonder how plausible that idea was. Surely, it must be very few teens and children who end up doing what they dreamed they would when asked the pivotal question: "What do you want to do when you grow up?"

I always wanted to be a pilot, convinced that this meant playing with heavy machines, travelling the world rather than the reality of rare brutal accidents that might occur, complex instructions, and the passengers' lives depending on my own personal work prowess. But if someone offered me the chance to be a pilot today, I'd have to turn it down.

My sister on the other hand, answered that classic childhood ques-



## You can be anything you want no matter how tough things are

tion with similarly classic childish honesty. When she grew up, she wanted to become an international fashion designer.

"I will design Beyoncé's stage costumes one day," she grudgingly always said.

Ask a class of kids today what they want to do when they grow up and you'll get a lot of the same answers; the lures of pop-stardom; fashion; space exploration and flying aircraft.

As adults we know the truth that with fame comes hard work, pressure and a near-constant hounding from the press while with space exploration comes isolation, intense

physical conditions and an indelible helping of life-threatening danger.

There comes a point in our lives, however, when our ability to do anything and to be anyone comes to pass. It's difficult to say when that point is, and obviously with every door that we close on possible future careers, we open hundreds more with our commitment to a set route.

When, I chose to take no science subjects at A-level and firmly closed the doors on medicine and any career attached to sciences like flying a plane but this actually opened up a

world of opportunities to careers in arts.

But at the age of 25, just four months after graduating, I already felt like my choices are incredibly narrowed. I'm a creative person and have a passion for writing, speaking, branding and for communications in general.

In my ideal job I'd get to write and be a little bit creative every day. I have varied experience in all sorts of jobs from writing web campaigns to tracking down social media engagement, as well as the more standard office and admin work along the way.

You'd think that this wide range of experi-

ence would make me an ideal candidate for any of the entry level marketing or design jobs I've applied for so far, and yet after several interviews I always hear that I'm a smart lady, but just not too creative for the job.

Apparently, creativity doesn't work when you're supposed to be doing admin day-to-day. I guess nobody wants a spreadsheet with a dash of style.

But do companies really need to employ the same old person to file, copy, and print, repeat? Maybe employers are underestimating the passion and commitment that today's graduates have to break into their desired fields.

We are well aware that we'll have to start at the bottom, but are committed to making the most out of our opportunities to ultimately get to where we want to be.

## All Africa student leader says political will, collective action, education and social packages can end child labour

Durban

Samuel Sasu Adonteng, programme officer for the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), believes that the recent 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour has taken us closer to ending child labour for the first time because the voices of those affected were heard.

The week-long conference had a strong contingent of child labourers and former children in bondage who spoke out about their horrific experiences and made input on the actions that must be taken to end the practice.

The six-day conference held in Durban, South Africa, concluded with the Durban Call To Action On The Elimination of Child Labour, a blueprint for accelerating the fight at a time when, despite efforts by the ILO and its partners, the number of children in bondage has ballooned to 164 million.

Adonteng played a crucial role in galvanising the child labourers and survivors of child labour from Africa to attend the conference to raise their voices on the international platform.

The 26-year-old Ghanaian says that he could easily have become a child labourer.

"I come from a small community in the Greater Accra region where quite a lot of children work and hawk on the streets. At some point in my life, I also had to sell water on the streets. I also had to sell car spare parts. I'd carry them about a kilometre to suppliers or people who wanted to buy them."

Luckily for Adonteng, he came from a family that's very invested in education.

"They believed in the power of education and how it can help children achieve the kind of future they want.

His mother passed away when Adonteng was very young, so he was brought up by his aunt, who, he says, "was so much bent on my education, even if it meant that at some point she had to beg from other people to pay for my school

fees. "So, I was able to go to senior high school and university to get my first degree. Currently, I am pursuing my Master's degree in Total Quality Management. Hopefully, I'll get a second Master's degree in International Relations and Development.



He says many parents in Ghana understand the value of education and "are even willing to sell their belongings to ensure that their children go to school."

Parents and other family members play a critical role in ensuring that children have access to education. Some parents send their children out to fishing villages and even

farms to work rather than send them to school."

During the Children's Forum at the conference, there was a strong call for an awareness campaign for parents to understand the importance of educating their children.

He echoed the call by the survivors of child labour on countries to provide "free, high-quality education and

social security networks such as school feeding programmes."

Adonteng attributes his detour into social activism to "seeing how education can be a powerful tool to turn around the lives of anybody, and how if we don't take certain actions, we will lose an entire generation to child labour."

He says AASU, which works

with the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations in Ghana, supports a dual approach of child support and institutional support to end child labour. This, he says, resonates with the call by the survivors of child labour at the conference.

"The AASU first partnered with the 100 million Campaign to end child labour in 2018. Our first initiative was an enrolment programme, and through that, our understanding was that we would ensure that every child of school-going age who is not in school is put back into school."

In the lead up to the Durban child labour conference, the AASU organised the Africa regional virtual march to send a message to grassroots communities that child labour was not the road to success.

"Keeping children in school gives them a higher chance of becoming better people and contributes to national, continental and global development," says Adonteng.

Governments alone cannot end child labour, he says, "it needs collective effort; if everybody has that one mindset that children should not be working, then we will succeed."

Adonteng attributes his participation in the conference as a facilitator and speaker to his involvement in the 100 million Campaign and the Global March Against Child Labour through the AASU.

He says the inclusion of children at the conference, several of whom were rescued by the Kailash Satyarthi Foundation, is a significant breakthrough and will help accelerate the fight's pace, which has failed to bring down the number of children in child labour.

Adonteng says that the conference organisers have taken on board the issues raised by the youth participants in formulating the Durban declaration.

"I think the thoughts of the children have been valued. So, what's left is for those key stakeholders who have the power, the political will and funding to do what needs to be done. So, if they do care about children, now is the time to make the right funding and policies available."

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# Employee-run companies, part of the landscape of an Argentina in crisis

BUENOS AIRES

“All we ever wanted was to keep working. And although we have not gotten to where we would like to be, we know that we can,” says Edith Pereira, a short energetic woman, as she walks through the corridors of Farmacoop, in the south of the Argentine capital. She proudly says it is “the first pharmaceutical laboratory in the world recovered by its workers.”

Pereira began to work in what used to be the Roux Ocefa laboratory in Buenos Aires in 1983. At its height it had more than 400 employees working two nine-hour shifts, as she recalls in a conversation with IPS.

But in 2016 the laboratory fell into a crisis that first manifested itself in delays in the payment of wages and a short time later led to the owners removing the machinery, and emptying and abandoning the company.

The workers faced up to the disaster with a struggle that included taking over the plant for several months and culminated in 2019 with the creation of Farmacoop, a cooperative of more than 100 members, which today is getting the laboratory back on its feet.

In fact, during the worst period of the pandemic, Farmacoop developed rapid antigen tests to detect COVID-19, in partnership with scientists from the government's National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (Conicet), the leading organization in the sector.

Farmacoop is part of a powerful movement in Argentina, as recognized by the government, which earlier this month launched the first National Registry of Recovered Companies (ReNacER), with the aim of gaining detailed knowledge of a sector that, according to official estimates, comprises more than 400 companies and some 18,000 jobs.

The presentation of the new Registry took place at an oil cooperative that processes soybeans and sunflower seeds on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, built on what was left of a company that filed for bankruptcy in 2016 and laid off its 126 workers without severance pay.

The event was led by President Alberto Fernández, who said that he intends to “convince Argentina that the popular economy exists, that it is here to stay, that it is valuable and that it must be given the tools to continue growing.”

Fernández said on that occasion that the movement of worker-recovered companies was born in the country in 2001, as a result of the brutal economic and social crisis that toppled the presidency of Fernando de la Rúa.

“One out of four Argentines was



A group of Farmacoop workers stand in the courtyard of their plant in Buenos Aires. Members of the Argentine cooperative proudly say that theirs is the first laboratory in the world to be recovered by its workers. CREDIT: Courtesy of Pedro Pérez/Tiempo Argentino.

out of work, poverty had reached 60 percent and one of the difficulties was that companies were collapsing, the owners disappeared and the people working in those companies wanted to continue producing,” he said.

“That’s when the cooperatives began to emerge, so that those who were becoming unemployed could get together and continue working, sometimes in the companies abandoned by their owners, sometimes on the street,” the president added.

#### A complex social reality

More than 20 years later, this South American country of 45 million people finds itself once again in a social situation as severe or even more so than back then.

The new century began with a decade of growth, but today Argentines have experienced more than 10 years of economic stagnation, which has left its mark.

Poverty, according to official

data, stands at 37 percent of the population, in a context of 60 percent annual inflation, which is steadily undermining people's incomes and hitting the most vulnerable especially hard.

The latest statistics from the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security indicate that 12.43 million people are formally employed, which in real terms - due to the increase of the population - is less than the 12.37 million jobs that were formally registered in January 2018.

“I would say that in Argentina we have been seeing the destruction of employment and industry for 40 years, regardless of the orientation of the governments. That is why we understand that worker-recovered companies, as a mechanism for defending jobs, will continue to exist,” says Bruno Di Mauro, the president of the Farmacoop cooperative.

“It is a form of resistance in

the face of the condemnation of exclusion from the labor system that we workers suffer,” he adds to IPS.

Today Farmacoop has three active production lines, including Aqualane brand moisturizing cream, used for decades by Argentines for sunburn. The cooperative is currently in the cumbersome process of seeking authorizations from the health authority for other products.

“When I look back, I think that we decided to form the cooperative and recover the company without really understanding what we were getting into. It was a very difficult process, in which we had colleagues who fell into depression, who saw pre-existing illnesses worsen and who died,” Di Mauro says.

“But we learned that we workers can take charge of any company, no matter how difficult the challenge. We are not incapable just because we are part of the working class,”

he adds.

Farmacoop's workers currently receive a “social wage” paid by the State, which also provided subsidies for the purchase of machinery.

The plant, now under self-management, is a gigantic old 8,000-square-meter building with meeting rooms, laboratories and warehouse areas where about 40 people work today, but which was the workplace of several hundred workers in its heyday.

It is located between the neighborhoods of Villa Lugano and Mataderos, in an area of factories and low-income housing mixed with old housing projects, where the rigors of the successive economic crises can be felt on almost every street, with waste pickers trying to eke out a living.

“When we entered the plant in 2019, everything was destroyed. There were only cardboard and paper that we sold to earn our first

pesos,” says Blácida Martínez.

She used to work in the reception and security section of the company and has found a spot in the cooperative for her 24-year-old son, who is about to graduate as a laboratory technician and works in product quality control.

#### A new law is needed

Silvia Ayala is the president of the Mielcitas Argentinas cooperative, which brings together 88 workers, mostly women, who run a candy and sweets factory on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, where they lost their jobs in mid-2019.

“Today we are grateful that thanks to the cooperative we can put food on our families’ tables,” she says. “There was no other option but to resist, because reinserting ourselves in the labor market is very difficult. Every time a job is offered in Argentina, you see lines of hundreds of people.”

Ayala is also one of the leaders of the National Movement of Recovered Companies, active throughout the country, which is promoting a bill in Congress to regulate employee-run companies, presented in April by the governing Frente de Todos.

“A law would be very important, because when owners abandon their companies we need the recovery to be fast, and we need the collaboration of the State; this is a reality that is here to stay,” says Ayala.

The Ministry of Social Development states that the creation of the Registry is aimed at designing specific public policies and tools to strengthen the production and commercialization of the sector, as well as to formalize workers.

The government defines “recovered” companies as those economic, productive or service units that were originally privately managed and are currently run collectively by their former employees.

Although the presentation was made this month, the Registry began operating in March and has already listed 103 recovered companies, of which 64 belong to the production sector and 35 to the services sector.

The first data provide an indication of the diversity of the companies in terms of size, with the smallest having six workers and the largest 177.

## 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 UMJUAVYO 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





# Africa provides a 'home for hope', despite new challenges: Guterres

By Special Correspondent

ON Africa Day, the world celebrates the diverse and dynamic continent's "enormous promise and potential", the UN chief said in an upbeat message to mark the day on Wednesday. "Africa is a home for hope," said Secretary-General António Guterres, citing the continent's "growing and vibrant youth population."

And with initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Decade of Women's Fi-

nancial and Economic Inclusion, and the African Union's (AU) bold Agenda 2063 set of game-changing proposals, "the prospects on the horizon are bright", he declared.

However, the top UN official reminded that there are "multiple challenges preventing Africa from reaching its full potential."

He pointed to the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impact on African economies along with climate change, unresolved conflicts, and a severe food crisis.

And the war in Ukraine is exacerbating challenges, "creating a

perfect storm for developing countries, especially in Africa."

"This crisis is resulting in soaring costs for food, energy and fertilizer with devastating consequences on nutrition and food systems, while making it even more difficult for the continent to mobilize the financial resources needed to invest in its people," the Secretary-General detailed.

Day to remember

Africa Day marks the 1963 founding of the Organization of African Unity, now known as the AU, and provides an annual opportunity

to reflect on the challenges and achievements of the continent.

Among African nations, UN entities have long played key roles in promulgating the fundamental values of the Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

From peace and security to social and economic development and regional integration, the United Nations has proven itself an indispensable partner.

With 2022 designated the Year of Nutrition by the AU, the Secretary-General urged the world to

"join together in solidarity with all Africans to strengthen food security and put nutrition within reach of every person."

"We must also intensify our efforts to end the pandemic, reform the global financial system, stop climate change and silence the guns across all conflicts," he added.

The UN chief concluded by pledging the Organization's continued support in "standing proudly with Africans as we work to deliver on the promise of a prosperous and peaceful Africa."

## Environmental, climate change is everyone's agenda - study

By Guardian Correspondent

THE environmental agenda and climate change is one of the most important agendas in the 21st century. It is clear that in recent times the agenda was the subject of much debate lately, knowingly and unknowingly.

It is clear that everyone is aware that everything they do in society depends on the environment. People's daily movements largely depend on the environment. All the resources used in building the economy come from the environment, all social, political and economic movements together depend on the environment.

The government has made great efforts to make improvements in environmental sector, when it comes to individual person and the citizens in general still a lot of energy is needed to enhance implementation of these issues, despite of knowing somehow how the environment is important in our daily activities, it will be helpful for the society to realize and acknowledge the importance of individual efforts in facilitation conservation and preservation of the environment in different areas.

The government has been making amendments in environmental policy, but members of the society still have a chance to make sure they are directly involved in the implementation of environmental laws and regulations.

The conservation movement has taken a turn for the worse, there have been beach clean-up movements by various organizations and governments as well as tree planting campaigns such as the 'soma na mti' campaign in schools and others that inspire the community to care for and protect the environment.

The effects of environmental degradation and pollution, including climate change and many more, do not only affect some people, they affect everyone, including those who cares for the environment and even the one who participates in destroying it and polluting it in one way or another, so it will be better if everyone will wake up and his or her thoughts on these issues and make sure they are part of the implementation of the anti-pollution agenda and its risks, will have far-reaching consequences if everyone decides to be at the forefront of ensuring that they take care of the environment and protect it and encourage others to do the same.

Tanzania and the rest of the world are experiencing climate change and its effects, the effects affect the whole community, not just individuals, groups of people or government officials, hence the need for everyone to take part in environmental conservation.

By Special Correspondent, Malabo

AN increasing number of children across Africa's protracted crisis areas - from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa - will be exposed to severe wasting as the impacts of insecurity, COVID-19, poor harvests, the Ukraine crisis and global food price rises hit vulnerable families.

As the 'lean season' gets underway in the Sahel and with drought in the Horn of Africa pushing the number of children with severe wasting from 1.7 million to 2 million, the African Union (AU) has called an Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference this week in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. UNICEF is urging governments and development partners to seize the opportunity of the summit and the AU's Year of Nutrition to combine scaled-up life-saving responses with prevention and the anticipation of crises through multi-sector investment to build resilience.

Without scaled-up humanitarian interventions, 1.2 million children will face severe wasting this year in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with major needs also in Ethiopia (1.2 million), northern Nigeria (671,890), Niger (491,822), Chad (348,160), Somalia (330,000), South Sudan (300,000), Mali (309,821), and Burkina Faso (179,252). On current trends the situation will worsen in the coming months.

"Children in many parts of the region are entering the most difficult period of the year with the next harvest several months away. Children under five are particularly vulnerable to a lack of nutritious food, which can affect long-term growth and development," said Marie-Pierre Poirier, UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa. "To really bring about a positive shift, governments and donors need to combine short-term funding with longer-term flexible, multi-year funding so that we can focus on building resilience, so that countries and communities are stronger in the future."

UNICEF's Humanitarian Action Plan for the nutrition sector in Africa was less than 50 per cent funded in 2021, a shortfall of \$363 million. On Friday 20 May, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs warned that 18 million people in Africa's Sahel region teeter on the edge of severe hunger over the next three months, with food insecurity set to reach its highest level since 2014. Over 16 million people are facing a similar situation in the horn of Africa.

The risks are growing for children across the continent at a time when the ready-to-use

## African leaders, partners tasked to efforts on humanitarian response with prevention



therapeutic food treatments that save so many children's lives each year become more costly - projected to increase globally by up to 16 per cent over the next six months due to a sharp rise in the cost of raw ingredients.

"Across the Horn of Africa we are seeing how children are bearing the brunt of the drought. The situation of children with severe wasting is urgent and getting worse," said Mohammed M. Malick Fall, UNICEF Regional Director for

Eastern and Southern Africa. "Even as we respond to the humanitarian emergency, it is the right time to invest in local solutions and long-term resilience."

Last week, UNICEF published a Child Alert report, Severe wasting: An overlooked child survival emergency, which shows that in the light of rising levels of severe wasting in children and rising costs for life-saving treatment, global financing to save the lives of

children suffering from wasting is also under threat.

The African Union has named 2022 the Year of Nutrition as part of a continent-wide push to tackle malnutrition, which causes significant long-term consequences for physical, mental, cognitive and physiological development. Without treatment children suffering from severe wasting are 11 times more likely than a well-nourished child to die. Malnutrition is

an underlying cause in nearly half of all child under-five deaths.

As part of the African Union Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference this week, UNICEF with partners is organising a side-event on preventing malnutrition in humanitarian contexts, co-hosted by the African Union Commission and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The goal is to help build a lasting response to the current crises that builds stronger resilience and has a deeper understanding of the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition issues.

An estimated 12.1 million children in Africa have suffered from wasting in the last year. Although the prevalence of wasting in Africa has been declining over the last few decades, the progress has not kept pace with population growth, meaning 500,000 more children face wasting each year compared to ten years ago.

In 2021, UNICEF reached 154 million children globally with life-saving screening for severe wasting through simplified, community level approaches despite pandemic related service disruptions.

To reach every child with life-saving treatment for severe wasting, UNICEF is calling for an acceleration of access to life-saving treatment to children affected by severe wasting and this requires countries to include treatment for child wasting under health and long-term development funding schemes so that all children can benefit from treatment programmes, not just those in humanitarian crisis settings.

It needs also to ensure that budget allocations to address the global hunger crisis include specific allocations for therapeutic food interventions to address the immediate needs of children suffering from severe wasting.

Governments and all partners to operate a paradigm shift, step up prevention and promote multi-sectoral approaches to address the multiple underlying vulnerabilities such as widespread food insecurity, inadequate dietary and care practices for infants and young children, inadequate maternal nutrition, high incidence of childhood illnesses, inadequate access to water and sanitation and health services, gender and other social norms, all interoperating on the ground marked by widespread poverty.

Donors and civil society organizations need to prioritize flexible funding for nutrition to ensure a diverse, growing and a healthy ecosystem of donor support.







# PM SATISFIED WITH MSOMERA HOUSES' CONSTRUCTION SPEED

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

**P**RIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has expressed satisfaction with the construction of houses for Ngorongoro residents at Msomera village in Handeni District, Tanga Region.

The remarks were made in Dodoma after receiving suggestions from leaders of Ngorongoro and Loliondo who issued their views on how best to protect and conserve the area.

The recommendations were presented to the Prime by some Ngorongoro residents which included Member of Parliament for Ngorongoro Emanuel Shangai, councils and Maasai elders at his office in Dodoma.

After receiving the recommendations, the PM urged people in Ngorongoro to continue trusting their government saying it cannot have bad intentions against its people.

Msomera village is the set site for the relocated residents who voluntarily accepted to move to another area to pave way for conservation efforts.

Majaliwa said the construction of the 103 houses was nearing completion saying the government was adding more houses in the area to make it 500.

He said the government was working to ensure that the livestock sector was benefiting pastoralist's communities for their economic benefits.



Last month, the premier instructed the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to ensure construction of infrastructure and settlements at Msomera village are completed as soon as possible.

He said the ministry should ensure

that it continues to provide education to Ngorongoro Conservation Area residents who have registered to relocate voluntarily.

"This ongoing exercise of strengthening infrastructure including surveying of plots will benefit Msomera resi-

dents as well as those migrating to this area," he said.

He also directed the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to create a more conducive environment for pastoralists to smoothly go on with their activities when they relocate to the new

settlements.

"As we can see here, a primary school is being built, a secondary school is being built, clinics are being renovated but also there is ongoing construction of a health centre and roads, this is the way to go," he said.

# Korea Exim Bank's soft loans to support land data infrastructure

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Ministry of Lands, Human Settlements and Development is in the final stages to secure soft loan worth \$65 million (150bn/-) from Korea Exim Bank to support strengthening land data infrastructure and prepare base maps for 26 regional offices.

Ministry's director of survey and mapping, Hamdouny Mansour revealed this recently in Dar es Salaam at the ministerial Public-Private Dialogue to discuss challenges facing the land sector, opportunities available and what should be done to increase the contribution of the sector in terms of attracting investment and business and

economic growth.

According to him, the funds will be used to establish a nationwide Continuous Operating Reference System (CORS) but also provide capacity building on mapping to government staff and stakeholders from the private sector.

"Right now we are in the final stages of getting the agreement so that we can secure funds to implement the planned activities," he said.

He said so far 2,800,000 plots have been surveyed and allocated for different activities across the country.

Mansour said the main goal of the surveys and mapping is to conduct and oversee the carrying out of topographic, geodetic, hydrographic and cadastral



surveys, transform the survey data into charts, plans and maps, update charts, plans and maps, survey and inspect national and international boundaries and to develop capacity on hydrographic surveying and charting.

Ministry's permanent secretary, Allan Kijazi said the ministry is implementing various initiatives aimed to promote proper land use, protect people's right to ownership, increase transparency and engage citizens in decision making.

He called on members from the public and private sector if they have barriers in business or land issues to submit to the ministry for immediate measures.

He said the ministry will continue to receive opinions and recommendations on how to improve the land sector, help people to formalize their land and secure title deeds.

According to him, the ministry was established to facilitate an effective management of land and human settlements development services for the betterment of social and economic well-being of Tanzanian society.

The ministry of lands was established as a department of Lands and later changed into a full ministry which changed its name according to the functions within that specific period.

The ministry encompasses core sector Departments which are: Land Administration, Survey and Mapping, Physical Planning and Housing, Core sector units are Registration of Titles, Property Valuation, and District Land and Housing Tribunal.

It also has various supporting departments and units which increase the efficiency of work in the ministry like Administration and Human Resources Management, Finance and Accounts, Internal Audit, Legal Services, Policy and Planning, Information Communication and Technology (ICT), Information-Education and Communication and Procurement Management.

# AfDB urged to drive Africa's transformation

By Special Correspondent, Accra

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has been urged to significantly boost resources for the socio-economic transformation of Africa.

Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo made the call when speaking at the 57th Annual General Meeting of the AfDB in Accra, Ghana.

President Akufo-Addo said as a Triple A-rated financial institution with an active portfolio of some \$61 billion in more than 142,000 locations, the AfDB was in a position to drive sustained transformation in Africa.

He said with increased financial resources, the AfDB could recapitalize key African financial institutions--Regional Development Banks, Afreximbank, Africa Guarantee Fund, Africa-Reinsurance Company and Africa50--to engage in communities and fund country-specific programmes.

President Akufo-Addo said Africa's debt had compounded, in pursuit of policy autonomy for economic transformation.

That, the President said, would harness Africa's institutional strengths for sustained transformation and avoid situations where the IMF in 2021, lend US\$41 billion to Argentina, with a population of 45 million but US\$34 billion to the whole of sub-Saharan Africa, with a population of 1.14 billion people.

For instance, according to UNECA, Africa's debt to GDP ratio rose from 60 per cent to an estimated 71.1 per cent between 2019 and 2020, largely because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even more compelling for AfDB's strategic intervention, according to President Akufo-Addo, was that 18 African economies in 2021, suffered credit downgrades, "even when all economies were suffering fallouts from the pandemic in that same year."

The IMF 650 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDR), approved in August 2021, meant to be of significant relief had not been impactful as based on the allocation principles, economies on the African continent got US\$33 billion (about 5 per cent).

Akufo-Addo said the initial facility to offer respite to economies with elevated debt challenges - the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) - had expired in December 2021.

He said since February this year, prices of staple food commodities have surged drastically, amidst fertiliser shortages of some 2 million metric tons this year (2022), estimated at \$2 billion.

The fertiliser shortage, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, would potentially create a productivity deficit of some 20-50 per cent in agriculture.

Rising food prices, according to President Akufo-Addo, have disproportionately affected African families, as food consumed some 40% of household income, compared to less than 20 per cent in advanced economies.

To the President, the immediate economic consequences--rising inflation, lower growth, increased inequality, and greater financial instability - were likely to permeate deeper, as they coincided with weakened economic positions due to COVID -19, amidst debt challenges.

President Akufo-Addo expressed happiness that the AfDB Board had approved funding of US\$1.5 billion for the Africa Emergency Food Production Plan to support countries to produce food rapidly while delivering climate-resilient agricultural technologies to 20 million farmers across the continent.

"I am also encouraged to hear that the 'right noises' are being made towards establishing an African Financial Stability Mechanism to protect our economies from future shocks."

"I am persuaded that the African Financial Stability Mechanism will provide such protective cover for our economies, thus enabling us to counter effects of future pandemics amongst others," the President stated.



## SPICE PROJECT WINS GOVT'S ACCOLADES FOR EQUIPPING WOMEN FARMERS IN ZANZIBAR

By Guardian Reporter

**E**XECUTORS of the European Union (EU)-funded spice project in Zanzibar have won the government's accolades for championing the initiative, which is key for farmers' economic development.

The project co-implemented by the People's Development Forum (PDF), Community Forests Pemba (CFP) and Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar) through the AGRICONNECT Tanzania program with funding from the European Union (EU) with the aim of opening up opportunities in the Zanzibar's spice, vegetable and fruits chain.

The €5 million project deals with smallholder farmers who are engaged in production of spice, vegetables and fruits and is meant to liberate them from poverty trap.

Wete District Commissioner Dr Hamad Omar Bakar offered his congratulations at the launch of the second-phase of seedlings distribution to project beneficiaries in Zanzibar.

The exercise is an implementation of the spices project aimed at promoting and expanding organic farming opportunities, vegetables and fruits in the Indian Ocean Archipelago.

He said the existence of the project was one of the ways to alleviate poverty by engaging in various crop production activities and helping the government to speed up the implementation of the blue economy policy quickly due to the people getting rid of poor living conditions.

"The government believes in and supports the efforts that the spices project is taking from farmers as these activities accelerate the implementation of the Zanzibar government's poverty alleviation policy to achieve the Blue Economy," he explained.

The DC urged the project implementers to closely monitor every farmer who received the seeds and seedlings to help them achieve their intended goals.



Wete District Commissioner Dr Hamad Omar Bakar hands over a seedling to a beneficiary of Spice project in Zanzibar.

He explained: "The important thing now is to make sure we do a close monitoring of these seedlings and seeds that we distribute to farmers to create an enabling environment for the people to get rid of the economy through this agriculture and ensure sustainable sustainability of the project."

CFP executive director, Mbarouk Mussa Omar, explained that the exercise is the second phase where the spices project in Pemba previously distributed 25,000 seedlings to farmers and 1,707 kg seeds equivalent to 1.5 tonnes for 2500 farmers in Unguja and Pemba regions.

He informed: "Currently the project has produced various seedlings for Unguja and Pemba, where we have four blocks from Pemba and four Unguja."

He added that the project also aims to distribute various seeds such as ginger, pineapple, bananas and vegetable for more than 1,000 farmers of whom the main target is women for home improvement.

Spice project manager in Pemba, Sharif Maalim Hamad said in the case of Pemba a total of 28,156 seedlings have been produced

in four blocks where the seedlings are worth 28,156,000/- which are distributed to farmers for free with the aim of increasing production and agricultural base in Zanzibar.

He mentioned the seedlings that were produced, "These seedlings are seedlings of Ingredients such as vanilla, cinnamon, and fruit seedlings such as mangoes, pension, and avocado.

He added that the project aims to distribute the seedlings to about 2,000 farmers who will be reached in the second phase distribution exercise by the end of June.

## African Bank to buy Grindrod for R1.5 billion as it plans move into business banking

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Bank has announced a deal to purchase Grindrod Bank and its holding company Grindrod Financial Holdings.

Grindrod Bank is an investment bank established 26 years ago, which specialises in managing cash deposits, corporate and investment banking.

It has typically been a niche financier in the South African property market known for its specialised expertise in commercial and industrial property finance. It also provides bespoke financial services to private, corporate and institutional clients.

"A key part of African Bank's 'Accelerate25' strategy is to expand its core. This acquisition will go a long way in delivering on this theme, and meeting its mission objectives of becoming scalable, diversified and sustainable, with a compelling listable proposition," African Bank said in a shareholder statement on Thursday (26 May).

"Grindrod Bank will provide an entry into the business banking market which will be grown off African Bank's larger balance sheet and strong capital levels."

The total cash consideration payable to Grindrod in terms of the proposed transaction is R1.5 billion, with the deal still subject to regulatory approval.

African Bank Limited, is a retail bank in South Africa, that offers financial products and services. The Bank is licensed as a "locally controlled bank" by the South African Reserve Bank.



## Govt to supply 320 modern fishing boats to SMEs in fisheries sector

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

SMALL and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) in the fisheries sector have all reason to smile as the government is set on supplying them with 320 modern fishing boats to enable them to benefit from the blue economy.

Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki revealed this on Wednesday in the National Assembly as winding up his budget estimates worth 268.25bn/- for the 2022/23 financial year.

According to the minister, SMEs in the formalized sector will form groups to benefit from the ministry's plan under special modality that will be framed by the ministry.

Targeted beneficiaries are SMEs along the Indian Ocean in Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Lindi, Tanga and those self-employed in Lake Tanganyika, Victoria and Lake Nyasa.

"These are modern boats to enable SMEs in the fisheries sector realize the potential of the water bodies in their lives. It is a stepping stone to a major transformation of the fisheries sector. The boats are installed with a global positioning system (GPS) among other features," said Ndaki.

He asserted that boats have fish finders to identify potential fishing zones and a cold room for storing harvested products. The boats have a capacity of storing 1.5 tons of fish products at a time.

"The ministry has planned to purchase sardines drier machines purposely for reducing post-harvest losses. The machines will also be supplied to fishermen fishing the Lakes across the country. The ministry during 2022/23 has allocated 36bn/- for procurement of the machines," said Ndaki.

Responding to some issues raised by parliamentarians during the budget

contribution session, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega said that the ministry will during the financial year purchase enough fish aggregation devices and supply them to fishermen on specified conditions.

Ulega said the ministry in collaboration with Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has during the 2021/22 fiscal year extended concessional loans to small and medium fishermen who are in groups for establishing fishing blocks.

"The loans were issued to groups from the districts of Ukerewe, Sengerema, Chato and Geita that borrowed between 100mn/- and 300mn/- for their block fishing projects;

TADB has set aside over 60bn/- in the 2022/23 financial to be issued this way," said Ulega.

On the livestock sector, the deputy minister said that the ministry has allocated 40bn/- for the construction of dams that will enable pastoralists access water for their livestock during dry seasons. However, 100 demonstration farms for growing alternative livestock feeds will be established.

The ministry will also enroll a sensitization program on climate and weather issues where text messages will be sent to the general public especially the pastoralist communities to alert them on weather issues.

Iu-Natal, Gauteng, North West and the Free State in particular that poor performing municipalities and provincial governments are not keeping up with road maintenance and water service delivery requirements. This has a negative impact on businesses in the region, which then seek greener pastures in other provinces and shut-up shop, resulting in job losses.





## CONSTRUCTION

# AFRICA'S MOBILE MONEY TAXES RISK DRIVING POOR OUT OF DIGITAL ECONOMY

Accra / Nairobi

**G**hanaian grocery store owner Comfort Ankrhah has had to rethink how she does business since the government put a tax on mobile money transactions earlier this month.

For eight years, the 45-year-old single mother relied on mobile transfers to run her shop in Accra's Darkuman suburb - from taking customer payments to paying the farmers who supply her with plantain, cassava and other everyday staples.

Beside the convenience, she and other local businesswomen also feel safer using digital money instead of having to carry cash around, Ankrhah said.

But the new 1.5% tax on mobile money, also known as the e-levy, is now forcing Ankrhah - who earns about 400 Ghanaian cedi (\$53) weekly - to switch back to coins and banknotes.

"I can't afford to pay my farmers with mobile money now because the e-levy will reduce my profit. I now resort to giving money to drivers or relatives going to the village so they can pay the farmers. It's a risky, long process," said Ankrhah.

Ghana is the latest in a growing number of African nations to impose a tax on mobile phone-based transactions, but critics say the levies are hurting millions of small-business owners and other low-income groups, just as the cost of living rises.

The charges threaten to reverse the impressive gains made by mobile money in boosting economic inclusion, they warn.

"Mobile money has been a great enabler, especially for the marginalised. It's a main driver of financial inclusion for the poor, women and rural communities across Africa," said Angela Wamola, head of sub-Saharan Africa at telecoms industry body GSMA.

"Any discouragement such as extra fees or taxes on mobile money services will take Africans backwards simply because there are no other alternatives for most people."

Many countries already have fees such as VAT and excise duty on mobile services, she said, adding that the extra tax - at a time of high inflation - would mean the poor would be the first to be pushed out of the digital economy.

In Tanzania, which imposed a



Ghanaian shopkeeper Comfort Ankrhah outside her store in Darkuman suburb in Accra, Ghana on May 6, 2022.

mobile money tax last July, peer-to-peer transactions dropped by 38% from 30 million to 18 million per month, a GSMA study found.

John Kumah, one of Ghana's deputy finance ministers, rejected criticism that the tax was regressive.

"The e-levy is not going to be a burden on the poor," Kumah told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"It's a game-changer that will rather bring about development. We're going to use the taxes to build more schools, hospitals, roads. It will be used for job creation. Ghanaians will see and enjoy the benefits in the coming years."

Africa dominates the global mobile money market, driven by the success of Kenyan telecoms operator Safaricom, which pioneered its M-Pesa platform in 2007 to cater for people without access to the formal banking network.

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to more than half of the world's nearly 350 million active mobile money accounts - with countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Cameroon showing the highest prevalence rates, GSMA data shows.

Last year, \$1 trillion was transacted globally through mobile money platforms, with nearly 70% coming from sub-Saharan Africa, the data revealed.

The SIM card-based technology - which can be used on basic phones without internet - has unlocked access to financial services to often neglected populations such as informal workers, smallholder farmers, women, and rural communities.

Users can securely receive, withdraw and send money, pay for bills and get remittances from family abroad - all without being connected

to the formal banking system. Some operators also offer loans, savings and insurance products.

Waiting to withdraw cash at an M-Pesa booth in Nairobi's upmarket Lavington suburb, Kenyan housekeeper Brenda Vitute said she uses mobile money to shop, pay bills and send money to her mother and children.

"It would be very difficult without M-Pesa as many people in the rural areas don't have a bank account or the bank is too far. With M-Pesa, they don't have to travel long distances to get the money," Vitute, 41, said.

A study published in Science journal found access to mobile money in Kenya has increased per capita consumption and lifted 194,000 households - 2% of the total - out of poverty since 2008.

Consumption in female-headed households increased twice as much

as others, the study said, suggesting mobile money particularly benefits women.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated the sector's growth in Africa. Restrictions on movement and wariness of handling cash, as well as central banks easing regulations and operators waiving fees, saw transaction values surge.

Sub-Saharan Africa's mobile money transactions rose by 40% in terms of value in 2021 from the previous year, against the global average of 31%, GSMA data shows.

But the global health crisis has also left African economies reeling. Sub-Saharan Africa's public debt ratios are their highest in more than two decades, and many low-income countries are facing debt distress, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said last month.

The shock to global commodity

markets caused by the Ukraine war will exacerbate food insecurity and stoke inflation and poverty rates across the continent, it warned.

Desperate to boost tax revenue and reduce their heavy debt burdens, several African governments have turned their focus to the mobile money sector.

Introduced on May 1, Ghana's 1.5% e-levy for transactions above 100 Ghanaian cedi mimics policies elsewhere in the region.

Cameroon, Uganda, Tanzania, Congo Republic, Zimbabwe, Ivory Coast and Kenya have all imposed mobile money taxes varying from 0.2% to up to 12% in the last four years, despite strong opposition from diverse sectors.

In Ghana, lawmakers came to blows during a parliamentary debate over the e-levy in November. While in Cameroon, the policy prompted the hashtag #EndMobileMoneyTax on social media.

In Uganda, Tanzania and Ghana, authorities were forced to lower their tax rates. Malawi also announced a 1% levy in September 2019, but weeks later backtracked due to opposition.

Kinyanjui Mungai, senior research analyst at the Centre for Financial Regulation and Inclusion, said the policies were poorly planned and did not consider the views of stakeholders such as consumer groups.

"We are still in quite a nascent stage in terms of financial inclusion in most African countries," said Mungai. "You have to get more people out of the 'cash boat' and into the 'digital boat' before you impose these taxes."

International organisations such as the IMF, World Bank and the United Nations have also raised concerns over the taxes.

In its March report on Cameroon, the IMF warned that taxing mobile money could be "fiscally inequitable" and hinder the current low level of financial inclusion.

"The poor and unbanked segments of the population, who often live in rural areas and face high transaction costs from the formal banking, have been found to be negatively affected by the measure," it warned.

Kumah said the Ghanaian government would take steps such as public sensitisation campaigns to ensure people continued to use mobile money, despite the e-levy.

"All over the world, people don't like paying taxes - but with time they begin to see the importance," he said.

## JOHANNESBURG

**LIBERTY** Two Degrees (L2D), the precinct focused retail-centred REIT, says that the easing of lockdown restrictions and the move towards a post-pandemic operating environment is encouraging as retailers and consumers gain confidence.

The group yesterday pointed to increased customer visits to its malls - portfolio foot count for April 2022 was 14.6% up on April 2019, led by Sandton City, which it said continues to outperform the market, exceeding pre-Covid-19 turnover levels at 29.4% ahead of Q1 2019.

Additional centres in its portfolio include Nelson Mandela Square, Eastgate Shopping Mall, Liberty Midlands Mall, and Botshabelo Mall.

Retail occupancies remain strong at 97.3% ahead of the industry benchmark, it said.

"As we navigate the uncertainties of global proportions that impact our domestic economy and business, we remain committed to the goals we have set in future-proofing our business. We continue to drive value and positive

## Shoppers are returning to South Africa's big malls



recovery in all that we do. As we rebuild for sustainable growth, the role of leadership to drive positive outcomes has become increasingly important in this disruptive

environment," said Amelia Beattie, chief executive of L2D.

Beattie said that the turnover for the first three months of 2022 is higher than the

corresponding months over the past three years, and if the annual turnover up to March 2022 is considered, the portfolio is 2.1% ahead of the 12 months leading up

to the onset of the lockdown (April 2019 - March 2020).

L2D said the evolving retail landscape provides opportunities to adapt and grow. "Our malls continue to

evolve and operate as iconic spaces, with Sandton City attracting almost 17 million customers over the year in 2021 and has already seen 6.9 million customers visit the mall in 2022 up to April," said Beattie.

John Loos, property sector strategist at FNB Commercial Property Finance, said in a recent note that super-regional centres look to be closing the performance gap between themselves and the smaller community and neighbourhood centres. Covid saw a shift in shopping patterns from the large to smaller strip malls as consumers opted to shop closer to where they live.

And data from the South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA) indicates that shoppers visit malls less often but spend more money per visit.

"The good news appears to be that Covid-19 has receded as a risk in South Africa, and restaurants and entertainment areas of retail have been partially on the mend. This can greatly improve the fortunes of those larger 'experience' shopping centres that are heavier on non-essential spend and entertainment, and perhaps this is

what we are already seeing in the super regional category, if not as much in the smaller regional categories," said Loos.

Brick and mortar will continue to compete against growing online sales.

Attacq, the real estate investment trust and operator of Waterfall City including the Mall of Africa, noted in March that its retail-experience hubs performed relatively well over the past twelve months, reporting a 96.2% occupancy rate. In addition, year-on-year weighted average trading density grew by 8.7%, with the Mall of Africa increasing by 14.9%, it said.

"Trends such as online shopping, work-from-home and hybrid working models have really pushed us as a team to think differently about how we interact within the real estate sector, particularly in our developments and how we service clients in these safe, connected spaces," said CEO of Attacq, Jackie van Niekerk.

"Our diversified client base and extensive portfolio of different asset classes in multiple geographies, as well as our streamlined approach to asset, property and development management, have provided us with a strong foundation of the building blocks for continued business resilience."



## WORLD

## Countries urged to take measures as monkeypox cases rise in EU

ROME

WITH monkeypox cases rising in Europe, European health authorities are urging countries to take extra steps to bring the spread of the virus under control.

The disease, which is not new, is usually not deadly, and medical experts have said that existing vaccines are effective against it.

Monkeypox is relatively common in some parts of Africa, where it has in the past spread from some kinds of primates and rodents to human populations, and sometimes from human to human. However, until recently, cases in other parts of the world have been rare.

In Europe, Britain has the highest number of confirmed cases, at over 71. Meanwhile, the bulk of the confirmed cases within the European Union are in Spain and Portugal, followed by Italy. Spain

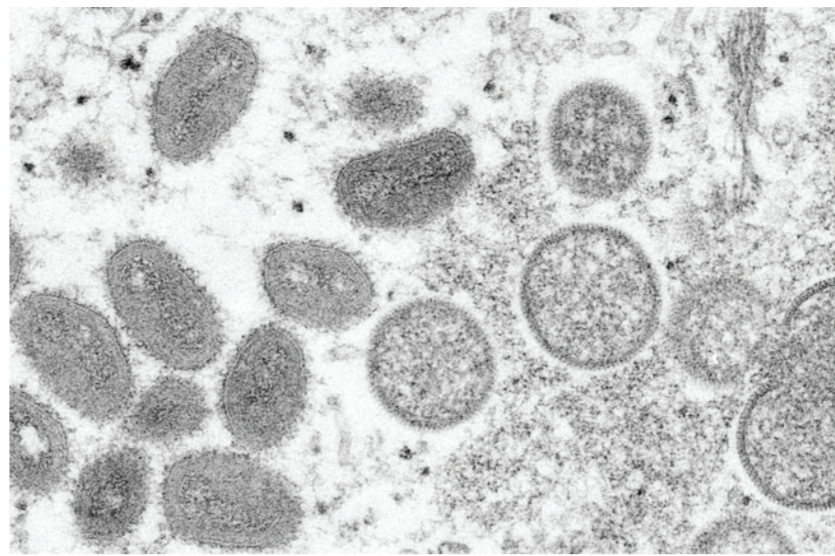
has seen at least 55 confirmed cases.

In Portugal, 39 cases of monkeypox have been reported so far, while in Italy the number on Wednesday rose to seven.

Italian news reports indicate that another 15 residents who had been in contact with five patients hospitalized in Rome have been isolated awaiting test results. Most of the cases in Rome are linked to tourists returning from Spain's Canary Islands.

The Canary Islands confirmed its first case this week, and health officials there have begun testing at-risk individuals.

Meanwhile, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control said this week that the outbreak risked becoming entrenched and difficult to eradicate if person-to-person transmission continues, and if the disease infects Europe's animal population. However, the risk of the latter happening is believed to be "very low."



This 2003 electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows mature, oval-shaped monkeypox virions, left, and spherical immature virions, right, obtained from a sample of human skin associated with the 2003 prairie dog outbreak. AP

European health officials have urged member states to prepare to conduct contact tracing, and ramp up supplies of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.

Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food safety, said Monday she was "concerned" about the increasing number of monkeypox cases in the European Union (EU) and globally.

"While currently the likelihood of spread in the broader population is low, the situation is evolving," she said.

The European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority has begun collaborating with the European Medicines Agency and health officials in individual EU member states to curb the rising numbers of cases.

The World Health Organization said Tuesday that since the first case was reported on May 7, there have been at least 131 confirmed cases of monkeypox, and 106 suspected cases of the disease in 19 countries outside of Africa.

## Minutes before school attack, Texas gunman sent online posts

UVALDE

THE Texas gunman who murdered 19 children and two teachers posted an online message warning that he was going to shoot up an elementary school minutes before he attacked, Governor Greg Abbott said on Wednesday, as harrowing new details of the massacre emerged.

The gunman, whose rampage ended when police killed him, also had sent a message on Tuesday saying he was going to shoot his grandmother, followed by another internet post confirming he had done so, Abbott said at a news conference.

The suspect's grandmother, shot in the face before her grandson left the home they shared and attacked the school, survived and called police.

The gunman, identified as Salvador Ramos, 18, otherwise gave no warning he was about to commit what now ranks as the deadliest US school shooting in nearly a decade, authorities said.

Fleeing the shooting of his grandmother, he crashed his car near Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, about 130 km west of San Antonio, then managed to evade a school police officer who approached him before running inside.

No gunfire was exchanged at that point, according to police. But authorities offered few details of the encounter, likely to become a focus of investigations, except to say that the suspect dropped a bag full of ammunition and ran toward the school when he saw the officer.

Ramos then entered the school through a back door carrying an AR-15-style rifle and made his way to a fourth-grade classroom where he shot all of the people who were slain. Authorities said he had legally purchased two rifles and 375 rounds of ammunition days before the shooting.

Meanwhile, police surrounded the building, breaking windows to help children and staff escape. US Border Patrol agents also re-

sponded and entered the building to confront the shooter, with one agent wounded "in the crossfire," homeland security officials said.

Eventually, Ramos, a high school dropout with no known criminal record or history of mental illness, was shot dead by law enforcement.

Abbott said 17 people suffered non-life-threatening injuries. The wounded included "multiple children" who survived the gunfire in their classroom, Texas Department of Public Safety spokesperson Chris Olivarez said.

The shooter's online posts were made on Facebook, the governor said, but spokespeople for Facebook's parent company, Meta Platforms, said they were private one-to-one messages discovered after the shooting. The company declined to say who received the messages or which of Meta's platforms, such as Messenger or Instagram, was used to send them.

Victims' loved ones took to social media to express anguish over the loss of children who never came home from school.

"We told her we loved her and would pick her up after school," Kimberly Mata-Rubio posted on Facebook in a remembrance of her daughter, Alexandria Anyiah Rubio, a fourth-grade honor student. "We had no idea this was goodbye."

## Gun control debate

Investigators have not suggested a motive for the shooting, and little about the suspect's background immediately came to light.

The suspect's mother, Adriana Reyes, was quoted in an interview with the British-based news site DailyMail.com describing her son as someone who "kept to himself and didn't have many friends."

Ten days earlier an avowed white supremacist shot 13 people at a supermarket in a mostly Black neighborhood of Buffalo, New York, re-igniting a national



Law enforcement personnel, including the FBI, gather near Robb Elementary School following a shooting, May 24, 2022, in Uvalde, Texas. AP

debate over US gun laws.

In a sign of the charged political atmosphere, Beto O'Rourke, the Democratic candidate challenging Abbott in a November election, interrupted the news conference to confront the governor over the state's permissive gun laws, shouting "You are doing nothing!"

Several officials gathered on stage around the governor yelled at O'Rourke.

O'Rourke was escorted from the building and spoke to reporters outside. He said it was "insane" that an 18-year-old was legally permitted to acquire a semi-automatic rifle and vowed to pursue gun restrictions.

Abbott said stringent gun laws do not prevent violence, citing states such as New York. He said policy-makers should instead focus on mental health treatment and prevention.

US President Joe Biden, calling for new gun safety restrictions in a nationally televised address

on Tuesday evening, is planning a trip to Texas soon, a senior administration official said.

New legislation appeared unlikely to pass in Washington. Virtually all Republicans in Congress oppose tighter gun controls, and there was no sign the latest massacre would alter the equation.

The National Rifle Association's annual meeting starts on Friday in Houston, where Republicans including Abbott, Texas US Senator Ted Cruz and former president Donald Trump were scheduled to address the gun rights group.

In a statement, the NRA expressed sympathy for the victims but said the event would go on as planned.

World leaders expressed shock and sorrow. Pope Francis on Wednesday said he was "heartbroken" and called for an end to "the indiscriminate trafficking of weapons."

Shootings have become so

commonplace in American schools that data shows a gun being fired almost every day this year on school property, according to the K-12 School Shooting Database at the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

The Texas rampage stands as the deadliest US school shooting since a gunman killed 26 people, including 20 children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut in December 2012.

Uvalde, deep in the state's Hill Country region, has about 16,000 residents, nearly 80 percent of them Hispanic or Latino, according to US Census data.

By early evening, the elementary school remained cordoned off with crime-scene tape, as passers-by walked up periodically to hand off flowers and stuffed animals to a police officer who carried it over to a makeshift memorial taking shape near the building.

Agencies

## UNSC voices concern over Taliban curbs on women, girls

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN Security Council on Tuesday expressed deep concern about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban.

Restrictions that limit access to education, employment, freedom of movement, and women's full, equal and meaningful participation in public life contradict the expectations of the international community and the commitments made by the Taliban to the Afghan people, said the Security Council in a press statement.

The council members expressed deep concern regarding the announcements by the Taliban that all women must cover their faces in public spaces and in media broadcasts, only leave home in cases of necessity, and that violations of this directive will lead to the punishment of their male relatives. They also expressed concern regarding the decision by the Taliban to dissolve several key national institutions, said the statement.

The council members called on the Taliban to swiftly reverse the policies and practices that are currently restricting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Afghan women and girls. They reiterated their call on the Taliban to adhere to their commitments to reopen schools for all female students without further delay.

They further expressed deep concern regarding the volatile situation in Afghanistan, including political, economic, social and security challenges and their impact on the lives of the Afghan people, in particular, continued terrorist attacks targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, and the cultivation, production, trade and trafficking of illicit drugs.

The council members also expressed deep concern about the dire humanitarian and economic situation in Afghanistan and recognized the need for strengthened efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and other activities that support basic human needs in Afghanistan.

They emphasized that the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance requires all actors to allow full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for all humanitarian personnel, including women.

They further recognized the need to help address the substantial challenges facing Afghanistan's economy, including through efforts to restore the banking and financial systems and efforts to enable the use of assets belonging to Afghanistan's Central Bank for the benefit of the Afghan people.

Agencies

## Putin eases Russian citizenship requirements for residents of Zaporozhye, Kherson Regions

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree relaxing rules for granting Russian citizenship to residents of Ukraine's Zaporozhye and Kherson Region, according to the document published on the official portal of legal information on Wednesday.

The amendments are added to the decree that previously introduced a similar procedure for residents of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics (DPR and LPR). Henceforth, the document reads as follows, "citizens of Ukraine, the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic who permanently reside in the DPR, the LPR, the Zaporozhye Region of Ukraine or the Kherson Region of Ukraine enjoy the right to apply for citizenship of the Russian Federation under a simplified procedure in conformity with Part 8 of Article 14 of Federal Law 62-FZ 'On Citizenship of the Russian Federation' of May 31, 2002."

The article in the federal law cited in the decree says that foreigners can apply for citizenship in a simplified procedure, so they will be exempt from the requirements to live in Russia for five years, have a source of income and pass an exam in the Russian language.

Those applying for citizenship should be considered and either approved or refused within three months since the application is submitted and the required papers are presented.

More relaxed requirements for Russian citizenship were introduced by Putin's decree in 2019 for residents of the DPR and LPR (when they were separate areas of Ukraine's Donetsk and Lugansk regions, and after the republics' independence was recognized by Russia, the decree was updated).

The document stipulates that it was signed "to protect the rights and freedoms of each individual and citizen, proceeding from the generally recognized principles and norms of international law" and in accordance with the Law 'On Citizenship of the Russian Federation'.

The new decree on residents of the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions of Ukraine was signed on May 25 and took effect on the same day.

Agencies

## Deepen BRICS cooperation to make stronger force for progress

CHINESE President Xi Jinping delivered a video address at the opening session of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on May 19.

He profoundly expounded on security and development issues, and offered important opinions on deepening political and security cooperation among BRICS countries, enhancing confidence in and strength for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

He said, "As a positive, inspiring and constructive force in the international community, the BRICS countries need to firm up belief, brave the storms and waves, and take real action to promote peace and development, uphold fairness and justice, and advocate democracy and freedom, so as to inject stability

and positive energy into international relations in a period of turbulence and transformation."

The world today is seeing profound changes and a pandemic both unseen in a century. It is facing sluggish global recovery, a widening development gap, rising global challenges, as well as increasing factors of instability, uncertainty and insecurity in the international situation. At the same time, the governance, trust, development and peace deficits continue to grow.

Despite it, peace and development remain the unchanging theme of the times, the aspiration of people across countries for a better life remains unchanged, and the historical mission for the international community to pursue

solidarity and win-win cooperation remains unchanged.

Facing the various risks and challenges of the day, it is more than ever important for emerging markets and developing countries to strengthen solidarity and cooperation.

"Both history and reality tell us that seeking one's own security at the expense of others' will only create new tensions and risks," Xi said in the address.

In the world today where countries are interdependent, the pursuit of absolute and exclusive security has no way out. Countries must replace confrontation with dialogues, coercion with negotiation, alignment with partnerships, and zero-sum games with win-win cooperation, so as to maximize the conver-

gence of universal security.

The Global Security Initiative proposed by Xi has contributed Chinese wisdom and schemes to tackling global governance challenges and narrowing the global security gap.

BRICS countries need to strengthen political mutual trust and security cooperation, maintain close communication and coordination on major international and regional issues, accommodate each other's core interests and major concerns, respect each other's sovereignty, security and development interests, oppose hegemonism and power politics, reject Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation, and work together to build a global community of security for all.

All emerging markets and developing

countries need to develop. Facing risks and challenges, it's more important than ever to strengthen the solidarity and cooperation between emerging markets and developing countries.

The Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by Xi has charted the course for promoting the development of the world. It has been supported by more than 100 countries and multiple international organizations, including the UN. Over 50 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the GDI.

BRICS cooperation is more than about the five countries. It bears the expectation from the emerging markets and developing countries, and the entire international community at large. BRICS countries need to communicate with

more emerging markets and developing countries to build a more diverse network of partnership, and attract more attention from the international society on global development, so as to involve more emerging markets and developing countries in win-win cooperation.

A number of consensus were reached at the first "BRICS Plus" Foreign Ministers' Dialogue held on May 19, which demonstrated emerging markets and developing countries' aspiration for and confidence in gaining strength through unity, deepening cooperation and jointly building a prosperous future.

China attaches high importance on the BRICS cooperation mechanism and is actively working to deepen the cooperation.

People's Daily



## Russian diplomat warns Poland hatching 'mission creep' scheme into Ukraine

MOSCOW

RECENT developments indicate that Warsaw is seeking to mount a "mission creep" scheme into Ukraine, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing on Wednesday.

"It cannot be ruled out that Warsaw is, of course, hatching plans for some sort of mission creep into the territory of the neighboring state.

In any case, the fact speaks for themselves. In this instance, the reference to Russia's special military operation is nothing more than a pretext," she noted.

On Sunday, Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky announced to the Verk-

hovna Rada (parliament) that an agreement had been struck with Poland to relax border crossing rules for both countries.

He added that the current situation "has involuntarily made Ukraine and Poland forget the disputes about their shared past." Zelensky had announced earlier that a bill on expanded opportunities for Polish citizens in Ukraine would be adopted.

Meanwhile, Zakharova wrote on her Telegram channel that by proclaiming the special status of Polish citizens in Ukraine, the Kiev regime would grant them rights within Ukraine, thus de facto formalizing the country's takeover.

## Chinese-built SGR provides career development opportunities to Kenyan women locomotive drivers

NAIROBI

WHILE growing up in a farming village in north-western Kenya, Tabitha Kiplimo had to defy entrenched gender stereotypes to prove that career success was not a preserve of her male peers.

The 30-year-old electrical engineering major was recruited by the contractor of the 480-km Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) soon after graduation, where her skills and agility proved to be a valuable asset.

According to Kiplimo, an internship with China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) which was constructing the modern railway line gave her a platform to hone her skills besides improving cross-cultural interaction.

Prior to the launch of the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR commuter train service on May 31, 2017, Kiplimo went to China to undertake a two-month course in locomotives' operations, marking a milestone in her career growth.

"We trained on critical aspects of operating a locomotive including signaling, the braking system and engine," Kiplimo told Xinhua during a recent interview. "The training has been continuous and we feel adequately skilled to steer the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR passenger train as its contribution to the country's economic transformation becomes abundantly clear."

Kiplimo said that driving the modern passenger train under the supervision of a Chinese instructor since the middle of 2017 has been an exciting experience.

She admitted that little did she anticipate that she would one day find herself in an otherwise male-dominated field while crediting her parents, tutors and Chinese instructors for nudging her to go the distance irrespective of setbacks.

"So I feel honored to be part of the pioneering group of female SGR locomotive drivers. It is an inspiration to young girls whom I believe are equal to the task when they grow up," she said.

Currently promoted to a mid-level managerial position by the SGR operator, Kiplimo said in the last two months, she has been handling some elevated tasks like data analysis. She revealed that she will soon be working at the locomotive dispatch office where she will be handling technical tasks, a reaffirmation of her steady career growth nearly five years since becoming a locomotive driver.

Ahead of the fifth anniversary since its launch, the Mombasa-Nairobi passenger train service besides revolutionizing mobility and commerce

along its corridor has also advanced gender equality in its core operations, according to Shallom Waweru, a female locomotive driver in her late 20s.

Waweru majored in education and Chinese language at a public university and in 2016 soon after recruitment by CRBC, she went to China for rigorous training on all aspects of locomotive operations.

"The training in China revolved around theory and practice as relates to operating a locomotive and when we came back in 2017, we joined the newly launched SGR locomotive as drivers," said Waweru.

Waweru insisted steering the locomotive under supervision for nearly five years has been a rewarding experience, and her curiosity, agility and fortitude have paved the way for steady career mobility.

Waweru is still driving the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR passenger train, but she has been bestowed some managerial tasks including coordination.

The team spirit that is highly valued by her employer has created a conducive environment for female locomotive drivers to thrive, said Waweru, adding that she looked forward to mentoring young girls to venture into technical fields.

"As I continue to perfect my knowledge and skills in locomotive operations, I look forward to transferring the same expertise to young girls. They should be encouraged to plunge into careers that are of technical nature," said Waweru.

She confessed that she toyed with the idea of becoming a locomotive driver at a tender age while growing up in a rural village in south-eastern Kenyan plains, having watched old wagons being hurtled along a nearby meter gauge railway.

As for Elizabeth Wanjala, a Chinese language major in her late 20s, joining the ranks of the first group of female SGR locomotive drivers in 2017 paved the way for career growth and financial independence.

Wanjala went to China in early 2017 to undergo a three-month training on locomotive operations and when she returned to Kenya, she started driving the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR passenger train, under the supervision of Chinese instructors. "It is a great honor to be among the first group of female SGR locomotive drivers in the country and look forward to the growth of our railway economy," said Wanjala.

Having been elevated to a mid-level managerial post, Wanjala said that her responsibilities have expanded to include planning and coordinating with other locomotive drivers. **Xinhua**

# Lockdown parties: Johnson takes responsibility but won't quit

LONDON

BORIS Johnson said he was humbled and took responsibility but refused to quit after a damning official report on Wednesday detailed a series of illegal lockdown parties at the British leader's Downing Street office.

Opposition politicians and some in his own party have repeatedly called for him to resign over the alcohol-fuelled gatherings in violation of COVID-19 rules all but banning people from socializing outside their households.

"I am humbled and I have learned a lesson," Prime Minister Johnson told parliament, saying he would not quit.

The report by senior official Sue Gray did not specifically blame Johnson, but included photographs and gave graphic details from more than a dozen gatherings.

He attended some, including a party to celebrate his 56th birthday on June 19, 2020, for which he was fined but which Gray said he was unaware of in advance. Johnson's wife Carrie and finance minister Rishi Sunak were also fined for that event.

"Many of these events should not have been allowed to happen," Gray said. "The senior leadership ... must bear responsibility for this culture."

Johnson, who commissioned the report, said he was appalled by some of the behavior it had uncovered but that attending leaving events to thank colleagues was part of his job.

"Some people will think it was wrong even to do that, I have to say I respectfully disagree," he told a news conference.

Gray's interim findings were published in January, but details were withheld until the end of a police inquiry that concluded last week with 126 fines handed out.

A YouGov opinion poll found 59 percent of Britons thought Johnson should resign following the report, but just 7 percent think he will. Three quarters said they believed he knowingly lied about whether he broke COVID-19 rules.

Dismaying behavior 'at heart of govt'



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson waves as he walks down the Downing Street after a press conference in London, on Tuesday. An official report into lockdown-breaching UK government parties says blame for a "culture" of rule-breaking in Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office must rest with those at the top. AP

Her full report included emails and messages that showed many gatherings were planned in advance, with discussions on who would bring alcohol - drinks that "we seem to have got away with", the then-head of Johnson's office, Martin Reynolds, said in one message.

There were warnings from another official that people should not be "waving bottles of wine" before a gathering that coincided with a televised news conference when ministers told the public to follow the COVID-19 rules.

At one June 2020 event, Gray said "excessive alcohol consumption" led to one person being sick and a fight between two others.

A handout picture shows British Prime Minister Boris Johnson raising a glass during a party at Downing Street, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in London.

At another, the night before the April 2021 funeral for Queen Elizabeth's husband Prince Philip, individuals partied into the early hours and damaged a child's swing.

"The public have a right to expect the very highest standards of behavior in

such places and clearly what happened fell well short," Gray said.

She cited multiple examples of a lack of respect and poor treatment of security and cleaning staff who had to remove red wine from walls after one event.

For months, evidence of the parties has dripped out into the media, forcing Johnson to apologize, change his office team and promise a reset to try to restore his authority.

Opposition Labour leader Keir Starmer said Johnson should quit and that the report showed the government believed there was one rule for them and another for everyone else.

"You cannot be a lawmaker and a law-breaker," Starmer - himself under police investigation for a possible breach of COVID rules, told parliament. He has said he'll resign if fined.

Johnson's immediate fate lies in the hands of his Conservative lawmakers who can call for a confidence vote. Many had said they would wait for Gray's full report before deciding.

One who had reserved judgment, Julian Sturdy, said he now felt it was in the public interest for Johnson to resign.

"This is clearly a time when we cannot have any doubt about the honesty, integrity and personal character of the prime minister," he said.

Others felt the report was less damning than it

could have been, with one describing it as "banal".

Johnson later addressed a meeting of his lawmakers, at which one present said he was "calm, thoughtful, serious".

"He did well, the sense is he is no longer in danger," the Conservative, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

Johnson had initially denied there had been rule-breaking at Downing Street, and some lawmakers say his position is untenable if he is found to have lied to parliament, a matter under investigation by the Committee of Privileges.

By way of apology, he said he wanted to "correct the record" that no rules were broken. "Clearly this was not the case for some of those gatherings after I had left," Johnson told parliament.

Agencies

## 'Farmland nannies' facilitate agricultural modernisation in China

MANY Chinese farmers now turn to commercial agricultural service providers or major growers for the management of farmlands they don't wish to cultivate by themselves. "Farmland nannies", people who help farmers take care of their farmlands, are playing an increasingly important role in agricultural production across the country.

With rural roots, professional skills and advanced equipment, these "farmland nannies" can undertake part or all of the farmland cultivation and management activities for farmers according to their needs.

Some commercial agricultural service providers increase the economic benefits of farmlands by reducing costs through unified cultivation and pest and disease prevention and control operations, while some try to raise the prices of agricultural products by promoting the cultivation of superior varieties, quality improvement, and standardization of production.

"Farmland nannies" not only save time and energy for farmers, but help incorporate smallholder farmers into modern agriculture and stimulate farmlands' potential for higher yields.

Gu Jingwen, a farmer in Nanyuanzhai village, Feixiang district, Handan city, north China's Hebei province, is one of the Chinese farmers who have benefited from the innovative "nanny services".

Since Gu has entrusted the task of tending and managing the 15 mu (1 hectare) of farmlands of his family to a cooperative in his village, he doesn't need to return home for farm work even during busy farming seasons.

"Hiring 'nannies' for crops ensures timely spring farming,



A team of "farmland nannies", people who are hired to tend and manage farmlands for others, carry out disease and pest prevention and control operations in an oilseed rape field of a major grain grower in Zhandian village, Leqiao township, Lujiang county, Hefei city, east China's Anhui province, March 11, 2022. File photo

They can provide 'one-stop' services from sowing and disease and pest prevention and control to management. With the time saved on agricultural labor, I can seek a job in the cities, which can bring me an annual income of 30,000 yuan (\$4,488) to 40,000 yuan." Gu told People's Daily, adding that the idea of hiring "farmland nannies" is brilliant.

In Nanyuanzhai village, "farmland nannies" tend and manage 3,500 mu of farmlands for more than 200 households. As local farmlands are contiguous with each other, full mechanization of crop production has been realized, saving 80 percent of manual labor for each mu of land and cutting the costs of crop production by more than 30 percent, significantly increasing the economic benefits of crop farming.

In the country with a relatively limited per capita arable land area, the problem of "who farms the land" has caused increasing concerns as many young and middle-aged rural workers leave their hometowns to work in urban areas.

"Farmland nannies" are without doubt a good choice, especially for many rural areas that can neither realize large-scale centralized operations in a short period

of time nor pursue a path requiring significant input and high expenditure for the availability of small and complete equipment in every household.

The development of commercial services in the agricultural sector can help introduce advanced and suitable varieties, technologies, equipment, organizational forms, among other modern production factors, and reduce production costs and operational risks, which is critical for boosting agricultural modernization.

Farmers have generally accepted "nanny services" as an essential type of commercial service in the agriculture industry. With obvious advantages in cost reduction and environmental sustainability, such services can effectively overcome the shortcomings of smallholder farmers in decentralized agricultural operations.

"Nanny services" can not only cut the production costs of food crops like wheat and corn, but reduce the usage of fertilizers by about 40 percent and that of pesticides by more than 50 percent by leveraging soil testing and formulated fertilization, green disease and pest prevention and control, as well as other technologies.

Commercial agricultural services in

China are still in the initial stage of development. There are currently 955,000 commercial agricultural service organizations in China, which serve about 38.4 percent of the country's smallholder farmers.

In last July, China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) issued a guideline on accelerating the development of commercial agricultural services.

According to the document, the country will strive to basically establish a system of commercial agricultural services featuring reasonable organizational structure, high professionalism, strong service capability and standardized services and covering the entire industrial chain through five to 10 years of efforts by vigorously developing diversified, multi-level and multi-type commercial services in the agricultural sector.

In September of the same year, the MARA selected and recognized 30 typical commercial agricultural service providers.

As the providers of commercial agricultural services continue to diversify and their scope of services continues to expand, they will play more important roles and bring tangible benefits to more farmers across the country.



Passengers are seen on the train to Mombasa at Nairobi station of Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) in Nairobi. File photo





SportPesa Company's Board of Directors Chairman, Tarimba Abbas, launches a new betting game, known as 'Supa Jackpot', at the firm's office in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The betting game will allow players to win up to 1bn/-. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## SportPesa Company launches Supa Jackpot

By Guardian Correspondent

SPORTS betting firm, SportPesa, had yesterday officially launched a new Jackpot known as 'Supa Jackpot', which will start at 1bn/-, as one of the company's other services to its customers.

Tarimba Abbas, SportPesa's Board of Directors Chairman, said in Dar es Salaam that the firm is launching the new service.

Abbas disclosed: "I know people are still fascinated by our Jackpot which was won not many days ago, in that context, after seeing our players are getting used to winning huge amount of cash we have seen fit to bring them a product that suits their desires."

The official stated: "We are for that matter officially launching this Jackpot which will start at 1bn/- and will be known as 'Supa Jackpot'."

Abbas noted the Jackpot will have a total of 17 teams and the amount of money that a betting player will have to deposit is 1000/- to play.

He stated the uniqueness of the Jackpot is that it is divided into five prize categories in which the player has the option to participate and win.

The number one feature is 17 teams that if a person wins he/she garners 1bn/- depending on how much Jackpot offers, this feature's bonuses range from 16 to 12 teams.

The second feature is for 16 teams in which if a player places the right bets on all matches he/she wins 750m/-, this feature has its bonuses ranging from 15 teams to 11 matches.

The third feature is for 15 teams in which if a player gets all the matches correctly such a player wins 500m/-, in this category bonuses range from 14 matches to 10 matches.

The fourth feature of the 'Supa Jackpot' is for 14 teams in which if a player gets all the matches correctly, such a player wins 300m/-, this feature has its bonuses ranging from 13 teams to 10 teams.

The last feature is the usual daily element of 13 teams which if a player gets it correctly such a player wins 200m/-.

An extra feature in the Jackpot is a little change in the combination. The Jackpot that was won had allowed customers to play seven double combinations, up to 10 teams have increased in this combination.

Abbas pointed out: "We have brought this Jackpot so that all those who dream of becoming billionaires can have a chance to win as per our earlier promise to empower Tanzanians and create new billionaires through the betting game."

"This Jackpot moreover has different levels of prize money as outlined above."

The SportPesa firm's boss stated the firm was, from yesterday, expected to have a total of two Jackpots every week.

They are the ones that had prize money of 200m/-, which totaled 222,883,040/-, it will this week be played for 1000/- every Wednesday and Thursday.

The other Jackpot is the 'Supa Jackpot' which will have a total of 17 teams, it will be played on Saturday and Sunday, and customers will pay 1000/- to place the bet.

The SportPesa boss revealed that the company's main mission is to continue providing the best and most beneficial service to its players and the community, including the government, especially in tax matters.

Abbas noted: "I take this opportunity to encourage Tanzanians to take advantage of these opportunities, as you have seen all the previous winners including new billionaire Florian Masawa have fulfilled their dreams of, through SportPesa, becoming millionaires and billionaires in this country."

If an individual is either yet to register with SportPesa or has an account and has forgotten passwords, he/she should either contact the firm's customer service unit or visit the website [www.sportpesa.co.tz](http://www.sportpesa.co.tz).

## Merging politics with music a daunting task for artists

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

POLITICS and music have been closely intertwined for many years in Tanzania, many elite musicians have been entering politics and gaining leadership positions in various fields.

It is an indisputable fact that an artist fails to maintain his/her music career after he/she gets a chance to be either a Member of Parliament or District Commissioner due to the new responsibilities.

Many people have been comparing Tanzanian musician Hamisi Mwinjuma, alias 'Mwana FA', to former Spain midfielder, Andres Iniesta.

Why? Mwinjuma is not an artist who releases songs regularly but whenever he releases his song, the track turns into a conversation.

He is a great writer and rapper! Iniesta was not a player who used to score goals every day, but he was the player who made the team move by initiating plays at FC Barcelona.

He was the player who made the team run, in short, Iniesta was the master of all attacking moves, especially at FC Barcelona.

It has been a year since Mwinjuma released a new song. A track titled 'Gwiji' was his last song, there is so much to learn from the Muheza Member of Parliament.

Despite his great ability to write lyrics and rap, Mwinjuma is one of the few elite artists in the country to ever earn two university degrees, it is not a mean feat.

It is very difficult for an artist that is used to spending much time in his/her career to go to school, there are a few to count especially in Tanzania.

An individual will only hear such names as Nickson Simon alias 'Nikki wa Pili', who is also Coast Region's Kisarawe



Hamisi Mwinjuma, alias 'Mwana FA', is a Tanzanian musician and a politician presently serving as the Chama Cha Mapinduzi's Member of Parliament for Tanga's Muheza constituency. He has been an MP since November 2020.

District Commissioner, and Claudia Lubao, alias 'Chemical', an actress who is currently abroad doing a Ph.D.

Studying and making music happen to be a very difficult feat, many decide to either leave music first and go to school or drop out of school and make music.

If an individual sees someone do it all together, that artist is extraordinary.

There has been a lot of trouble in music as the days go by. If an artist is out of the music industry for more than a year his/her return has been different and many never return to their original quality.

After being elected as Member of Parliament for Morogoro's Mikumi constituency, Hip Hop artist Joseph Haule alias 'Professor Jay' remained silent for a long time on the music scene, and when he returned he did not regain his quality despite releasing several good songs.

That is why people gradually begin to forget him, he disappeared from the game.

Joseph Mbilinyi, alias 'Sugu', the other popular Hip Hop artist that had as well served as a Member of Parliament, has not managed to regain his quality despite now making comfortably.

I have seen many veteran local artists being in big trouble when they want to come back to the music industry.

Mwinjuma is one of the few artists who have been able to move the previous generation to the current generation with the same quality.

But he has started to stay quiet for a long time without releasing a new hit song.

Responsibilities have indeed increased, and the people of the Muheza constituency are demanding development.

Do you think Mwinjuma will return to the same quality if he stops releasing songs regularly?

Since becoming an MP he has not released any song, he has not even been involved in any collaboration and the number of his followers in music has also decreased.

Mwinjuma is indeed a poet, he is indeed a lyrical master in the Hip Hop music scene but there has been a lot of silence.

Bongo Flava songbird Judith Wambura, alias 'Lady Jaydee', was silent for some time and then her return to the music industry, marked by a release of her 20th album did not have much fanfare.

She is a very respectable musician in Tanzania but, if an artist stays out

of the music scene for a long time, people tend to forget him/her.

Mwinjuma has never released less popular songs, it is like Iniesta may not score a goal for most of the season, but the day the footballer scores he can give his national side a World Cup.

The midfielder could finish a season with just four goals but might make a crucial contribution.

In the 2010 World Cup, Iniesta did not score many goals but he scored the only goal that had Spain clinching the World Cup for the first time.

That is the way Mwinjuma is, he may have remained silent for a long time but he returned by releasing a hit song. The challenge here is just the moment he remained silent.

Currently, music seems to compel an artist to be in people's ears from time to time. Artists have greatly expanded technology and it has grown tremendously, if an artist keeps quiet for a long time people will forget such an artist.

If an artist keeps quiet for a long time it may be perceived that the artist wants to start all over again.

Music is one of the most difficult tasks because sometimes it is not just a matter of giving the best song.

A musician needs enough time to do the promotion, he/she needs enough time to do the shows. When the artist has other responsibilities like Mwinjuma, music becomes very difficult for such an artist.

It is a task that requires someone to do it for 24 hours, it is a task that requires a person to sleep and wake up every day thinking about music.

It is not easy for a person like 'Nikki II', it is not easy for someone like 'Mwana FA' who is an MP.

Mwinjuma will certainly continue to remain an artist with great potential for writing good lyrics.

He will continue to remain on the list of elite Tanzanian artists and is a role model for many young people of this generation.

Do you think it would be easy for him to release a hit song again while serving as an MP? Let us keep waiting for 'Gwiji', let's keep waiting for Bongo Flava's 'Iniesta'.



Mo Green Company's Managing Director, Patrick Kessy (3rd R), speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday about a dance music show, known as 'Wafia Dansi', which will take place in the city tomorrow. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

## Deputy Minister set to grace Dar dance music show

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DEPUTY Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports, Pauline Gekul, is set to be the guest of honour at a dance music show, known as 'Wafia Dansi', which will take place in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

The show will bring together five dance music bands from Arusha, Dar es Salaam, and Morogoro.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es

Salaam yesterday, the show's coordinator, Benard James, mentioned the bands as Msondo Ngoma, Bogoss Musica, and Mapacha Musica, all based in Dar es Salaam.

He mentioned the other bands as Waluguru Original from Morogoro and Mjengoni Classic from Arusha.

"Deputy Minister Pauline Gekul is expected to be the official guest at the show," James disclosed.

The coordinator as well pointed out that the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner's office is set to send two representatives to the event.

Mo Green Company's Managing Director, Patrick Kessy, whose company sponsors the show, called on stakeholders to come forward in large numbers to sponsor the event that gears towards seeing to it the music genre regains its lost glory.

"I have set an example, I urge other stakeholders to unite to make sure this music is strong as it is still acceptable, much as there are small challenges that have caused the genre to falter," Kessy revealed.

He said if the stakeholders decide to support the efforts to revive the dance music, he is sure the genre will find new strength and have more fans both elderly and young.



## Mourinho's 5th European title to 'remain immortal' at Roma

ROME

JOSE Mourinho, the once self-proclaimed "Special One," might be better described as a "Man of the People" now.

The Portuguese coach extended his perfect record in European finals to five titles by guiding Roma to the inaugural Europa Conference League trophy. After winning nearly everywhere he's been, most recently with European powers Real Madrid, Chelsea and Manchester United, bringing Roma its first continental trophy in more than six decades has a different feeling.

"It's one thing to win when everyone expects you to win, when the squad is made to win, when the investments have been made to win, but it's entirely different to win things that remain immortal, that stay forever," a teary-eyed Mourinho said following Roma's 1-0 victory over Feyenoord in Tirana, Albania, on Wednesday. "That makes you feel truly special."

Roma, a three-time Serie A champion that had lost its previous two European finals, hadn't won anything at all since raising the often-neglected Italian Cup trophy 14 years earlier.

Mourinho also won the 2003 UEFA Cup and 2004 Champions League finals with Porto; the 2010 Champions League final with Inter Milan; and the 2017 Europa League final with Manchester United -- making him the first manager to lead four different clubs to European titles. He also coached Chelsea and Real Madrid to numerous domestic trophies.

At the final whistle, Mourinho held up five fingers to signify his five European titles as he jumped up and down in celebration.

"Of course I think about myself but I'm thinking much more about the Romanista fans who can celebrate tonight," he said. "I hope they can enjoy themselves. This will live on forever."

Besides the few thousand Roma spectators inside the small National Arena in Tirana, 50,000 Giallorossi supporters watched the game on giant screens at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome. At the final whistle, fans ran onto the empty field at the Olimpico, waving banners and singing the team's songs.

The celebrations went on all night in Rome as fans lit flares in front of the colosseum and buzzed and honked their way through historic piazzas on their scooters. Then 3,000 of them welcomed the team back home at the city's airport at 4 a.m.

Mourinho, who was a surprise hiring by Roma's new American owners 11 months ago after he fell out of favor at Tottenham, tapped into Roma's passionate fan base from the moment he arrived in the Italian capital.

"I feel like a Romanista but that's how I operate," he said. "I'm a Portista, an Interista, I'm a Chelseaista. I'm crazy about Real Madrid. Now I'm Romanista. I belong to all these clubs because we achieved moments like this together."

AP

## Lionel Messi, Neymar can return for free - Laporta

BARCELONA

JOAN Laporta has said Paris Saint-Germain duo Neymar and Lionel Messi's only chance of returning to Barcelona would be on a free transfer.

The Barca president said it would make "no sense" to pay money for players that both previously played for the club.

"Who doesn't like Ney?" Laporta told L'Esportiu when asked if he is a fan of the forward following reports he could come back to Barca.

"He is an exceptional player, but he has [three] years on his contract with PSG. He is effectively enslaved to money."

"The only way he could come back to Barca is for free. It would be irrational to pay a transfer fee for a player you have already had."

"Leo left how he left. We would all have liked him to end his sporting career here, but because of [LaLiga's] fair play rules and because of PSG's offer, it was not to be."

"If he wants to return one day, it would have to be for free. And the technical staff would have to decide if he fits the new project or not."

Neymar, 30, signed a new deal with PSG last summer but his long-term future at the club has come under scrutiny following Kylian Mbappe's decision to sign a contract extension.

ESPN have reported that Mbappe would like a more balanced squad than what is there now given their lack of success in Europe, while the French club's owners have not been satisfied by his performances or his lifestyle.

Neymar has been at PSG since 2017, when the Ligue 1 champions paid a world record transfer fee of €222 million to activate his release clause and prise him away from Barcelona.

Messi, who will turn 35 in June, has one year to run on his contract in Paris after joining from Barca last summer.

Sources have told ESPN that any decision on his future beyond then will come after the World Cup, which he will compete in with Argentina later this year.

Barca, meanwhile, sources have told ESPN, are pursuing other attacking targets, with coach Xavi Hernandez recently confirming interest in Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski.

The Catalan club are also keen to sign a winger given the possibility of losing Ousmane Dembele, who is yet to sign a new contract with his terms up on June 30.

Leeds United's Raphinha is one option, but a move for him has been complicated by the English club's Premier League survival. If they had been relegated, a €25m release clause would have kicked in.

(Agencies)

## Style clash: Klopp, Ancelotti take different path to the top

PARIS

ONE is a chest-beating, arm-waving, emotionally fuelled leader whose team's high-energy style is in his own image.

The other is unruffled, unflappable, so nonchalant he almost appears uncaring, transmitting calm all around him with his seen-it-all-done-it-all approach.

In some ways, Jurgen Klopp and Carlo Ancelotti are polar opposites as soccer coaches. What unites them is an ability to use their own inimitable style to win the game's biggest trophies.

It's yet another reason why Saturday's Champions League final between Klopp's Liverpool and Ancelotti's Real Madrid is so intriguing. Put simply, neither club would want to be led into club soccer's biggest match by anyone else.

Klopp seemingly was made to be Liverpool's manager. He's the modern-day Bill Shankly, the club's legendary coach and man of the people from the 1960s and early '70s who set the Reds on the road to becoming a giant of Europe.

Liverpool loves Klopp



Jurgen Klopp

Carlo Ancelotti

and Klopp loves Liverpool, so much so he recently signed a new contract keeping him at Anfield until 2026, which would take him beyond a decade at the club. No manager has been at Liverpool that long since ... Shankly.

Klopp is no "Normal One" -- the tag he gave himself at his presentation as Liverpool manager in October 2015 in reference to Jose Mourinho's self-styled "Special One" description. He won the Champions League in 2019, the English Premier League in 2020 to end Liverpool's 30-year wait for the trophy that used to belong at Anfield,

and has just spearheaded what might go down as the greatest season in its history.

League Cup winner, FA Cup winner, Premier League runner-up -- by a point -- after losing just two games, and potentially Champions League winner. No previous English team has ever got so close to the quadruple.

Klopp's look has changed -- he no longer wears glasses after eye surgery in the summer of 2021 and he had his teeth whitened in late 2017 -- but his heart-on-the-sleeve passion and fierce determination remains from his early days

in management. Fans of Mainz and Borussia Dortmund, the teams he coached in Germany, can vouch for that.

After every win, Klopp strolls on to the field, heads toward Liverpool's supporters, and delivers a now-trademark barrage of fist pumps that's met with guttural roars from the stands in response.

It's something Ancelotti would never do.

Nothing quite sums up the 62-year-old Italian more than his reaction to a match-clinching goal scored in extra time when Everton, the team from the blue half of Merseyside

which Ancelotti was managing last season, beat Tottenham 5-4 in the FA Cup in February 2021.

While Everton's fans, players and coaching staff lost their minds inside a rocking Goodison Park, Ancelotti simply blew on his cup of tea and turned round to return to his seat in the dugout.

"Football is the most important of the less important things in the world," Ancelotti once said, and he sure gives off the carefree aura of someone determined not to be weighed down by the pressure of high-end soccer management.

He is that elite -- his previous clubs include Juventus, AC Milan, Chelsea, Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain, as well as a first stint at Madrid -- that he could become the first manager to win the European Cup four times, after 2003, '07 (both Milan) and '14 (Madrid). He is on three with Bob Paisley (all with Liverpool) and Zinedine Zidane (all with Madrid).

Ancelotti has re-established his reputation as one of the world's top coaches this season, becoming the first to win titles in Europe's five major leagues while

also guiding Madrid past a trio of heavyweights in PSG, Chelsea and then Manchester City in the Champions League knockout stages to reach the final.

All done, it seems, with a shrug and a whole lot of vibes. He has mastered the art of creating the perfect environment for superstars to shine, without ever being dogmatic about any soccer principles or a certain style of play.

Ancelotti just goes with the flow, adapts to the circumstances. Cristiano Ronaldo said of the Italian when both were at Madrid: "From the first time I met him, he made me feel very comfortable."

Klopp, in his own way, is the same. He has become more of a strategist over the last few years, curbing his notorious "heavy metal football" by adding an element of control to Liverpool's play.

Deep down, both Klopp and Ancelotti are compassionate, "people" people, and just absolute winners.

And that's why they are in the Champions League final once again, Ancelotti for a record fifth time and Klopp for the fourth time in nine years.

AP

## The mammoth task facing Erik ten Hag at Man U

By Rob Dawson, ESPN Correspondent

ERIK ten Hag has officially started as Manchester United manager, but some more pessimistic supporters have already nicknamed the Dutchman "Erik ten Months." It's not that they doubt his ability as a coach -- he's widely viewed as an exciting appointment after an impressive spell at Ajax -- but over nearly a decade, they have seen a variety of different managers try and fail to reestablish United as any kind of force before being quickly ushered out of the door.

Ten Hag has been given an initial three-year contract at Old Trafford, but David Moyes signed a six-year deal in 2013 and lasted 10 months before he was sacked. Managing Man United is a precarious job these days; the fear for most fans is that it's the club, rather than the manager, that's the problem. Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer -- all with differing experience and styles -- have come in and been booted out in the nine years since Sir Alex Ferguson retired.

Ten Hag is next to have a crack, but judging by the fate of his predecessors, he needs tangible results quickly. Sources have told ESPN that the 52-year-old made it clear during talks with United that it was unrealistic for them to expect a serious challenge in the Premier League overnight -- something football director John Murtough, technical director Darren Fletcher and CEO Richard Arnold agreed with -- but there's already pressure to get back into the Champions League at the first attempt.

No manager post-Ferguson has survived after failing to qualify with a full season in charge. Moyes was sacked in April 2014 after a damaging 2-0 defeat to Everton at Goodison Park made it mathematically impossible to finish in the top four. Van Gaal fin-

ished fourth in his first season but was sacked after his second despite winning the FA Cup, having finished only fifth in the league.

Mourinho, appointed in 2016, finished sixth in his first season but made it to the Champions League courtesy of lifting the Europa League trophy. Second in 2018, he kept his job but was sacked the following December with his team adrift in the race for the top four. Solskjaer finished third and then second in his two full seasons but, like Mourinho, was sacked before Christmas in his third year, in part, because the prospect of Champions League football was drifting away.

Ten Hag might not be under immediate pressure to leapfrog Manchester City and Liverpool in the Premier League -- although he said in his first official news conference on Monday that he's here to end their era of dominance -- but as far as securing a return to the Champions League, he's already on the clock. It won't be easy.

\*Ten Hag's to-do list

Those closest to Ten Hag have no doubt he has the skill and work ethic to be a success. Speaking at Old Trafford on Monday, he appeared self-assured and made a point of introducing himself to each reporter. He said everything you would expect, including with United that it was unrealistic for them to expect a serious challenge in the Premier League overnight -- something football director John Murtough, technical director Darren Fletcher and CEO Richard Arnold agreed with -- but there's already pressure to get back into the Champions League at the first attempt.

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Erik ten Hag

of his greatest achievements such as the mess behind the scenes.

Daley Blind, who spent time at United and played under Ten Hag at Ajax, said pointedly: "I am quite confident in him at Manchester United, but he needs the board behind him."

Arnold, who replaced Ed Woodward as chief executive in February, has promised to be more hands-off when it comes to football decisions, but most things are still going to the owners, the Glazer family, to sign off.

Despite his prolific results at Ajax, Ten Hag has yet to manage a game in any of Europe's top five leagues, and that amounts to a risk for United, but they're also a risk for him, and he's staking his

reputation on a promise that the club will be better run in the future.

He is arriving at one of the club's lowest ebbs since being relegated to the second tier of English football in 1974. Without a trophy since 2017 and coming off a season during which they have recorded their lowest points total in the Premier League era, there is a lot of ground to make up just to break back into the top four. The turnover of the squad will be larger than usual with Nemanja Matic, Paul Pogba, Edinson Cavani, Jesse Lingard and Juan Mata all set to leave as free agents in June, while a number of players under contract -- including Anthony Martial, Eric Bailly and Dean Henderson -- have already decided they want to move

on. Meanwhile, sources have described the atmosphere in the dressing room as "toxic" during the second half of the season, with cliques forming and mistrust brewing among the players. Sources have told ESPN that part of the reasoning behind appointing former Ferguson assistant Steve McClaren as a coach is to help improve the mood and togetherness within the squad.

All eyes will also be on how Ten Hag handles the captaincy, according to sources, with the squad split over whether Harry Maguire, who had a poor season, should continue with the armband. David De Gea, Bruno Fernandes and Cristiano Ronaldo are among the candidates to take over if

there is a change, and interim manager Ralf Rangnick has suggested opening it up to a vote.

Sources have told ESPN that Maguire, a regular since arriving from Leicester City in 2019, is not even guaranteed to start under the new boss because of his lack of pace and Ten Hag's tendency to play with a high defensive line. There are also question marks about De Gea's ability on the ball to play in his system, although there is an acceptance, according to sources, that signing a striker and a midfielder is more important this summer than making a change between the posts.

Ten Hag is keen to get the players back for preseason training as early as possible as he begins to work through the issues, but the club hasn't laid out the easiest summer schedule after organising a gruelling three-week tour of Thailand and Australia.

Yet Ten Hag has backed himself to overcome everything and wake a sleeping giant. United fans, though, have seen enough misery in the barren years since Ferguson's retirement to know that any optimism should come with a dose of caution. Success is always promised at United, but most supporters will only believe it when they see it.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Style clash: Klopp, Ancelotti take different path to the top

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## Clatous Chama left out of Chipolopolo squad as Bwalya gets call-up



Simba SC's Zambian midfielder, Clatous Chama.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ZAMBIA's national football team's head coach Aljosa Asanovic has left out Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama, from the national team.

Asanovic has however included Chama's fellow club man, Rally Bwalya, in the tactician's 25-man squad for the upcoming 2023 Africa Cup of Nations fixtures against Ivory Coast and Comoros.

Zambia, alias 'Chipolopolo', will be away to confront the Elephants in Yamoussoukro on June 3 before

hosting the Coelacanth four days later at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka.

Zambia is pooled in Group H alongside Ivory Coast, Comoros, and Lesotho.

Reasons from the Football Association of Zambia have stated that the Chama has been ruled out of the squad, following an ankle injury sustained during the season, which has also denied him a chance to play for Simba SC in several Premier League games in Mainland Tanzania.

However, Zambia national team head

coach, Asanovic, has called up midfielder Bwalya to his squad after leaving him in the squad for the friendly matches where Chipolopolo played in March against Iraq, Congo, and Benin.

Chama has missed several club games since making an appearance in Simba SC's Premier League clash against Yanga, which culminated in a 0-0 draw, and he remains doubtful for the match against Yanga in the Federation Cup semi-final slated for this weekend.

Mamelodi Sundowns veteran goalkeeper Kennedy Mweene is also among the players left out of the squad, the other notables being Augustine Mulenga, who turns out for another Premier Soccer League side Amazulu in South Africa, and Stoppilla Sunzu of Shijiazhuang Ever Bright.

forward Patson Daka and Brighton & Hove Albion midfielder Enock Mwepu.

While Daka managed 23 appearances for the Foxes and scored five goals in the just-concluded English Premier League season, Mwepu played 16 times for the Seagulls and scored two goals.

Asanovic is, however, confident the players summoned for duty including newbie Frankie Musonda will fly the flag higher in the two fixtures. "We will be ready, all we need is just to focus and play at a higher level," Asanovic said.

### Zambia's final squad

Goalkeepers: Toaster Nsabata (Sekhukhune, RSA), Charles Kalumba (Red Arrows), and Cyril Chibwe (Unattached).

Defenders: Frankie Musonda (Raith Rovers, Scotland), Tandi Mwape (TP Mazembe, DRC), Miguel Chaiwa (Athletico), Dominic Chanda (Kabwe War-

riors), Benedict Chepeshi (Red Arrows), and Shemmy Mayembe (Zesco United).

Midfielders: Roderick Kabwe (Sekhukhune, RSA), Enock Mwepu (Brighton, England), Emmanuel Banda (Djurgardens, Sweden), Kings Kangwa (Arsenal Tula, Russia), Rally Bwalya (Simba SC, Tanzania), and Prince Mumba (Kabwe Warriors).

Strikers: Fashion Saka (Rangers, Scotland), Evans Kangwa (Arsenal Tula, Russia), Ricky Banda (Red Arrows), Gumphani Lungu (SuperSport United, RSA), and Patson Daka (Leicester City FC, England).



Yanga's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Yanga tactician eyes victory over Simba SC in 2021/22 FA Cup semi-final

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, has claimed that the club will beat Simba SC in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) semi-final match which will be played at the CCM KIRUMBA Stadium in Mwanza tomorrow.

The gaffer revealed he has seen their opponents in two Premier League matches against Azam FC and Geita Gold FC and identified many shortcomings that he will use to see to it Yanga grabs the win.

"We have a good team that is complete, all of my key players are well on their way to the game...no one will be missing, we must show our quality," Nabi revealed.

Nabi said despite his outfit being in a good position to win this season's Premier League title, they need the FA Cup to prove their worth this season.

Yanga needs three points in the remaining four ties to win the 2021/22 Premier League title.

The Jangwani Street outfit will host Simba SC in a match that is expected to be tough due to Simba being the tournament's defending champion.

Tickets for the Federation Cup semi-final match between Yanga and Simba have been announced.

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) said VIP A seats will each cost 30,000/-, and soccer fanatics that wish to watch the match from the VIP B seats will have to pay 20,000/- each.

Supporters wishing to stay in the rest of the stadium's stands will each pay 10,000/-.

Simba handed Coast Region's Ruvu Shooting a 7-0 defeat in the tournament's Round of 16's tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam on February 16 and made it to the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals, Simba came up against this season's Championship club, Pamba FC, in Dar es Salaam on May 14.

Simba secured qualification for the showdown's last four after garnering an emphatic 4-0 victory over the Mwanza outfit.

Yanga confronted Mara's Biashara United in the quarterfinal duel that took place in the city on February 15.

Yanga edged hard-fighting Biashara United 2-1 to progress to the last four.

In the semi-final Yanga locked horns with Geita Gold FC in the city on April 10, the latter crashed out after conceding a 7-6 loss in the penalty shootout.

The spot-kicks had to settle the clash given they had been locked to a 1-1 draw in the 90 minutes.

## Time to celebrate 21 editions of the COSAFA Cup

CAPE TOWN

THIS year we celebrate the 21st edition of the COSAFA Cup with the first tournament having been staged in 1997.

It has been a competition to launch a galaxy of stars and has been a vital component in the rich history of Southern African football over the years.

Here is a brief trip down memory lane as we look at how the tournament has evolved, and look forward to the next event in Durban from July 5-17.

### 1997 COSAFA Cup

Zambia was crowned inaugural champions of the COSAFA Cup after they claimed the 1997 event with the top spot in the tournament mini-league.

The maiden Southern African championship featured nine sides, including East African guests Tanzania.

The format saw 'quarterfinal' matches played, with the four victors in those joining Tanzania in a round-robin competition. Chipolopolo would finish top of the pool and ensure they were regional champions for the year.

Botswana hosted Malawi in the first-ever COSAFA Cup game on March 1, 1997, and it took just three minutes for the first goal to be scored, Aaron Lesupi giving the hosts the lead from the penalty spot inside three minutes.

But The Flames fought back after that and roared to a 4-1 success to book their place in the league phase.

Some 20 000 fans turned out the following day to watch Zambia down Lesotho 2-0 in Maseru, two goals within five first-half minutes from Edward Kangwa and Mwape Miti good enough for Chipolopolo.

Mozambique star Adelino netted a hat-trick for The Mambas in their 4-0 quarterfinal win over



South Africa's national football squad jubilates after lifting the 2021 COSAFA Senior Challenge Cup tournament's title in the showpiece that was played in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape.

Swaziland, while Namibia edged Zimbabwe 2-1 after extra-time with all three goals coming from the penalty spot!

Zambia ended the round-robin phase with eight points, followed by Namibia (six), Mozambique (five), Tanzania (three), and Malawi (two).

### 1998 COSAFA Cup

The 1998 COSAFA Cup saw the entry of South Africa and Angola for the first time, with the pair having missed the inaugural campaign due to their World Cup qualification commitments.

It was not a happy entry for Bafana Bafana though as they lost 3-2 in the first round to Namibia, a first-ever win for the Brave Warriors over their neighbours.

The other four quarterfinal matches went to form, Zambia advanced thanks to a 1-0 success in Malawi, while Zimbabwe eased past Lesotho 2-0.

Mozambique came from behind to win 2-1 in Botswana, Tico-Tico, and Avellino with the goals, while Angola edged Swaziland 1-0.

That set up a five-team round-robin tournament between the remaining sides that started in April and ran through to September of

that year.

Zambia again headed the table with eight points, followed by Zimbabwe (six), Angola (six), Namibia (five), and Mozambique (one).

### 1999 COSAFA Cup

The third installment of the COSAFA Cup was played in 1999 and for the first time was a knockout tournament from start to finish.

There were once again 10 competing nations, Zambia and Zimbabwe handed byes through to the quarterfinals having finished as the top two in the previous year's tournament.

Namibia won their place in the final after beating South Africa and Swaziland and took on Angola.

The final was played over two legs, with the first in Luanda settled 1-0 in favour of Angola after a penalty from Betinho.

Eliphaz Shivute brought Namibia level in the second leg in Windhoek, sending the tie into extra-time. But a goal from Zico after 101 minutes handed Angola the first of their three COSAFA CUP titles to date.

### 2000 COSAFA Cup

The fourth installment of the COSAFA Cup saw Zimbabwe claim a first-ever title, one of four they

would go on to win to date.

Seychelles and Madagascar had recently been inaugurated as COSAFA members, but not soon enough to be involved in this year's competition as they were hindered by budgetary constraints.

Holders Angola looked to be heading for another final when Fabrice Akwa gave them the lead in their semifinal in Lesotho, but two goals in the final six minutes turn the match around for the hosts. Motlatsi Maseela and Teele Ntsonyana scored for them.

South Africa was then stunned 1-0 at home by a Kaitano Tembo goal for Zimbabwe and would have to wait another year for their first tournament win.

It set up a two-legged final between the Zimbabweans and Lesotho that was comfortably won by the former.

An Eric Makara's own goal and further strikes from William Mugeyi and Luke Petros gave Zimbabwe a 3-0 win in Maseru before they won by the same margin in Harare in the second game. Luke Petros (penalty), Robson Chisango, and Benjani Mwaruware were on target on this occasion.

### 2001 COSAFA Cup

The fifth installment of the COSAFA Cup featured 11 Southern African countries and would again end in an Angolan victory, their second title.

Seychelles and Madagascar were missing once more as they battled with financial constraints, but all the usual big names were there to compete.

Zambia and Angola played out a hard-fought 1-1 draw in the first leg of their semifinal in Lusaka that ended with a 4-2 penalty shootout win for Palancas Negras. Fabrice Akwa had given Angola the lead before Chaswe Nsofwa netted an equalizer for Zambia.

Zimbabwe had an easier time

getting past Malawi, winning 2-0 as Edzai Kasinayo and Maxwell Dube scored for them.

The final was also played over two legs, with the first in Luanda ending in a 0-0 draw. Angola edged the second match 1-0 thanks to an 87th-minute winner from Flavio amid scenes of great rapture.

### 2002 COSAFA Cup

South Africa won a maiden COSAFA Cup title in 2002, a tournament that also featured Madagascar for the first time. Seychelles was the only COSAFA member at the time who did not take part.

Malawi's fine run through the tournament continued as they edged Zambia 1-0 in the semifinals, Esau Kanyenda with the goal, this time from the penalty spot.

And South Africa found their scoring form as they defeated Swaziland 4-1, Tebeho Mokoena (two), Jabu Pule (now Mahlangu), and Stanton Fredericks hitting the back of the net. The 2017 COSAFA Cup legend Siza Dlamini got a consolation for the Swazis.

That set up a two-legged final that was comfortably won by South Africa in the end, their 3-1 win in Blantyre in the first match setting up the victory.

Patrick Mayo (two) and Jimmy Kauleza scored for South Africa, while Malawi responded with a Patrick Mbedi penalty.

The second leg was won 1-0 by Bafana Bafana, a late goal from Benedict Vilakazi ensuring the trophy was theirs for the first time.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

