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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8792• PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH, 2023

National Pg 3 Police hold four people over maize theft



National Pg 4 CCM upset on abandoned wheat farms



National Pg 6 Dar women benefit from modern farming



Samia excites in gracing opposition Women's Day event

Chadema readying one-year drive to grassroots

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

CHADEMA, the leading opposition party in the Mainland, is embarking on a wide ranging support canvassing drive starting late March for one full year in order to bring it closer to the people.

National chairman Freeman Mbowe said the central committee met last Saturday for a wide ranging assessment, reaching decisions on what needs to be done "as a matter of necessity." The move is another step to revive political activities after the half decade long ban on rallies was removed, thus Chadema leaders wish to revive party presence in every region, constituency, ward, village and street.

President Samia lifted the ban as New Year resolution on January 3 when addressing leaders of political parties at Magogoni State House, with opposition parties starting to hold symbolic rallies before laying out elaborate strategies.

For Chadema it first had to organise the return of two exiled leaders, vice chairman Tundu Lissu and northern zone chairman Godbless Lema, conduct preliminary decisions on its resources including restarting to receive monthly subsidies from the government.

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President Samia lifted the ban as New Year resolution on January 3 when addressing leaders of political parties at Magogoni



Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye (in specs) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday following a briefing by John Byekaniko (to his right), manager of Minara Tanzania Limited's network operations centre, which monitors the security of telecommunications towers on a 24/7 basis. The minister was on a tour of the firm's offices in the city. Photo: Guardian Photographer

Nine die, 30 injured as bus plunges into ravine

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

NINE people died and 30 were injured on Monday when a bus veered off the road and plunged into a ravine on the slopes of Nkongwe Mountain in Tanganyika District, Katavi Region

Dr Alex Mrema, the district medical officer, said the nine died on the spot, counting three men, two children and four women, including an expectant mother.

Ali Makame, the regional police commander (RPC), said the accident occurred on Monday evening when the bus with registration number T506 DHH operated by owned Komba Co. lost balance on the edge of the road on the

mountain slope, veering off the road and plunging into the gorge

The cause of the accident was yet to be identified as relatives reached the area to identify their relatives, he said, while Regional Commissioner Mwanamvua Mrindoko sent condolence messages to relatives losing their loved ones in the carnage.

"Some casualties are now doing well after starting treatment, he said, with Philbert Focus, a survivor residing at Mpanda said some passengers felt that the bus was in high speed and suddenly it veered off the road, falling into the ravine.

After the crash he felt enveloped by total darkness and when he tried to open his eyes

there was a lot of pain. He I managed to use narrow space to get out, having been injured on his hands, head and legs, he narrated.

Hamad Kambi, an eye witnesses, said he helped the police to rescue a big number of people but four of them died in his hands.

Raphael Lutonja, head of local government at Luhafwe area, said the area is notable for its perils, witnessing frequent accidents leading to many people losing their lives.

Onesmo Buswelu, the district commissioner, praised the residents for aiding the rescue effort the police were carrying out, alongside other public agencies.

By Guardian Reporter

THERE is widespread excitement over the decision by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to grace an International Women's Day (IWD) event in an opposition gathering.

Onesmo Olungurumwa, the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) national coordinator, praised the president for accepting to grace the gathering organised by the Chadema Women Wing.

The decision demonstrated the importance the president attaches to the need for leaders of different political parties to sit at the same table on major events, regardless of their differences, he stated in an interview yesterday.

"The Head of State needs to be applauded for her personal determination," to reconcile the ruling party with its adversaries, he said, suggesting that this kind of collegiality ties up with the opposition's demand for a new constitution.

Being together for major national and international events ought to be formalised in the constitution, he said, emphasizing that party loyalties and dis-

putes on some matters "should not be a boundary for people to cooperate."

"President Samia wants to show that all the groups that criticize the government including opposition parties, civil organisations and human rights activists are not enemies. Some people have been treating us harshly like enemies," he declared.

Members of political parties and civil organisations are all Tanzanians aiming at bringing about development in the country, he said, affirming that "some years ago, journalists were seen as enemies; human right defenders as an enemy, opposition parties were also seen as enemies."

"What the president is doing is to bring all the people together and erase the concept of seeing others as enemies," he asserted, urging other top national leaders to take up the president's example.

"Ideological differences should not prevent Tanzanians from sitting at the same table for purposes of building the nation. The president's intention will lead us to writing a new constitution as she is demonstrating the political will to do so," the activist intoned.

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON COMPLETION OF TWO YEARS UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF



HER EXCELLENCY DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN

The Guardian Limited will publish a special supplement with "The Guardian" and "Nipashe" Newspapers, with a special report focusing on the achievements of the Government under the leadership of President **Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**

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JNHPP guards to safeguard water

By Guardian Reporter

GUARDS to be hired by the Rufiji River Basin Water Board (RBWB) will ensure that land holders in the vicinity of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) dam do not divert water flowing into the dam. Florence Mahay, the board's

director general, said at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the board plans to hire the guards in the next financial year, where the board will initially hire 50 guards for vital water access points along the Great Ruaha and Kilombero rivers within the Rufiji River basin area

of supervision. The guards will be recruited from those with National Service training, with 30 of them expected to be stationed at strategic areas along the Great Ruaha and 20 at various points along

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'Zanzibar endowed with a lot of tourist attractions'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Permanent Secretary in Zanzibar's Ministry of Works, Communications and Transport, Shomar Omar Sharif has said that Zanzibar has been endowed with plenty of tourist attractions that's why the government has been putting more efforts to market them.

According to him, the islands (Unguja and Pemba) are a major centre of tourism business in the Indian Ocean, so it was good to recognise the great contribution of air travel and tourism in the economic and social development of Zanzibar.

He said this yesterday here when opening training for workers and service providers at the Abeid Amani Karume International organised by the airport's authority in collaboration with Dnata Company from Dubai.

He said that the tourism sector has a great impact on other developmental sectors, be it resources, environment and culture, so having an enabling environment is important to promote sustainable development of the areas.

He urged stakeholders at the airport including the immigration department, police force, airlines, taxi drivers and tour operators to be good examples by providing services that have international status and standards.

"Our hospitality and courtesy to our guests is a big part of our culture (Zanzibaris), it is also a pride in the whole world, so it is our duty to continue maintaining this to promote our country," he said.

Philemon Azer, from Dnata said that they have prepared themselves to provide better services including for guests and tourists entering the country and the company has strengthened services in collaboration with the immigration department so as to facilitate timely service provision to the travelers.

He said that currently, they serve 12 airlines at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport.

"We have decided to equip the workers at the airport so as to cope up with the pace of development that also requires issuance of quality and timely services.



Georgia Mutagahywa (3rd-L), Barrick Gold Corporation's corporate communications and country liaison Manager, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting medical equipment and supplies to Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital's Dr Eliyafie Huruma donated by the firm as an International Women's Day goodwill gesture. Witnessing the event are other staff with Barrick and the hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia excites in gracing opposition Women's Day event

FROM PAGE 1

Abdulkarim Atiki, a political analyst, said the president's decision shows a positive intention of ensuring consensus among political parties.

Abu Abbas, a city professional, said that the move illustrates patience and resilience of the political system, being able to stand even when there was turmoil, stress and new attitudes at top level.

He said resilience or patience

is a measure of the system's ability to exercise its ability to agree to change and retain the same relationship with the society, reinforcing the criteria set by the public authorities.

He explained the president's attitude to norms set out in

international treaties recognising tolerance as the basis of democracy, citing Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948.

A democratic attitude, not hate, hostility, insults and not ridicule against a particular

person or party, is essential to the ability of the system to endure, live and recover from challenges that bring stress or pressure, and can lead to failure to retain the democratic process.

Anna Henga, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) executive director, described President Samia

as a democratic leader, who gives space for other people to express their views.

"This is the leader we want. She has shown what democracy means. Right now ordinary people and political leaders are free to say something which is within the mother law," she added.



As part of the commemoration of International Women's Day, Zaina Foundation programme manager Shega Mboya (L) sensitises residents of Kiromo village in Bagamoyo District at the weekend on gender equality. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

JNHPP guards to safeguard water

FROM PAGE 1

the Kilombero, he said. The guards' duties will be set out in collaboration with water consumers' communities formed by district authorities along the river valleys, to control accessing water from river sources to comply with regulations, he said.

As Rufiji River is the source of water for the JNHPP project, TANESCO has agreed to facilitate in stationing the guards to protect river sources, he said, referring to challenges in protecting water sources arising from invaders.

The trained guards will be able to control such invaders in collaboration with TANESCO, he stated, elaborating that the board

has started taking steps to demolish installations used to divert water from the two rivers.

The board has also filed court cases against a number of them that are still pending in the courts, underlining that the board has started implementing a directive by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to suspend issuance of permits for large projects inside the basin.

The reason is to allow water to flow into the JNHPP dam, he said, specifying that the dam is likely to be filled up on the basis of a precise schedule.

"We have already put in place strategies to protect water sources by arresting all those diverting the water and destroy their installations," he said.

Chadema readying one-year drive to grassroots

FROM PAGE 1

The new step is to arrange countrywide tours by its leaders to revive enthusiasm for the party, with the Saturday meeting restoring the party's activities under the slogan as operations.

Chroniclers said this will be the seventh 'operation' the party has undertaken during the past two decades, the last being 'MshikeMshike,' that is, clutching upon the social fabric, sowing political panic. Kigoma Region was picked as the launch-

ing pad, at the end of this month, then proceeding to Katavi and Tabora regions.

Thereafter the campaign will be taken to Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mara, ending the first phase with touring the Lake Zone regions, the chairman explained.

As the decision on the new operation was being reached, political rallies were taking up in other areas, with the Lake Nyasa Zone of Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Iringa and Njombe regions at the fore, observers noted.

S. African economy sinks below pre-pandemic levels

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's economy tumbled below pre-pandemic levels in the last three months of 2022 as record power shortages hit activity, official data showed Tuesday.

The gross domestic product of Africa's most industrialised country contracted by 1.3 per cent in the fourth quarter, worse than expected by analysts.

"After rallying in the third quar-

ter of 2022 GDP fell below pre-pandemic levels," said the national statistics agency StatsSA.

Growth in Africa's most industrialised country was weighed down in the final quarter by unprecedented levels of power outages.

Only two days were spared by the staggered blackouts during the last three months of last year.

Outages cost more than \$50-million in lost output each day, according to estimates by the energy

minister.

The blackouts are blamed on the 100-year-old state energy firm Eskom which produces about 90 per cent of the country's energy needs.

Eskom is saddled with constantly breaking down generating plants and is failing to meet demand.

The trade and finance sectors were the biggest drags to the economy's growth between October and December, with exports

decreasing by 4.8 per cent. Mining agriculture and manufacturing also slumped.

South Africa's economy was badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, which amplified joblessness and poverty in one of the world's most unequal countries. Economic growth had slowed for about two years.

After the economy returned to its pre-pandemic size in the first quarter of 2022, growth was ham-

pered by floods and the energy crisis.

Economic growth is now forecast to be as low as 0.3 per cent in 2023 due to the electricity supply crisis, according to the central bank, down from 2.5 per cent in 2022.

The energy crisis has forced President Cyril Ramaphosa to declare a national state of disaster and appoint a special Minister of Electricity.



Jacqueline Lyatuu (C), Azania Bank Limited's director of finance and planning, makes a presentation during the just-ended second conference for women and youths in business persons in Africa held in Arusha city. It was organised by Tanzania Women Empowerment Network as part of the run-up to International Women's Day. She is with Tanzania Revenue Authority's assistant manager in Arusha Region, Mathew Ruangisa (R), and Cereals and Other Products Board of Tanzania chairman Salim Awadh. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Manyara police hold 4 people over maize theft

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

POLICE in Manyara Region are holding four people, including the Kiongozi village executive officer in Babati District for allegedly theft of 42 bags of low cost maize provided by the government for people affected by hunger and the commodity's high prices at the open markets.

The suspects are claimed to be found with the stolen maize that was given as assistance and sold at low prices.

Manyara Regional Police Commander, George Katabazi confirmed the detention of the four people who include the village executive officer, a businessman and two other people.

"The suspects were arrested with the 42 bags on March 4, this year stored at a private warehouse at Kiongozi village in the district," he said, adding that the seized maize was valued at 1.7m/-.

He said the maize was supplied by the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) silos in Babati District and ferried to the village to be sold to the people at low prices, but ended in a private warehouse.

RPC Katabazi warned middlemen engaged in selling stolen goods telling them to stop the habit as they will not remain safe from their activities.

Z'bar House panel committee commends TASAF's projects in Arumeru District

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

MEMBERS of the Zanzibar House of Representatives Committee that oversees the office of high national officials have expressed their satisfaction with the implementation of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) projects in Arumeru District, Arusha Region.

The members said they were pleased with the TASAF's projects implementation under the sponsorship of OPEC countries.

Addressing a public rally yesterday to Kandashe villagers, the committee's chairman, Machano Said Othman said they inspected health and education projects to learn how they are being implemented.

"You Arumeru residents are fortunate to get such big, good projects especially those sponsored by OPEC, considering that Tanzania is a huge country with many needs," he said.

He added that in the Isles TASAF projects, especially those for construction of infrastructure have been well implemented and the people are supposed to support them, and called on the villagers to take care of the projects to last long to benefit the present and future generations.

The committee's vice chairperson, Mtumwa Pea Yusuf said she was satisfied with the manner the projects were being implemented under admirable supervision.

"The government has done a good job; we are supposed to support our leaders as they have accomplished things that directly touch people's lives," she said.

Arumeru district commissioner, Emmanuel Kaganda said the government, through TASAF had provided funds for the projects that target people's lives.

Kandashe village chairman, Arodi Mafie said in the past, the people faced challenges in accessing to health services as they had to walk long distances to Siha District, Kilimanjaro District for treatment.

Mary Kitomari, a Kandashe village resident said TASAF had benefited her from improving her family's income as she used the funds she received to buy goats and chicken that had helped her economically.

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CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

THE MWALIMU NYERERE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Miss. Lisa Mimi a 2014/2015 Graduate under the Fund. She serves as an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Economics and currently is enrolled for PhD studies at the Cape Town University in South Africa.

In celebrating the International Women's Day, it is important to recognize the role of the Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere Memorial Scholarship Fund managed by the Bank of Tanzania which has since its inception in 2009 been providing scholarships mainly to female students to pursue studies in the areas of science and mathematics for increasing the number of female professionals in the respective fields and bridging the gender gap in those professions.

So far, the number of female beneficiaries has reached fifty (50), out which thirty-eight (38) have been sponsored to pursue bachelor's degrees and twelve (12) have been funded to undertake master's degree programmes in science and mathematics related fields.

The alumni of the Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere Memorial Scholarship Fund are serving the nation in different capacities, and some are enrolled for further studies in master's degree and PhD programmes within and outside the country.

The Fund encourages Female students with outstanding performance to apply for this prestigious Scholarship for undergraduate (Bachelor) and Master's degree studies in accredited universities within the United Republic of Tanzania, once it is announced to the public. The scholarship is fully funded by the Fund which covers all direct university and student's costs including a brand new laptop.

As we celebrate the International Women's day, the Fund takes this opportunity to urge all students to be committed and work hard on their studies and obtain higher grades in order to qualify for the scholarship.



Miss. Beatrice D. Issara a 2013/2014 Scholarship beneficiary, graduate of Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Dar es Salaam under the Fund. She is Currently employed as Assistant Lecturer College of Engineering and Technology, University of Dar es Salaam.



Miss. Scholastica Clemence Tesha, a 2022/2023 Scholarship recipient under the Fund currently pursuing Master of Science in Highway Engineering at the University of Dar es Salaam.



Miss Azza Abdillah Saleh, a 2021/2022 Scholarship Recipient Currently Pursuing Master of Science in Economics and Finance at Zanzibar University under the Fund.



Measurement Officer with Weights and Measures Agency measurement officer Gaudence Gaspar briefs members of the Agriculture, Trade and Tourism Committee of the Zanzibar House of Representatives on a tour of the agency's Misugusugu measurement centre in Coast Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

International Women's Day: REA donates eco-friendly cooking stoves to Bahi women

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

WOMEN association of the Rural Energy Agency (REA) has donated 114 eco-friendly cooking stoves to women at Zanka and Kigwe villages in Bahi District, Dodoma Region as part of the commemoration of the International Women's Day.

The stoves will greatly reduce the burden that women carry in searching for firewood and charcoal and thus protect the environment.

Speaking during the handing over event held at Zanka village during the weekend, Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule who was the guest of honour commended women from REA for extending the support to the rural women.

She said that the stoves will benefit women and girls in the villages as they will minimise heavy reliance on wood and charcoal that lead to deforestation and other environmental impacts.

"The government will continue to promote a conducive environment for producers and suppliers of technologies and the clean energy products that are safe for cooking as well as increase the scope of product availability at fair price to enable consumers to use them," she said.

More than two million tonnes of charcoal are spent per year as cooking energy, something that poses a huge environmental and health threat in the community. Over 80 percent of households in the country use

firewood and charcoal as the main cooking energy source.

Advera Mwijage, director of market development and technologies at REA said the stove uses both firewood and charcoal and will help households to reduce spending and deforestation.

Kigwe village chairman, Jeremia Sobayi appreciated the support from REA calling upon villagers to be good ambassadors of the agency and environment protection.

Reports show that every year more than 469,000 hectares of forest are cleared in Tanzania with most deforestation occurring on unreserved forests within the village lands resulting in emission of over 44 million tonnes CO₂/year into the atmosphere, and hence impact on the global climate.



The government will continue to promote a conducive environment for producers and suppliers of technologies and the clean energy products that are safe for cooking as well as increase the scope of product availability at fair price to

Forests found to be extremely dangerous places for people to work

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

IT is hardly mentioned but people working in forestry sectors are susceptible to a number of threats and dangers and the International Labor Organization is stepping in to address the issue.

Speaking in Arusha during the sectoral meeting on promoting decent work, safety and health in forestry the director, Sectoral Policies Department at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Alette Van Leur pointed out that while forests continue to provide direct and indirect job opportunities, they also come with serious risks at work places.

"Therefore this meeting gets to address such problems, challenges and anticipating coming up with solutions regarding safety for people working in forestry departments," she said.

The programme coordinator at ILO Chiku Hamisi Semfuko said despite efforts and some improvements over the past decades, forests are still dangerous workplaces, adding that the sector is mostly informal meaning participants are hardly covered when it comes to health or occupational insurance.

Meanwhile, Lupala Zacharia, the Forestry Officer from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism said the meeting delegates in their

agendas are covering among other things issues of climate change, women and youth, human rights and applied technology.

Other participants said outsourcing, contracting and subcontracting as well as casual and seasonal work can further exacerbate some of the listed challenges.

It was also pointed out that some countries employ migrant workers in their forestry sector, particularly countries that face labor shortages in the sector.

But on the other hand immigrant workers are sometimes vulnerable to exploitation and deprived of labour protection.

They said coherent and effective

laws, regulations and policies aligned with international labour standards and duly implemented are a precondition for advancing decent and sustainable work.

Many countries were found to have appropriate legislation in place, but hardly complied with, partially due to the isolated nature of forestry work.

National labour administration and inspection systems may have limited capacity and human and financial resources to reach out to remote forestry operations.

It was however agreed that forests will continue to provide direct and indirect job opportunities in the changing world of work,

including new jobs in the green economy.

Leveraging technological developments can support higher productivity, quality of output, and improved working conditions.

These may further contribute to labour law compliance through, for example, enabling labor inspection in areas otherwise unreachable, and increase safety in forest work.

Reforestation efforts can provide employment opportunities and, given the renewable nature of wood, sustainable forest management can help in mitigating the effects of climate change.

It was also pointed out during

the meeting that work in forests has high Occupational Safety Health (OSH) risks, due inter alia to the nature of work that takes place outdoors, often in isolated locations with highly varying terrain and harsh climatic conditions.

Forest work includes risks related to the use of machines, falling trees, transportation, climatic hazards, noise and vibration, and exposure to chemical and biological substances, among many others.

Climate change is further said to be exacerbating OSH risks in forestry, for example through increased climatic extremes and forest fires, and the prevalence of vector-borne diseases in new areas.



Kigamboni district commissioner Halima Bulembo (2nd-L) receives foodstuffs and various other items the Tanzania Commercial Bank extended in Dar es Salaam earlier this week to the district's Hisani Orphanage. From-L: TCB Kigamboni branch manager Lameck Buberwa, communications and public relations manager Gloria Mutta and marketing officer Dorothea Lyimo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chongolo unhappy with abandonment of Basotu wheat farms

By Guardian Reporter, Mbulu

SECRETARY General of the ruling CCM, Daniel Chongolo has expressed disappointment on the abandonment of hectares of wheat farms at Basotu area in Hanang District, Manyara Region in Manyara something that leads to low production of the crop in the country.

The over 5,000 hectares farm has been lying idle after being abandoned for about two decades now, a situation that has frequently prompted residents to ask the government to allocate the farm to them so as to develop it.

Chongolo directed the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Agriculture Ministry to agree within 14 days on the handover of the farms to the responsible ministry for it to take over the operations.

Speaking here during a public rally, the party's secretary general said that Manyara was one of the leading regions in wheat production but this has now remained a history which is so disappointing.

"The Basotu farms and the whole wheat project was taken by someone called treasury registrar who ended up putting them aside all these years without farming them because he is not a farmer," he said.

Chongolo said the country has

high demand for wheat, which pushes it to spend billions of shillings to import tonnes of wheat every year so as to cater the needs while there are enough areas that can produce the crop.

"We have enough land that can produce enough wheat to cater our demand in the country and address the challenge of spending a lot to import the produce, I have issued an order to the leaders and I believe they know the importance of doing this and they will not hesitate to do it quickly, if they will in any way delay to take action, I know what to do," he explained.

He assured the residents that wheat production will commence officially this year after halting for many years.

Chongolo said the party will not entertain leaders who fail to fulfill their responsibilities which include addressing issues and implementing promises which the government had issued to the public. The 5,138-hectare Basotu farm in Hanang was among seven farms that were once under the management of the defunct National Agriculture and Food Corporation (NAFCO) and was at the peak of production in the 1980s before declining from the late 1990s and collapsed in 2004.

High cost, illiteracy cited among obstacles facing women to access digital technology

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

HIGH cost, illiteracy, lack of skills and privacy have been mentioned as part of obstacles facing women in accessing digital technology.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups made the observations here yesterday as she briefed reporters on the celebrations to mark International Women's Day today.

She said some women and girls are still not benefitting with the digital technology, the situation that deny them many economic opportunities including employment.

"In short, according to world statistics from the report of the UN Secretary General on the 67th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67), it appears that women and girls are not benefitting accordingly by the digital technology," said Dr Gwajima.

Also, she said the modern world of

the 21st century is in digital technology that is fast spurring social and economic transformation, hence, she added, it is important to make sure there is gender equality in regard to digital technology development.

She noted that in countries with low economy, 76 per cent of the people possess mobile phones that have access to internet but only 25 per cent use the internet while 52 per cent are men.

According to Dr Gwajima, other

reasons contributing to women being left behind in using digital technology include lack of appreciation of the technology's importance, not owning mobile phones, lack of electricity, customs and traditions and other obstacles.

She further said in 2022, statistics showed that 63 per cent of women in the world had online access compared to 69 per cent of men while the ability of women to own a mobile phone was under 12 per cent com-

pared to men.

She added that the women gap to own mobile phones and use the internet is more discernible on adult women living in villages as well as women with disabilities.

She said obstacles facing women in being unable to use the internet are affecting them in accessing to various services, for example the number of countries which provide at least one social service online have increased from 162 countries in 2020 to 189 in

2022.

In general, Dr Gwajima said 21,546 women entrepreneurs from 26 regions of Tanzania Mainland received soft loans valued at 78.68bn/- between 2018 to April 30 2022.

However, she added that digital financial in the country have been boosted and reach both urban and rural women and statistics show that 99 per cent of adults know about online financial services and 45 per cent of them apply it fully.



Babati District Council laboratory technician Victor Bakamanya (R) pictured yesterday briefing CCM Secretary General Daniel Chongolo (2nd-R) on the facility. The latter was on a tour of Manyara Region. Photo courtesy of Adam Mzee

NGO helping vulnerable women through Maisha Matters project

By Guardian Reporter

AN international non-profit organisation—Kulea Childcare Villages has helped 1,500 Tanzanians, mostly women who raise children themselves and live in difficult environments, to benefit from entrepreneurship education through the Maisha Matters project.

Paul Magaya, Kulea Childcare Villages executive director unveiled this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking to journalists ahead of today's International Women's Day.

Magaya said that apart from education they also serve orphans whose parents died during or after giving birth.

He pointed out that there are some women in the country who have been abandoned and are raising their children in difficult circumstances, and that they are cooperating with the government and referral hospitals to find them and provide them with capital and education to start a business for one year, to help them get rid of themselves and afford the costs of living.

"What we do as an organisation is we provide nutritional support and canned milk to children who are under one year old, and for those with malnutrition or nutrient deficiencies we also provide vitamins to support their growth," he said.

"We find these children through a special appeal and the Ministry of Internal Affairs has given us permission to work with five hospitals in the Dar es Salaam region, including Amana, Temeke, Kigamboni, Mwananyamala and Muhimbili. We also plan to request permission to reach ward and district hospitals," Magaya added.

He noted that there are women and children who are also entering the project through social welfare and development officers of the ward and others who have been given the authority to issue letters of appeal and approval.

He also congratulated President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Minister for Health, Ummu Mwalimu, and officials at various levels of government for providing cooperation with the aim of helping children, women and men who lost their wives and were left with

the responsibility of raising children.

According to Magaya, every Tuesday parents or guardians take the children to the center to be tested and their development progress checked, as well as to check for signs of sexual abuse. "When they arrive at the organisation, our nurses and social welfare officers get time to stay with the child and the guardian in order to look after the child, and if there is any indication of abuse we report it to the gender desk in various police stations we work with for further action," said Magaya. Tausi Salimu, who is a mother of three and a beneficiary of the project, said that she was abandoned by the father of her children before she gave birth, and that it caused her to live a difficult life without knowing how to raise the children.

"I thank God after being taken in by this organisation it helped me look after my children in education, they provided me with interest-free capital and education on how to start a small business, which has helped me afford the costs of living, now I am doing well," said Tausi.

Photo on page 6

Establish compensation fund for residents affected by wildlife invasions, govt tasked

By Guardian Reporter, Babati

RESIDENTS of Babati Rural District, Manyara Region have referred their complaint on the issue of the encroachment of wildlife from Lake Manyara and Tarangire National parks to CCM Secretary General, Daniel Chongolo.

In the circumstances, Chongolo directed the government beginning next financial year to establish a compensation fund to the people whose property is destroyed by the wildlife.

Speaking on behalf of residents from 12 villages from Magara Ward in the district, Babati rural Member of Parliament, Daniel Sillo said there is a boundary dispute in nine districts with the Tarangire National Park that have contributed to fierce animals invading people's

settlements and destroying their crops.

"Even when crops are destroyed the compensation given is very small and it takes long time to get it," he said.

Sillo thanked the government for the great job it has done to the constituency including the construction of the Magara bridge costing over 12bn/-.

Speaking about the issue, Chongolo called upon the government to look on how to compensate the residents according to the loss and destruction made.

He said the compensation issue should not be unilateral for the government alone, but compensation committees should be formed in relative areas that are affected by wildlife invasion.

"On the issue of disputes, I will

go back and talk to the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism to find time to come here quickly with his experts and assess the actual situation regarding boundaries and talk to the residents so that they tell them the truth.

"This is the correct thing to do, people cannot just be left complaining on the issue because you do not know who is just, a government official should not merely sit in his office, they should come here to meet the people," he said.

He however lashed out at the habit by the people to encroach reserve areas where they can be attacked by wild animals.

In regard to science teachers, Chongolo said CCM is exerting undue pressure to the government to invest in science in order to have adequate science teachers.



Soil Microbiologist (Ref: DDG-R4D/SM/T/02/23)

Background: The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) invites applications for the internationally recruited position of Soil Microbiologist.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not-for-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, we improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food-secure future. Please visit <http://www.iita.org/> for more information on IITA.

The Soil Microbiologist will lead activities for a project focused on testing and evaluating biostimulants and biostimulant products towards developing and deploying biological products for use in Africa. In addition, the incumbent will be extensively involved in activities in the One CGIAR Initiatives, Nature- Positive Solutions and the Agroecology Initiative.

This position reports to Director of East Africa Hub (EAH) and RAFS Director at IITA.

Position Responsibilities

The Soil Microbiologist will be required to:

- Provide leadership for research on developing new biological products and testing & screening of biostimulant external inputs, including quality assessment of products/potential products in terms of quality control and quality assurance.
- Establish and maintain an interdisciplinary research platform for biostimulants research towards a better understanding of crop-soil/environment interactions for production systems involving agronomy, soil fertility and plant nutrition.
- Pursue and extend effective partnerships and collaborative relationships with national researchers (NARES, universities, etc.), CGIAR and other partners in crosscutting research, and with researchers at advanced international research institutes.
- Provide a facilitatory environment for the mentorship and training of post-graduate students and staff in the area of biostimulants and soil-microbiome-plant interactions in particular.
- Report in a timely fashion, coordinate data collection & analysis.
- Publish results in peer reviewed IF journals and books or book chapters to promote the IITA work.
- Effectively manage financial and technical project aspects, in addition to managing and coordinating staff at multiple locations across sites.
- Contribute to resource mobilization through cooperative development project proposals.
- Perform any other job-related duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Educational Qualifications

The candidate should have a Ph.D. in soil microbiology or a related area with complementary working experience on biostimulants.

Core Competencies

- At least seven years of experience in conducting research on biostimulants.
- Demonstrated a deep sense of knowledge of the mechanistic modes of action and biology of microbes, specifically at the soil-microbiome-plant interaction level.
- Experience in working closely with, or for, regulatory bodies, government agencies, and organizations on biological product testing, registration, and marketing, preferably in Africa.
- Successful management of staff, finances, and technical aspects of sizeable projects will be considered positively.
- Knowledge of business modelling, scale up and establishment of digital platforms for biological products would be a bonus.
- Proven skills and experience in soil microbiology research both in the field and the laboratory.
- Ability to work as a member of a multi-disciplinary team in a cross-cultural environment.
- Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Good scientific publication record.

Duty Station: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

General information: The contract will be for an initial period of three years. IITA offers and internationally competitive remuneration package paid in US Dollars.

Applications: Applications must include covering letter, which should address how the candidate's background/experience relates to the specific duties of the position applied for, curriculum vitae, names and addresses of three professional referees (which **must** include either the Head of the applicant's current or previous organization or applicant's direct Supervisor/Superior at his/her present or former place of

work). The application should be addressed to the Head of Human Resources. Please complete our online application form using this link: <http://www.iita.org/careers>

Closing Date: 8th April 2023

IITA is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



NOW RECRUITING FOR A PROGRAMME MANAGER TO DELIVER AN EXCITING MARKET SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT APPROACH TO EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) IN DAR

Children in Crossfire is a registered charity in Ireland that facilitates International Development and Global Citizen Engagement activities. Our vision is a compassionate world where every child can reach his or her potential. We work in partnership with local organisations in Tanzania and Ethiopia to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged young children, with a particular focus on Early Childhood Care and Education. By improving childhood care we are changing lives and empowering young children and their communities to build a better future. More information can be found at: www.childrenincrossfire.org

In Tanzania, our programme of work in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is popularly known as Watoto Wetu Tunu Yetu. Children in Crossfire is setting-up a new programme to support improved quality and equitable access to Daycare Centres and ECCE provision in high-density low-income areas of Dar es Salaam City (Dar). The pilot intervention will engage a market systems development (M4P) approach to delivering quality improvements and optimizing business models for privately run [ECCE] daycare in low-income settings of Dar. Ultimately, by supporting micro entrepreneurs and private providers to make quality improvements in ECCE provision and run commercially viable daycare centres in high-density low-income settings of Dar, the aim is to improve the early learning and wider care experience for thousands of vulnerable young children aged below 5 Years. In so doing, the programme will contribute to children's school readiness and holistic development, and counter the cycle of underachievement, so as to unleash the development potential of a rapidly growing young urban population.

We are recruiting for a manager to lead successful implementation of this unique and exciting pilot:

- **DAR URBAN (ECCE) PROGRAMME MANAGER:** The Dar Urban ECCE Programme Manager will be based in the Children in Crossfire Dar es Salaam Country Office, and provide programming leadership to the set-up, quality delivery and continuous improvements of this unique ECD programme. This includes taking a market systems development approach to supporting commercial viability of the daycare centres and improving ECCE provision, while mitigating regulatory [compliance] and market [cost] barriers to access for young vulnerable children from the poorest households. Strategic partnerships will be formed with the Dar Daycare Union, national, regional and local government, and other multisectoral stakeholders to promote an enabling environment for the private sector to provide quality improved ECCE at scale for young children living in high-density low-income [predominantly informal] urban Dar settings.

A detailed **JOB DESCRIPTION** and **APPLICATION FORM** for this exciting position can be downloaded from: <https://www.childrenincrossfire.org/stayconnected/join-our-team>

All applicants are required to complete a Children in Crossfire Application Form and email to: jobstz@childrenincrossfire.org

Only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted. Closing date for applications: **Wednesday 22nd March 2023 (by end of day)**



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Expert urges Tanzanians to eat balanced diets to avert NCDs

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

TANZANIANS have been urged to shun from poor health habits that propel a spate of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Prof Andrew Swai, Tanzania Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (TANCDA) chairman made the call while presenting a topic at a one-day conference held in Dodoma with an eye to discuss the effects and the high costs in dealing against a spate of non-communicable diseases among the Tanzanians.

Prof Swai tasked Tanzanians to take precautions to protect themselves from a growing spate of non-communicable diseases so as to help relieve the government of the burden of spending a lot of money to care for the patients of such diseases.

He observed that the government has been spending a lot of money to treat non-communicable diseases, so citizens should take steps to protect themselves from the preventable diseases.

"Apart from the government per se, families with patients that suffer from different non-communicable diseases are often compelled to dig down their pockets in order to care for their loved ones who are subjected to the diseases, the monies that could be used to cater for other key families'

basic amenities," he expressed. He further communicated that at least 34 percent of the patients who are daily reporting to various hospitals across the country are those troubled with different forms of non-communicable diseases, the negative development which needs to be contained.

"Among the viable ways to avoid contacting non-communicable diseases include avoiding excessive consumption of fatty foods, eating enough fruits as well as deterring from sedentary life," the don noted.

Previously, the director of non-communicable diseases Prof Paschal Rugajo expressed that the fast growing prevalence of non-communicable diseases across the country has been propelled by negative tendency ignoring the useful health advice being given by the health workers. He said the government has continued disseminating useful knowledge and awareness over how to cheat the diseases but most of the people have turned a deaf ear.

Prof Rugajo asked the dietitian mothers who participated in the conference to use the knowledge they received to save the lives of their clients, adding: "Many people are getting food services in various places within town, so the cooks have the opportunity to help protect people's health."



Construction of a culvert in progress on a road at Mwajombe in Kwakilosa ward, Iringa Municipality, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

50 Dar women to directly benefit from modern farming training

By Getrude Mbago

FIFTY women farmers and vegetable vendors in Kinondoni and Ubungu Districts, Dar es Salaam Region are set to directly benefit from a special project aimed to capacitate them with skills on modern farming, access to finance and market opportunities.

Implemented by the nonprofit, Transformative and Integrative Build Out for All (TIBA), the one-year project dubbed; "Kijiwe Cha Kawaha", will directly equip a total of 50 women with training and close support something which will indirectly af-

fect over 1000 women farmers and vendors in various wards of the two districts.

Speaking during the launch of the project in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TIBA director, Malcela Lungu said the project aims to improve the livelihood of small-scale women vegetable farmers and vendors in urban areas.

She said the organisation spotted that this group of women has been isolated for many years from various economic empowerment projects and thus decided to come up with the project to address the gap.

Malcela said that with financial support from Hivos, the project's ma-

nor focus will be grilling the selected women who majority of them live in outskirts of the city with essential skills on financial literacy, marketing strategies and technological innovations so as to enable them produce quality vegetables and fruits to attract customers.

"On this we will work closely with farming and credit experts so as to ensure that the women are well equipped with the education, change their mindsets to improve their businesses and income," she said.

The project will also facilitate establishment of a one-stop centre where the women farmers and trad-

ers will be selling their produce at fair price and thus gain profit to improve their lives.

She noted that TIBA is an NGO working to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and strives to ensure access to education for all children, with a specific focus on the girl child and children with disabilities. The organisation moreover addresses the impact of climate change on women and youth, as well as sexual and reproductive health, amongst other issues.

Mercy Ndekeno, community development officer in Ubungu Municipal Council commended TIBA for com-

ing up with the project which is going to transform the lives of women vegetable vendors in the wards.

"We will support the implementation of this project because it complements what the government is doing to lift up the lives of women, with financial literacy, I am sure that many of them will be able to grab loan opportunities provided by the district council," she said.

Furaha Libangu, community development officer of Kinondoni District Council hinted on the note that the women will also benefit from training to know their basic rights including land ownership to increase their

participation in economic activities.

She however said that the majority of women in streets have no tendency to attend public meetings organised by local government offices, something which prevents them from getting a number of opportunities which the government has.

"So, my plea to all women is to ensure that they all the time attend these meetings in their local areas because this is where ward leaders including health, agriculture and extension officers go to issue various training and announcements that benefit the community," she said.



Tanzania Insurance Brokers Association

NOTICE FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

DEAR TIBA MEMBERS.

In terms of section 24.4 (a) of the TIBA Constitution, An Extraordinary General Meeting can be called at any time if for any reason Governing Council deems expedient.

Given that our TIBA constitution needed some review and amendments, the Governing Council hereby serves upon TIBA Members a notice for the Extraordinary General Meeting to review and amend the TIBA constitution as follows;

DATE: Thursday 23rd March 2023

TIME: From 8.30 AM

VENUE: ONOMO Hotel, Ghana Avenue (opposite Exim Tower) Dar es salaam.

AGENDA:

1) To review and Amend the TIBA Constitution of October 2011.

All members are kindly requested to attend this meeting as the contribution by each member is highly required.

IMPORTANT:

- Please confirm your attendance to the secretariat before March 20, 2023 to enable proper planning of the event.
- Secretariat contacts are; Email officeadmin@tiba.co.tz; cell phone: 0677636722.

ALIASGHER SOMJI

HONORARY SECRETARY

06th March, 2023.

1st Floor, NIC Kisutu Branch
Plot No. 9 Block "A"
Olympio Street (Off Bibi Titi Road)
P.O. Box 77042 Dar es Salaam

Mobile: +255 677636722
E mail: info@tiba.co.tz; officeadmin@tiba.co.tz
Website: www.tiba.co.tz

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Paul Magaya (L) of Kulea Childcare, a charity mainly engaged in imparting business skills to single mothers, presents foodstuffs to Riziki Aili in Dar es Salaam yesterday as an International Women's Day goodwill gesture. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Youth in LDCs need enabling social, financial environment

By Jenifer Gilla, Doha

YOUTH from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are urging decision-makers and national leaders to strive for an enabling environment for decent jobs, adequate social services, efficient rights and freedoms.

Speaking at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Doha, the youth Representative, Reekeletsoe Molapo from Lesotho said this objective must be realized in implementing the Doha Program of Action for the Decade 2022-2031, in relation to the youth.

The ILO LDC's report 2022 on the least developed countries crisis, structural transformation and the future of work shows that the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training has declined slowly since 2005.

She said partnership with the youth in LDCs needs reviewing old unsustainable systems and requires the total commitment of governments, public institutions, civil society organisations and the private sector to achieve youth-focused SDGs accepted by the international community.

The 28-year-old social entrepre-

neur and environmental activist said that the youth are dynamic, bold and innovative but they face a number of challenges. These include access to decent employment, quality education and entrepreneurship aspirations, focusing on living in fair, resilient, sustainable gender equal societies.

In concluding remarks, she called upon the youth to continue their efforts and adopt strategies to influence policies and action plans.

"I want to speak about our aspirations that include access to decent employment, quality education where we are empowered to realize our full potential; societies where we are recognized as rights holders and key stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international programmes designed to support us," she emphasized.

Nancy Iraba, managing director of Seawed Café in Dar es Salaam, said LDC leaders gathered at the conference need to come up with initiatives to enable the youth to participate fully in solving impediments to realizing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

"We need our governments to recognize the investment we are making and help us grow by intro-

ducing us to national and international markets. Some of us are doing our best but we do not have a place to sell our products," she stated, urging that the LDCs apex conference should discuss this matter also.

Aqua Farm managing director Jarry Mang'ena said Tanzanian youth need to be recognised and supported. The authorities should be ready to identify young people who invest in development activities such as agricultural innovations, identify them and give them support that will solve their challenges. They need to take them to platforms where they will introduce their work, he stated.

Sarah Pima, executive director at the Human Dignity and Environment Care Foundation (HUDEFO), said that most Tanzanian youth are unemployed, despite many of them having graduating from universities. The government need to support them so that they can employ themselves, he said.

"For instance Tanzania is rich in land; if we are given access to land and technology, we can produce quality products meeting the standards of the international market, thus reducing joblessness," she said.

Committee lauds govt for facilitating construction of a modern measurement facility in Misugusugu

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Zanzibar's Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources has commended the government for facilitating the Weigh and Measurement Agency (WMA) to build a large and modern measurement facility in Misugusugu in Coast Region.

The Misugusugu center is used to measure the volume of fuel tanks and has modern equipment that is used to measure correctness of water and electricity meters before they are connected to end users. Yusuph Hassan Iddi, committee chairman made the remarks yesterday shortly after the committee visited the center.

He also appreciated WMA for the tremendous work of ensuring that there is value for money for people to get products with the correct measurements, noting that through their tour they have learned many things because they also have a similar institution—the Zanzibar Measurement Agency (ZAWEMA).

He said there is a lot to learn from WMA due to its seniority so that they can be able to advise the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar to empower its ZAWEMA institution to manage the accuracy of measurements in various areas.

Yusuph explained that those measurement agencies are very important because they protect the end user with correct measurement adding that even in the health sector, the patient's weight is measured first so that he gets a dose that is compatible with his weight.

Yusuph said that correct measurement will help a lot to reduce the complaints from the people who use these services adding that his committee will advise Zanzibar Revolutionary Government to find such a facility to protect the users of measurement.

On his side, the Deputy Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigaha, applauded the committee members for their visit at WMA Misugusugu measurement center to learn about the work done by the center. The Deputy Minister said the members of the Committee witnessed various works undertaken by the center including the measurement of fuel truck tanks, the measurement of electricity and water meters.

He said through the visit he believes they have learned many things but it is also an opportunity to exchange ideas on how to improve these institutions adding that they have received advice given by the Committee in the area of marking by using dip stick where they advise them to use more modern methods.

On her side, WMA Acting Chief Executive Office, Stela Kahwa, said the cooperation between the Zanzibar Measurement Agency (ZAWEMA) and WMA has started with the exchange of professional skills and tools to ensure that citizens get products with the correct measurements.

Also, she said that these agencies collaborate to provide education in various exhibitions such as the Revolution and measurement education for various traders such as jewelers who sell gems and minerals.



Nachingwea district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moyo addresses residents of Litula village earlier this week at a meeting where he advised parents and guardian on how best to go about sensitising their children on reproductive health. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Nape commends Minara Tanzania for tremendous growth

By Guardian Reporter

NAPE Nnauye Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, has commended Minara Tanzania Limited for its fastest growth since they entered the country, describing it as a positive impact following government's efforts in creating a friendly atmosphere for both local and international investors.

The minister made the remarks during a working visit to the company's premises which in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Minara Tanzania Ltd is engaged in providing business support services and operates as a joint venture between SBA Communications Corporation ("SBA") and Paradigm Infrastructure Limited

(Paradigm) that formed a joint venture to acquire and operate c1,400 sites from Airtel Tanzania in 2021, focusing on developing, owning and operating shared passive wireless infrastructure in the market.

The company offers a critical wireless infrastructure that supports the expansion and quality of mobile connectivity to all corners of the country. Providing opportunities to the mobile operators to both outsource their infrastructure and receive the substantial benefits and provide competition in the country.

"I'm happy for the quick progress you have made just after a very short period of time after entering the Tanzania market. It's obvious that your investment is here to grow. I want to assure you

that the government will continue working closely with you and improving investment climate in the country to give you a room for growing our economy," said Nnauye while commending the company for investing on creating employment for local Tanzanians and at the same time for paying taxes which he termed as way of boosting the country's economy.

Nnauye added: "I do understand that your investment falls to the docket of communications sector of which I'm leading. I take this opportunity to assure you that my office will offer the required support and cooperation to Minara Tanzania in order for you to enjoy business environment of which will lead you to continue growing".

During his tour, the minister also visited the company's Network Operations Center (NOC) that monitor and secure towers on a 24/7 basis.

The NOC allows Minara to look after the sites once they are installed, for maintenance and also potential emergencies thus securing the continuous network services provision.

"I commend you for investing much on digital technology as I have seen how your Network Operations Center (NOC) works. I have learned that you monitor all your sites and performs all ongoing maintenance service. For this investment, I would like to assure you of the governments support so that you can continue to grow," the minister added.

Earlier, Minara Tanzania Ltd Chief Operating Officer, Gordon

Porter said the company has grown so fast in the past one year.

Minara plays critical role in advancing the government's agenda on broadband connectivity, particularly in rural areas and our support to the initiatives related to the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) - over 80 sites, half in rural areas.

"We entered into the country early last year after acquiring 1,450 airtel sites. As to date, we have managed to increase the sites to 1,500. Our growth has been attributed to good investment climate in the country and a good cooperation and relationship we have been receiving from the government. I take this opportunity to commend the government and assure you that Minara Tanzania Limited is here to stay," Porter said.

He added that the company has been employing locals both direct and indirect as well as offering training.

"Our aim has been to empower and engage locals on our sites. We believe that this country has potentials and one of our target is to empower them. We will continue training and investing on them as a way of creating employment and support the government's efforts of creating employment for Tanzanians," he added.

Porter said that the company will continue working closely with other stakeholders including the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) and Municipals as a way of creating strong communication industry in the country.

Qatari Emir calls for international solidarity during inauguration of the 5th UN Conference of the LDCs

By Guardian Correspondent

THE newly elected President of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar has stressed the need for international solidarity and unity that will help countries in facing common challenges and exploring effective and sustainable solutions to them.

He made the call during the inauguration of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Qatar National Convention over the weekend under the theme "From Potential to Prosperity".

His Highness Sheikh Al Thani during the event affirmed that the Conference of the Least Developed Countries which is in its fifth session, is being held in light of the serious challenges the world is witnessing at present resulting from new international conflicts, the global food security crisis and the phenomenon of climate change, and the continuing effects of some of the effects of

the Covid 19 pandemic.

"There is no way we can build a new, safer, more just and free world for today and tomorrow except for the path of international human solidarity, and from this standpoint, the convening of this conference represents a renewal of our solidarity and unity," he said.

He said the State of Qatar is proud to continue its active role in multilateral international action in various fields, including humanitarian, human rights, and mediation adding that the State of Qatar is committed to continue enhancing international peace and security.

He said State of Qatar has committed \$50 million to support the outcomes of the Doha Work Programme and build resilience in the least developed countries.

He explained that the conference is a crucial opportunity to evaluate what has been achieved within the framework of the priorities of the Istanbul Action Programme.

"This programme has been carried on for more than a decade. In this context, the Doha Action

Programme, on which governmental negotiations in New York culminated in agreement and is the basis for the road map to support and confront the problems of the least developed countries in the next decade. The success of the conference is not only complemented by its approval, but also by its effective implementation," he said.

The Emir of Qatar referred to the extensive damage to millions of brothers in Turkey and Syria from the effects of the massive earthquake disaster and called upon everyone to support Turkey's efforts to overcome the effects of this disaster.

"I stress the need to extend a helping hand without hesitation to the brotherly Syrian people," he said.

On the debt issue facing more Least Developed Countries, he urged that it needs more comprehensive treatment that seeks justice and realism.

"This treatment breaks the vicious circle in which countries borrow for developmental purposes such as building infrastructure and others," he added.



Sheikh Mussa Hemed Jumaa (gesturing), chairman of the Hajj pilgrimage coordination office operating under the Tanzania Muslim Supreme Council (Bakwata), briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the upcoming launch of this year's edition of religious event. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

FARM AFRICA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Farm Africa Tanzania has been working in Tanzania since 1990 as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) under the NGO Act with certificate of registration no. I-NGO/0008750. Its long-term objective is to contribute to poverty alleviation by developing replicable community based approaches for improving agricultural productivity and sustainable land use in Tanzania.

Farm Africa is an innovative international NGO that reduces poverty in rural eastern Africa by helping farmers grow more, sell more and sell for more: we help farmers to not only boost yields, but also gain access to markets, and add value to their produce. We place a high priority on environmental sustainability and develop approaches that help farmers to improve their yields and incomes without degrading their natural resources.

Farm Africa operates under its global Strategy for the period 2021-2025 with a mission of Driving Prosperity Through Agriculture.

On 28th February 2023, Farm Africa signed a grant agreement with World Food Program (WFP) worth TZS 700,003,149/= to implement a twelve (12) month project which will focus on the sorghum value chain in Dodoma. The project aims to ensure that populations in targeted districts access climate-resilient rural livelihoods and improved food security and nutrition through sustained smallholder access to markets, enhanced value chains and sustainable management of natural resources.

The project will aim to achieve the following results:

1. Targeted smallholder farmers have access to agronomic skills and production inputs to improve crop productivity and quality.
2. Targeted smallholder farmers have access to post-harvest handling and storage skills and improved equipment to maintain crop quality and safety
3. Targeted Smallholder farmers have access to financial services and profitable markets
4. To increase gender equality and youth participation in decision making related to agricultural production and marketing activities

The project will be implemented in all districts of Dodoma region. This notice is in compliance with Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendments) Regulations, 2018 GN609 of 19th October 2018.

In case of further information please email: infotanzania@farmafrica.org

Ending child marriage is human rights imperative

CHILD, early, and forced marriage is a form of gender-based violence which can also harm agricultural productivity. Yet this connection between child marriage and agricultural productivity is not often discussed.

Child marriage is a global challenge that impedes our progress across all sectors of society, including agriculture. Seven hundred and twenty million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday, and each year, 12 million additional girls are married before they turn 18 years old. That's the equivalent of 23 girls every minute or nearly one every two seconds. Furthermore, girls in rural communities tend to marry or enter into union at twice the rate of girls in urban communities.

Child marriage is fueled by many complex and localised factors: poverty, lack of education, tradition, insecurity, and lack of positive coping mechanisms to shocks and stressors. Gender inequality and a devaluation of girls and women underlie all factors that contribute to the practice of child marriage. In some cases, families genuinely believe they are protecting their daughter by making her marry young. In other cases, girls are treated as a commodity or as a burden.

In times of crisis, girls are seen as a drain on a family's scarce resources and best married in return for a dowry in countries where dowry is practiced. In countries facing drought, there have been spikes in the rate of child marriage.

Child brides can face a lifetime of challenges from marrying at such a young age. They are more likely to become pregnant before their bodies are fully developed. Ninety per cent of adolescent births in the

developing world are to girls who are married or in a union. This contributes to high fertility rates and places a higher care burden on girls who, because of their age, lack the financial, physical, and informational resources, and the agency to adequately care for their growing family. Pregnancy and childbirth complications are the leading cause of death among 15 to 19-year-old girls globally. Girls who marry before the age of 15 are almost 50 per cent more likely to have experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner than girls who marry after 18.

In addition, child marriage typically ends a girl's formal education. Girls' new role as a wife and potentially as a mother often brings expectations that she will stay at home to take care of the home and family, and in rural communities, child brides are expected to leave school to cultivate land and collect natural resources.

While agriculture and specific crops can be highly gendered, in general, women are heavily involved in cultivating, harvesting, and processing food and bringing it to market. Yet women farmers are typically not as productive as men because of more limited access to land, markets, farming technologies, fertiliser, credit, and training. Child marriage only further constrains women's productivity.

Lack of education, increased care responsibilities, health issues, and imbalanced power dynamics shrinks access to land and other assets, resources, and information. This results in a vicious cycle of intergenerational poverty, leading to poor health outcomes, a lack of education, vulnerability to violence, and insufficient economic opportunities.

While agriculture and specific crops can be highly gendered, in general, women are heavily involved in cultivating, harvesting, and processing food and bringing it to market. Yet women farmers are typically not as productive as men because of more limited access to land, markets, farming technologies, fertiliser, credit, and training. Child marriage only further constrains women's productivity.

Proper utilisation of research can solve unemployment problem

TODAY, youth unemployment is one of the most pressing challenges in Africa, Tanzania is no exception. According to the World Bank, youths make up 60 per cent of all of Africa's unemployed.

Over the next three decades, about 15 to 20 million young people will reach working age each year. But the lack of proper jobs will increase the unemployment rate each year.

Given this, there is an urgent need for an ecosystem that can offer quality jobs as well as matching skills.

Research is creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge. It involves the collection, organisation and analysis of evidence to increase understanding of a topic, characterised by a particular attentiveness to controlling sources of bias and error. These activities are characterized by accounting and controlling for biases. A research project may be an expansion on past work in the field. To test the validity of instruments, procedures, or experiments, research may replicate elements of prior projects or the project as a whole. The primary purposes of basic research (as opposed to applied research) are documentation, discovery, interpretation, and the research and development (R&D) of methods and systems for the advancement of human knowledge.

Approaches to research depend on epistemologies, which vary considerably both within and between humanities and sciences. There are several forms of research: scientific, humanities, artistic, economic, social, business, marketing, practi-

tioner research, life, technological, etc. The scientific study of research practices is known as meta-research.

The word research is derived from the Middle French "recherche", which means "to go about seeking

Research in simplest terms is searching for knowledge and searching for truth.

Another definition of research is given by John W. Creswell, who states that "research is a process of steps used to collect and analyse information to increase our understanding of a topic or issue".

The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines research in more detail as "studious inquiry or examination; especially: investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws".

Tanzania has challenged research institutes and science scholars to come up with workable modalities for developing local science innovators.

Tanzania has for a long time lacked a special framework to look after talents of innovators and supporting them, hence lagging behind technologically.

The Tanzania Academy of Sciences (TAAS) should bring on board scientific researchers, professors, scholars, heads of government and private research institutes.

The government should work towards achieving industrial economy; hence the need for local innovators who are capable of bringing new technology to revolutionise the economy.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Ghana must shed off its debt conundrum ...66 years after independence

By Kingsley Asare

WHEN the government opted for the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative in 2001 for debt forgiveness, the hopes of many of Ghanaians were that the country had been given a clean sheet to operate and would not go back on the path of debt distress.

That was because most of Ghana's external debts, which were suffocating and strangling the nation were forgiven.

In return, the country was asked to invest the debts it should have paid to its external creditors on social projects such as schools and toilet facilities to promote education and enhance sanitation, to help reduce poverty in the country.

That birthed what was described as HIPC projects, which were constructed around the country with some of them still standing in their original state today.

Under the HIPC programme, about \$3 billion of the country's external debts, mostly in the form of concessional loans, were forgiven by its creditors. Thus, the country was relieved of its heavy debt burden thwarting its growth.

In less than a decade when the Ghana's external debt was cancelled, the country began to accumulate more debts, raising questions about whether the country on its own can be fiscally disciplined.

By 2009, the country's total public debt had ballooned to about GHC9 billion, when the then New Patriotic Party was exiting governance after losing to the National Democratic Congress in the 2008 general election.

With low domestic revenue mobilisation, the government began to borrow to meet its financial obligations and economic challenges of the country.

By 2016, when the NDC administration, which took the reins of power in 2009, was leaving office, the country's total public debt had jumped more than 15 times to GHC137 billion.

As a result, the government earlier in 2015 had opted for an IMF programme for an extended credit facility of \$976 million over a period of three years to support the economy and reduce growing public debt and depreciation of the Cedi, the country's currency.

Interestingly, around that time, the country had earlier started commercial oil production in 2010, which was raking in some revenue for the state.

It is rather intriguing that when the country started oil production and earning revenue from this additional stream of income, its public debt began to soar.

So far, the country has raised more than \$8 billion from the exploitation of its hydrocarbon resources. It appears the huge revenue inflows from oil extraction has done little to improve the public purse and control



growing public debt.

The government has rather used the fiscal space created by oil inflows to borrow more to finance the budget and development projects in the country.

But unfortunately, the loans contracted by the government were mostly used and continue to be used to finance recurrent expenditure such as paying of salaries, instead of investing such financial resources in capital projects which could repay such loans.

In 2011, the influence of oil catapulted the country to record the highest growth of about 14 per cent. If the government had expended the revenues from its oil and other mineral resources as well as loans contracted on capital projects which can pay for themselves as it did for the Terminal Three Project at the Airport, the country would not find itself in the current debt quagmire.

Notwithstanding the financial inflows from oil to support the budget and the economy, the government continued to borrow, forcing the country to pursue an IMF programme in 2015.

After completing an IMF programme in 2018, in less than five years, the country is back to the IMF due to growing public debt.

The country presently has been plunged into economic crisis due to growing public debt. A debt sustainability analysis conducted by the government indicates that the country's public debt is unsustainable, which requires intervention from the Bretton Wood institutions like the IMF to save the economy from being thrown out of gear.

Currently, the government of Ghana and the IMF have successfully reached a Staff Level Agreement on economic reforms to be supported by a new three-year arrangement for an Extended Credit Facility of about \$3 billion.

Consequently, the country is restructuring its debts to be on the path of debt sustainability. In the Domestic Debts Exchange Programme, it seeks to restructure about GHC137

billion of its domestic debt.

Ghana's total public debt currently stands at more than GHC575 billion, which has crossed more than 90 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product and gone beyond the internationally-accepted threshold of 70 per cent.

The country has been to the IMF for 17 times for balance of payment support and experts believe it would continue to go to the IMF for support due to fiscal indiscipline on the part of the managers of the economy and huge budget deficit incurred by the country.

One of the finance experts who believe the country would continue to depend on the IMF for support is Professor Godfried Bokpin of the University of Ghana Business School.

Prof Bokpin argues that IMF is not the solution to the country's economic woes as it requires home-grown solutions and fiscal discipline to put it on the path of growth and debt sustainability path. He opines that the IMF programme is a 'bitter pill' and provides short-term solution to the country's economic challenges.

IMF programme comes with harsh conditionalities, including freeze on employment, cut in expenditure and increase in taxes. It is a measure to provide short-term solutions to the country's economic challenges.

But of course, it must be acknowledged that the IMF does not force any conditionalities on its debtors, as the debtors themselves must come with reforms to help them address the challenges which plunged them into such difficulties.

A number of factors have been assigned for the country's low revenue mobilisation, resulting in growing public debt. Ghana's tax revenue to Gross Domestic Product stands around 14 per cent, which falls below the sub-Saharan average of about 16 per cent.

The factors include high interest payment on the country's debt, low revenue mobilisation, tax evasion, high number of informal-sector workers not captured in the tax net,

wasteful expenditure and corruption.

Particularly, on interest payment, it is estimated that more than 60 per cent of the country's tax revenue is spent on interest payments, leaving little to pay salaries and finance other development projects.

On tax evasion, the country loses millions through transfer pricing and illicit financial flows. It is estimated that regarding the illicit financial flows alone, the country loses about \$4-5 billion annually, due in part, to its porous borders.

Worryingly, the amount lost to illicit financial flows in a year is the same amount Ghana is seeking from IMF to support the economy.

As the country marks its 66th Independence Anniversary on the theme "Our Unity, Our Strength, Our Purpose," with celebrations across the country, we at the Ghanaian Times encourage the government to put measures in place to improve domestic revenue mobilisation and reduce the recurring budget deficits (spending more than budgeted for) to put the country on the path of debt sustainability.

To this end, government must continue to its efforts to formalise the economy, where the data and information of all individuals and businesses could be captured for tax purposes.

As it stands now, the tax burden is only a few of public sector workers and registered businesses captured by the Ghana Revenue Authority. Yet there are a lot of informal sector workers who make so much in a day but do not pay tax.

One other untapped area government could harness to improve its domestic tax revenue is non-tax revenue. They include royalties, fees for mining rights, trade licences for commercial establishments, construction permits and issuance of birth, marriage and death certificates.

The Institute of Fiscal Studies, an economic think tank, has suggested that the extractive sector could be an avenue the government could tap to raise more domestic revenue. To this end, IFS, among others, suggested that the government must renegotiate oil and mining contracts to have bigger stakes in such companies, initiate a process to have purchasing controlling interest in the Ghana operations of large-scale mining companies, increase the paid and participation interest in all the Ghanaian operations of the oil companies in order to increase Ghana's interest to 55 per cent and use production sharing agreement for new oil and mining contracts when funds are available.

Ghana is too rich to be poor and beg for debt forgiveness. God has been generous with the country. It has blessed it with so much natural resources, which, if well exploited and utilised, should make the country 'heaven on earth.'

Family and work: Tricky balancing act for our focused career women

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!



THE common advice from society is that women should avoid being parents until they are completely done with issues to do with career advancement. But personally as a woman I don't support this thinking because there are numerous examples and testaments that woman can balance nicely between work and home.

Yes, that's true; women stand to lose in their careers in comparison with men when they become parent. Celebrating mothers or working women with flowers and chocolates on one day of the year is lovely but there can be more significant celebration to honour and acknowledge the challenges working women face and contribute to the conditions for success in their work and life.

We as human beings must do what



A woman has as much right as a man has to follow their passion, heart or career after or before becoming a parent.

makes us happy. If at the end of the day you are not happy then nothing is worth the struggle. Life is so short, so if you are deeply unhappy somewhere, you must have the courage to walk out. May be it is your unhappy marriage or any relationship. Self-love is important for women. However, never ever confuse self-love with selfishness. For, selfishness can destroy your love life and self-love because we humans are interdependent.

However, true happiness comes from loving yourself first because only if you do that, you can be loved by others. You can miss your children as a loving mother when they are not around but you can't stop living because of that.

But as women, we need to change our own thinking a bit to balance between work and home.

I think most mothers think that we are indispensable and therein lies the problem. Women think that everything will crumble if we are not around.

You have to delegate and you have to trust. We can empower our children as working mothers. They are not falling apart because

you are not around. Empower your children and tell them they must pursue their dream, achieve and shouldn't waste time.

But it's true a child will not remember you by your professional achievements. Instead, they will remember that their mother wasn't home when she was needed. So, it's

Pressing Issues
With
Chaitra Chatterjee

Email
chaitra.chatterjee2010@gmail.com

really hard for working women to balance but it's not impossible.

It's really very hard to be a working mother. Anybody who tells you otherwise is not telling you the whole truth. It's a tight rope when you are a mother and you have children and work. Society burdens working mothers with lot of stigma. Few people think that until you are done with a certain part of your career it is wise not to become a parent. But nowadays most of the educated women make it possible by balancing their job life and family life.

However, you need to struggle a bit for your career in which you have invested so much energy, money, your parent's expectation and time. You cannot give up so easily because you are a woman. It's also hard for an educated woman to accept herself without her career.

Despite all the hurdles in a woman's life, women are proving themselves that they can do anything they want be. For, they are highly educated nowadays and they are also politically empowered in many countries.

Most importantly, many women are economically independent. But the bottom-line is that family is the top priority for all women all over the world. The way a woman loves and takes care of her family is immense. If women got half of that love, care and respect back from their family and outside world, then half of the world's problems would have been solved.

A woman has as much right as a man has to follow their passion, heart or career after or before becoming a parent. A woman has the power to do anything she wants to do for herself and anyone else for the common good of the society.

Women are the known to balance of the world. Therefore, they can be balance between their career and motherhood. As a woman you do not have to wait to become a parent for your career to kick off. For, women are naturally born for multitasking, meaning they can manage education, career and family responsibilities but only if the right thing is done at the right time. Happy International Women's Day.

By Mark Mapambano

FIREBRAND opposition politician Godbless Lema jetted back into the country on Wednesday last week from Canada where he had been living since December 2020 after he was granted political asylum upon reporting threats to his life here at home.

The former Arusha Urban legislator on Chadema ticket, who lost the seat in 2020 polls, was treated to a hero's welcome at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) by a crowd of cheering supporters dressed in the party's colours of white, red and blue before heading to the northern city of Arusha where he addressed a mammoth rally.

It will be recalled remembered that this comes a month after another firebrand opposition stalwart, Chadema vice chairman (Mainland) Tundu Lissu, arrived back in his homeland after spending most of the past five years in exile in Belgium following an assassination attempt while on parliamentary duties in Dodoma.

On September 7, 2017 during a parliamentary session break, while in his car, then Singida East MP was shot multiple times and seriously injured by unknown assailants in the parking lot of his official parliamentary residence at Area D. There has been neither suspect nor arrest.

The return of the two former legislators, who are known to be among the fiercest critics of the government, follows the lifting of a ban on political rallies by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in January this year.

Those who know both Lissu and Lema will agree with me that these are some of the hardest human beings to impress. It is near-impossible to earn their praise especially if you are in the government or a member of CCM. A confirmed Yanga fan, Lissu is on record saying that he fully supports the team but the only thing that puts him off oftentimes is the football giants' colours namely green and yellow which are the same as CCM's.



Former Arusha Urban MP Godbless Lema addresses a public rally in Arusha city last week shortly after returning back from exile in Canada. File photo

'Tanzania's for all': Return of exiled politicians good for national healing

But after President Samia headed her request for a meeting which happened in February last year in Belgium during which the Head of State assured him his safety and welcomed him back home, Lissu saw Samia as a leader different from others he knew.

He showered the President with praises as someone who cares not about her personal political ambitions but the nation as a whole and was truly committed to healing and uniting the country which was deeply divided by her predecessor John Magufuli who slapped a ban on political rallies for years.

Lema's arrival back to the country coincided with the tour of President Samia in the northern zone and nothing touched him like the gesture of the CCM national chairperson waving to

Chadema members in their party colours who had come out to welcome him.

In his own words, Lema said the President had taught him a lesson of love and unity within diversity, urging the opposition party supporters never to utter unkind words towards the President.

And last Sunday, President Samia pleasantly surprised Lema with an announcement that her government was to drop all court cases against him, further congratulating him for coming home.

"I commend Lema for his decision of returning to his country, that's the beauty of Tanzanian politics," she said at Usa River area while en route to KIA.

The President told the cheering crowd who lined up the Arusha-Moshi highway that Lema had previously pleaded with her for

his return to the country and to have his drummed up court cases dropped.

She went ahead to say that she will not treat opposition politicians and supporters as enemies since they play a significant role of unearthing challenges and loopholes that need government action.

The Head of State declared that "Tanzania is for all" regardless of political affiliation, reiterating her commitment to implementing four Rs approach namely Reconciliation, Reform, Resilience and Rebuilding the country.

As icing to the cake, President Samia agreed to grace an International Women's Day conference organized today by the Chadema women wing (Bawacha) which stakeholders see as demonstration of political maturity and rec-

onciliation effort never seen in recent history of our country.

To earn the praise of politicians and government critics like Lissu and Lema is not a walk in the park. It means that the President has indicated and done something uncommon in our politics. For this, the President should be encouraged to continue in the same trajectory.

Lema fled Tanzania via Kenya in November 2020, citing threats to his life following a disputed election and ended up in Canada in December of the same year with his family.

A fierce critic of the government, Lema served as Member of Parliament for 10 years and was one of many opposition MPs who lost their seats in key strongholds in the 2020 election.

After being sprayed with bul-

lets, Lissu was airlifted to Nairobi Hospital in Kenya for treatment and later flew to Belgium for specialized treatment and self-imposed exile for fear of his life back home.

Apparently, after long diplomatic engagements with foreign powers, he came back home and ran for the 2020 presidential election under Chadema ticket and emerged second after the then incumbent Magufuli.

After the polls whose management and results he contested, Lissu flew back to Belgium at a time when many opposition figures also fled Tanzania, saying their lives were in danger.

But after taking over since 19 March 2021 following the passing on of Magufuli, President Samia has made a number positive changes aimed at healing and uniting the country which she has rightly said belongs to all Tanzanians regardless of political ideology, race, tribe or class. This is the way to go. Isn't it?

The author is a political analyst based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0655 522 922.

International Women's Day 2023: A new global architecture to promote rights of women, girls

By Simone Galimberti

If you want to have a good reading on women and young girls' activism, there is a high chance that you have missed an incredibly interesting report.

Entitled Girls' and Young Women's Activism, the publication is a product of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, formally a special procedure mechanism within the United Nations Human Rights, officially the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The blueprint offers a real and practical guidance on about how the direct involvement and engagement of women and young girls is essential if governments are serious about achieving gender equality and ends, once for all, any type of gender-based discriminations.

The Working Group is composed by five experts, mostly academicians but also practitioners, on women's rights and despite the low profile, it maintains a real busy annual schedule that makes its work incredibly relevant and valuable.

It does not only meet three times a year for planning and coordination and but also holds a dialogue at the Human Rights Council in June in addition to reporting to the General Assembly in October/November and also participates at the annual March meeting of the Commission on the Status of the Women.

On the top of all these tasks and consider that their commitment with the Working Group proceeds along their official and equally demanding full-time jobs, the members also conduct annual visits to member states to monitor and assess their work to protect women and girls against discrimination.

The problem is that its work does get neither visibility nor recognition.

One of the reasons is that the UN human rights architecture promoting and defending the rights of women is too complex and fragmented and requires a drastic overhaul.

There are too many mechanisms often with an almost overlapping mandates tasked



Pakistani women peacekeepers in the audience at the National University of Science and Technology in Islamabad, where Secretary-General António Guterres delivered an address on the topic of peacekeeping. Credit: UN Photo/Mark Garten

to protect women's rights, perhaps also a reflection on the inevitable rivalries at the UN and the consequent compromises that are always struck by the member states.

In addition to the Working Group, there is also the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, currently Ms. Reem Alsalem, who started her tenure on August 2021.

Her mandate is stronger and certainly more visible than those of the members of the Working Group even though she operates within UN Human Rights.

Though the former mechanism is focused on fighting discrimination and the latter is instead exclusively aimed at assessing cases of violence against women, you might wonder if it could be more effective and value for money to devise a more united approach, a more effective modality to monitor and defend the rights of women around the world.

Certainly, we cannot discount the fact that we are talking about special procedures mechanisms within the Human Rights Council, an intergovernmental body within the UN that is actually the only forum where the member states of the UN discuss, share and peer reviews their human rights.

The special procedures are important because they uniquely

involve top experts in matters of human rights and their contributions provide even more legitimacy to the important work that the UN System is doing to uphold the rights of vulnerable persons around the world.

A possibility to strengthen their work could be to imagine a different "governance" that maximizes their opinions and reviews, even with the possibility to provide full time tenures and adequate resources to support their work and give it the visibility it deserves.

Let's also bear in mind that in matter of women's rights, there is also the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that should be considered as the guardian of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women known as CEDAW.

It is composed by twenty-three experts and one of its main tasks is to "assist States parties in the preparation of initial and subsequent periodic reports" and holding constructive dialogue with them and issue the so called "concluding observations" on what the member states present to show their commitment to CEDAW.

To help with coordination among mechanisms, there is actually, at least on the paper, a very lean and weak coordinating mechanism

called Platform of Independent UN and Regional Experts Mechanisms on Elimination of Discrimination and Violence against Women, or EDVAW Platform.

Officially started in 2017, the platform aims to "promote thematic and institutional cooperation between the UN and regional expert mechanisms on the elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls with the view of accelerating domestication of international and regional standards, achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls".

The reality is that this mechanism never got traction nor got the mandate to truly coordinate among UN and external, autonomous regional mechanisms outside of the purview of the UN system.

Mentioned earlier, the Commission on the Status of the Women is the oldest of all these mechanisms that, while proved to be indispensable over the last decades to mainstream women rights within the universal human rights agenda, is now outdated.

Till now we have been only focusing on mechanisms to uphold, monitor and protect the rights of women.

We have not yet discussed the "program" side of the equation,

the work to prevent violence and discrimination against women and promote their empowerment being done by UN agencies and programs, including UN Women the agency that provides the secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women.

In this respect, there is also, always within the UN System, the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality or IANWGE, bringing together all the main women focal points of all UN agencies and programs.

Under responsibility of UN Women, the Network appears weak and just a formality though we should assume that at country level, all the work related to women's empowerment is coordinated under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (formerly named United Nations Development Assistance Framework).

This is a process that itself could require a further upgrade to truly maximize cooperation and avoidance of overlaps between and among agencies and programs.

It is evident that in both domains, on the one hand, the human rights accountability mechanisms and on the other hand, the actions and programs on the ground to change the status quo, there is need of a much stronger synergy and coordination.

dination, something that might be objected by several members of the UN that are unlikely to support anything akin to strengthen mechanisms upholding human rights.

Even the Commission on the Status of Women itself, whose upcoming session will be held between the 6 and 17 March, this year should be re-thought.

With a multiyear thematic plan, the Commission, is a toothless and unnoticed advocacy and knowledge creation institution that each year comes up with a topic up for analysis and discussion.

This year, for example, the focus will be on "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls" while last year's theme was centered on climate change, environment and disaster prevention.

There are no doubts that it is important to have a global convening forum that brings together the top experts on issues that are so relevant to achieve SDG 5. Yet it is not hard to imagine how a stronger, more coordinated women centered architecture in the UN could achieve and produce more while spending less.

Let's remind ourselves that the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs brought some institutional innovations in the way the UN operates, primarily the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that is the major SDGs focused platform promoted by the UN.

Besides its usual gathering in July, this year the Forum will also host another SDG Summit in September, the biggest format to discuss about and review the SDGs at the highest levels of political leadership worldwide.

Yet, while we are referring to a strong advocacy and review mechanism with a considerable amount of convening power, the High-Level Political Forum is simply what it is, a review mechanism of countries' performances towards accomplishing the SDGs and important vehicle for debating them.

IPS UN Bureau

By Mercy Erhi Makpor

THE accelerating pace of digitalization has ushered humanity into a whole different era of information and communication. Today, digitalization permeates every aspect of our lives, socio-economically and politically.

People can leverage digital technology to scale up activities to impact their private and public lives. Citizens can access various digital services such as registrations, voting, conducting business and making online transactions, amongst others. Changes have seen digital technologies thrive.

However, this has come with little or no impact on gender, especially on women and girls. Thus, how is gender equality promoted amid this fast pace of digitalization, and how has this impacted digitalization?

There is a great gap in women's and girls' adoption of digital technology compared to men's and boys'. It has been reported that more than 50 per cent of women are offline globally. In the Global South, this is more pronounced as the internet penetration rate for women is 41 per cent, compared to 53 per cent for men.

In 2020, it was found that 393 million women in developing regions do not own mobile phones when compared to 8% globally.

There are also substantial regional differences, especially in the sub-Saharan and South Asia regions, with gender gaps in ownership of digital devices falling as low as 13% and 23%, respectively. Invariably, women are more likely than men to share or borrow digital devices from friends and family members.

Some studies show that women are 20% less likely than men to own a digi-



Researchers from different backgrounds and genders at a project meeting in Guimarães, Portugal, during a conference. Credit: UNU-EGOV / Cristina Braga

Promoting gender equality and narrowing digital divide



In 2020, it was found that 393 million women in developing regions do not own mobile phones when compared to 8% globally.

tal device. Depending on the ability to access, use and adopt digital technology, digitalization will keep increasing in speed.

More so, as digital technology is proactively embraced, it is essential to facilitate skills, access, affordability, and usage for women and girls. Associated policies for facilitating these processes should propel or bring about change for gender equality and inclusion.

Digital technology can indeed be a concrete tool for the development of policies and programs for women and girls to overcome in-

equalities. Digitalization can also help to speed up gender policy interventions while at the same time bridging the gender digital divide.

This can be achieved by engaging more women and girls in sectors such as health, education, technology, services, etc. However, in the absence of indicators differentiated by gender, it is difficult to measure impact.

More so, without indicators such as age, income level, and literacy, there is always bound to be little or no impact. Gender equal-

ity remains one of the fundamental means of curbing the gender digital divide while digitalization is taking place. It is very significant to the progress of women and girls in a digitalized society.

Currently, taking up initiatives for the promotion of gender equality is one of the ways through which countries strive to close the gender digital divide amid digitalization. For instance, there is a strong call for promoting an educational and knowledge infrastructure scheme in remote rural areas in the Global South.

Countries such as Ghana, Kenya, Botswana, India, Bangladesh, and Nepal are taking the initiative to improve the skills level and usage of women for the reduction of the gender digital divide. For women with small- and medium-scale enterprises, having proper access to financial products and services is of great importance.

Governments and financial institutions are seen to be taking up initiatives to help accelerate access for female entrepreneurs and business owners to tap into financial resources, which in turn leads to a reduction in the digital gender divide and the promotion of gender equality.

Furthermore, women play very vital roles in their families and communities, as they traditionally are the incubators of small start-up businesses. This also promotes gender equality while presenting the possibility of accelerating women's participation in digital technology, thereby reducing the gender digital divide.

For instance, in Europe and North America, scholars and insti-

tutions are calling on policymakers to address the need for the continuous improvement of digitalization and skills for women through innovative technical ideas.

As a functional tool for attaining sustainable development, digitalization is not only central to modern societies; it is a means to unlocking opportunities for social interactions. More so, it is an opportunity for the promotion of gender equality and the reduction of the gender digital divide.

However, due to it not being gender-neutral, gender dimensions that impact women and men must be considered when addressing the gender digital divide. Significantly, access, ownership, and use of digital devices are not gender-neutral; therefore, women tend to face more barriers than men in the accessibility and use of digital technology.

There have to be better opportunities for women to be able to access and take advantage of both socioeconomic and political positions. Also, access to digital devices will help to increase women's online activities, thereby reducing the gender digital divide and promoting gender equality.

Notably, women must play active roles, get involved, and through gender experts and women's organizations, come up with policies and service designs to enhance women's needs, inclusion, and empowerment.

Governments must ensure that the privacy and security of women and girls are protected. They should also safeguard enhanced, affordable, and inclusive service delivery for women, especially those in rural environments.

‘Courage, education, empowerment, key for women working in mines’

By Guardian Reporter

WHEN someone talks about working in mining, most people have an image of someone wearing a hard hat with a headlamp, and everyone who works in a mine is exclusively underground.

This image has led some people to believe that working in mining is only for men because of these conditions. But for Neema Mwidibo, who has worked in mining for 20 years, this is a different story.

Neema who is a mother of four, joined GGML in 2005 and started working as a radio receptionist and data analyst, even though she only had a secondary school certificate.

“I was born in Nyarugusu village in Geita town. After I completed my education in Geita, I really wanted to work at Geita Gold Mine after seeing my brothers working there,” she says, recounting that she started working at the mine as a radio receiver and data analyst.

As she had limited schooling, training was very close to her heart, so she saved money to achieve this goal and gradually, she joined a distance learning programme at Cambridge University in the UK and successfully obtained a diploma in procurement, which enabled her to join GGML’s procurement department.

Neema says that after a year she decided to go back to university to do a Bachelor of Arts in Procurement and Supply Chain Management and had to stop working to have enough time for herself to study. After completing her studies, Neema returned to GGML and she is a senior supervisor in the procurement department. At the mine she made a unique, lifelong contribution to her successful professional development.

Neema recently participated

in a special training designed to empower women to reach high working positions—Female Future Tanzania Programme (FFT), which helped catapult her to the position of Senior Supervisor: Procurement & Contracts.

“During this training, I met great women in different companies who all had inspiring stories that convinced me that it is possible for me as a woman to work at the highest level. During the training, I learned about different aspects of leadership and different programmes,” she says.

At GGML, she says, a lot of attention is paid to women when it comes to different opportunities, on-the-job training, education, and even employment.

“I encourage my female colleagues to pursue a career in mining as the work environment is safe for them and their future. If someone comes here, GGML can give them the opportunity to develop academically and professionally,” she says.

Lina Sitta

Mwidibo’s statement also applies to Lina Sitta – Senior Officer Training Officer – HSE&T at Geita Gold Mine.

Her journey began in 2003 as an assistant teacher at the GGML Kindergarten School, which is part of the Geita Gold International School. She worked there for seven years and was then transferred to the primary school where she worked for four years.

She was later promoted to Safety and Training Officer where she worked for four years and then became Senior Safety and Training Officer. Lina says her success is due to the opportunities GGML gave her from one position to the next.

“The success came mainly through hard work. I am a teacher, but I used the advantages I saw to



Neema Mwidibo

do fruitful work for the company.

She says she loved teaching from a young age, although she loved journalism and broadcasting. She says GGML has been at the forefront of supporting women’s efforts by setting up various programmes and initiatives that can promote and develop them to recognise their contribution.

“GGML has launched many programmes, including FFT, because every year four or five women participate in training that prepares them to become better leaders and even board members,” she says.

Lina, who is also the vice-chairperson of the GGM Ladies Association, which discusses, ad-

vises and resolves various issues of women working in the mine within GGML, says the company’s policy is good for every woman.

Women’s Day

Speaking about International Women’s Day, which is celebrated every year on 8 March, Lina believes that society should prepare girls from an early age to be confident, know their worth, and know that they can be leaders.

It is important to prepare girls because their roles are not limited to domestic duties and carrying and giving birth, but much more. But the community also needs to create partnerships so that the person can adapt to an environ-

ment that offers much more.

“But also, companies that have female employees should have specific programs that will be regularly evaluated on how much they can help these women grow,” she says.

She also urges women at GGML and in Tanzania to apply for jobs advertised at GGML and work hard if successful.

“Work is the foundation of your life and development. If one does something they do not like, it’s a waste of time, so they should love their work and their position to develop personally and their company.”

Dr Subira Joseph, who has been with GGML for more than 10

years, says the company has offered a variety of educational and professional opportunities since 2021 and has also successfully participated in the FFT programme, which gives her confidence.

“I can handle a variety of responsibilities, such as leading my department,” she says; “This training has obviously helped me a lot.”

She says when she started at GGML there were no female doctors, and some female employees felt uncomfortable being treated by male doctors, so a mix of female and male medical professionals increased efficiency within the company.

Josephine Kimambo, who interned at GGML after graduating from Ardhi University, says she learned a lot in a short time in mining.

Josephine was one of 12 students from the class of 2012 who participated in the special graduate programme that provided them with on-the-job training. Seven of them were taken on and are employed in various departments at GGML. Josephine proved her skills during her 8 years as an environmental engineer and was promoted to senior engineer in the environmental department, where she still works today.

“I encourage my female colleagues to join this industry because if you have the right attitude and want to work hard, there are many opportunities at GGML. GGML has a diverse workforce with people from all corners of the world.

Melxedeck Mulokozi, who has worked at GGML for more than 14 years, advises women to realize that they can achieve anything, just like the current President of the United Republic of Tanzania, who is a woman.

“If you look at GGML’s policies, it is clear that they have equal values and respect for all. They want to give everyone the right to address something they think is wrong and should not be done because of their gender. Women should not hesitate to take to the streets and be confident in their ability to do so.”

By Correspondent Deodatus

Mfugale

IWD: A call to promote women’s ownership of land

IN all countries in the world, the International Women’s Day (IWD) represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater gender equality. This day encourages effective global action for advancing and recognizing women in the quest for gender equality and in Tanzania, striving to achieve gender equality in land ownership and other property in general.

This year’s theme, DigitALL: innovation and technology for gender equality, speaks volumes in the context of using technology and innovation to promote the rights of women to own land and protect that ownership through acquisition of certificates of customary rights of occupancy (CCRO), among others.

For Tanzanian women, the International Women’s Day presents another opportunity to make their voices on land ownership and secure tenure heard by local and the international community while at the same time strives to strengthen their resolve to narrow the existing gender gap. For government it is a reminder to step up legal reforms and budgetary allocation both in a bid to create more space for reforms that would hasten the realization of women’s land ownership and protection of the same.

For local and international NGOs, CBOs and other civil society organizations, IWD reminds them of their responsibility to educate and raise awareness among women of the importance of owning land and using it to reduce poverty, among other things.

Using the strength of their coalitions, the non-state actors are better placed to work with grassroots women groups in order to groom informed women and girls who are ready and willing to stand up for their rights to own land. Projects and programmes such as Stand for Her Land (S4HL) that is being implemented by a coalition of NGOs under the leadership of Landesa



Women who own land are better producers than those who work on land they don’t own (File Photo)

have been instrumental in reaching out to rural women and educating them on the right to own land and benefits associated with that ownership to individuals and families.

“The International Women’s Day is an opportunity for soul-searching among stakeholders to determine their contribution in empowering women to own land and protecting that ownership. It is an opportunity for government to come up with new commitments to better speed up the process of ensuring that women and men have equal space to own land and ensure that the right of women to own land is upheld and protected,” said Landesa Tanzania Country Director Godfrey Massay. He was speaking on the sidelines of the Training of Trainers workshop for Land Rights Monitors under the Stand for Her Land programme conducted in Morogoro recently.

Among other things, the Land Rights Monitors are trained in basic land laws, policies and land administration as well as Women’s

rights and responsible land investments. Their duty is to help other women appreciate their right to own land, resolve land disputes in their areas and help to reduce cultural barriers that prohibit women from owning land and other property.

The theme for this year, (Innovation and technology for gender equality), challenges stakeholders to use technology to promote gender equality in land ownership. By using modern technology government should put in place more land use plans particularly in the rural areas, and speed up issuance of CCROs to women so that they may have proof of ownership and that ownership is secure. “In this way we can reduce the gender gap in the ownership of land and other property between men and women. In order to achieve this goal Landesa is working with government, local and international NGOs, CBOs, rural women groups and development partners to create awareness of the need for wom-

en and girls to own land and provide them with secure tenure. The Stand for Her Land Programme seeks to realize this goal,” explains Landesa Director.

Besides promoting women’s rights to own land, IWD should also serve as a platform to chart out strategies towards achieving gender equality in ownership of land and other property and highlighting benefits that a family may enjoy when a woman owns land legally. “Over the years, the slogans, themes and commitments have ended at IWD celebrations but I think we have to take these further and translate them into action so that there is evidence of increased awareness, education and more women actually owning land legally. IWD is a call to action for every woman to demand the right to own land. This action should go hand in hand with education which should also target girls, to raise awareness on the importance of owning land and protecting that ownership so that it becomes a game changer in

the lives of women,” says Sarah Fulgence, a land rights monitor from Utete in Rufiji District.

Some women have the view that IWD should be an opportunity for campaigners to muster support from NGOs, CBOs, government and individuals in promoting women’s ownership of land and protect that ownership. They argue that when women are assured of ownership and realize that their ownership is protected, they become free to use their land to make it more productive for the benefit of their families. They also acquire peace of mind and engage in other income generating activities, thereby acquiring a new status and respect from the community.

Still others think that it is a platform through which campaigners of gender equality can send the message far and wide, thus reaching more women who could otherwise not be contacted. There are many ways to spread information and various organisations have their own strategies of promoting gender equality in land ownership but IWD provides one platform for the whole world and that platform is used to relay the same information to global citizens. It is also a chance to review strategies that have been employed to promote women’s land ownership and to make decisions whether there is need to change those strategies so as to reach more people and create a bigger impact.

“Special in this year’s IWD message is the use of technology and innovation to promote gender equality. With particular emphasis on gender equality in land ownership, I suggest that the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, and District Councils should strive to speed up land surveys so that many women can own land within a short time. I think it is also important for women to be issued CCROs as proof and security of that ownership,” says Joyce Nganyule, a Land Rights

Monitor from Kibaigwa in Kongwa District.

Other than that IWD should be used to educate women on their right to own land and other property and how that ownership can help them to lift themselves out of poverty. Many women in the rural areas lack information and thus fail to take informed decisions and actions. Some women who own land do not know how to use it in order to improve their lives with the result that there is no evidence of improvement after being issued with CCROs. There are also cases where women have given their CCROs to their husbands and wanting to have nothing to do with them. While celebrations are conducted in various places, the focus should be in villages where many women need to be educated not only on the importance of owning land but also on how to use it as a means to change lives.

Anna Marwa works with PELUM Tanzania as Gender and Women Empowerment Officer. PELUM is a member of the NGO coalition that implements the Stand for Her Land Programme. She says that IWD serves to remind women of the success and failures they have experienced in the struggle for gender equality. More importantly, it reminds them to step up efforts to demand the right to own land and protect that ownership through secure tenure. “Innovation and technology should enable government to speed up implementation of land use plans and issuance of CCROs particularly to women so that their land may not only be protected but also they may use it for economic gain. Subsequently through technology more women should be able to own land within a short time as technology would make land surveys and implementation of land use plans fast and easy. It will also scale up efforts towards closing the gender gap in ownership of land and property in general,” she explains.

Her land, her rights: Advancing gender equality and land restoration missions

By Andrea Meza

WHEN it comes to land, gender inequalities are pervasive. Today, nearly half of the global agricultural workforce is female – yet less than one in five landholders worldwide are women.

Women's land rights are essential for their economic empowerment and the sustainable development of rural communities. However, women continue to face significant barriers to accessing and controlling land resources, which limits their ability to participate fully in agricultural production, improve their livelihoods, and contribute to broader economic growth.

Moreover, the lack of access to land and other productive resources adversely impacts on women's enjoyment of human rights.

According to a landmark study by UNCCD, gender equality remains unfinished business in every part of the world. For instance, in more than 100 countries today, women cannot inherit their husband's property under customary, religious, or traditional laws and practices.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some women tragically lost not only their spouses but also access to their land. Even in countries where women have the same legal rights as men to own and access land – as is the case in Costa Rica – only 15.6% of farm ownership is currently in the hands of women. In the Middle East and North Africa region, just 4% of women hold land titles.

Discrimination related to land tenure, credit access, equal pay and decision making often keeps women from playing an active role in sustaining land health. When



Women hold a vital stake in the health of the land, yet they often don't have control over it. Securing women's land rights can help advance the intertwined global goals on gender equality and land restoration. Credit: United Nations



And when land becomes degraded and water is scarce, rural women are usually the worst affected, often skipping meals in favour of other family members.

they do have property rights, women often own smaller plots, and less fertile lands, compared to male landowners.

And when land becomes degraded and water is scarce, rural women are usually the worst affected, often skipping meals in favour of other family members.

Globally, women already spend a collective 200 million hours every day collecting water. In some countries, a single trip to fetch water can take over an hour. Droughts make the situation even harder – they tend to increase the burden of unpaid care and domestic work shouldered by women and girls.

But women are not only on the frontline of climate change and land degradation impacts; they can also be major actors in the

global efforts to restore the land back to health and boost drought resilience.

Evidence shows that when women and men have equal land tenure rights, women are more likely to invest in soil conservation and sustainable land management practices. For example, in Ethiopia, land certification and registration undertaken in the early 2000s increased tenure security for women and men and boosted landowners' likelihood of investing in soil and water conservation measures by 20-30%.

Gender equality is vital to deliver sustainable, progressive, and meaningful action to advance sustainable land stewardship. The recognition of women's land and resource rights will accelerate land restoration efforts by open-

ing doors to markets and finance, training and other services, and gender-appropriate sustainable land management tools and technologies.

It will also enable women to step up their contribution to the achievement of climate and biodiversity goals, keeping global temperature increase to 1.5°C and restoring at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030.

Already, women worldwide use traditional knowledge and innovative solutions to address desertification, land degradation and drought. In India, irrigation systems developed by women farmers rely on rainwater harvesting. In Jordan, a plant nursery entirely run by women using state-of-the-art methodologies and protocols is producing high-quality native

seedlings for land restoration.

The UNCCD has a long track record in placing gender equality firmly at the core of its mandate as a vital catalyst of progress. Gender-responsive land restoration is an obvious pathway to reduce poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.

When women are empowered to have a say in decision-making on land matters, entire communities and societies benefit, and these benefits can be passed on to future generations.

We must urgently change the way both women and land are treated. We must invest more in women as the custodians of healthy land and thriving communities. It's time for women and girls to be at the forefront of land restoration efforts.

For this, governments must take action to assess and reform legal and regulatory frameworks, promote gender-responsive policies and public services, and support successful programmes that promote women's rights to land and resources.

Ending discrimination against women in their access to, use of, and control over land and other resources is crucial. In doing so, we can create a more just and sustainable world for all.

Andrea Meza Murillo is Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Prior to joining the Convention, she served as Minister of Energy and Environment for the Government of Costa Rica. She brings over 20 years of expertise in sustainable development, having worked in more than 15 Latin American countries to formulate public policies, participate in international negotiations, and execute climate, conservation and restoration projects.

IPS UN Bureau

Presidency overhaul: Surprises, expected departures in SA's latest cabinet shake up

By Marianne Merten

THE extent and scope of the changes in the Presidency are significant – even if expected were the appointments of Paul Mashatile, the ANC deputy president, as Deputy President of the country, and the Presidency infrastructure chief Kgosisentho Ramokgopa as electricity minister in the Presidency.

A key surprise on Monday night was the re-establishment of a full ministry for performance monitoring and evaluation, since the March 2015 death of Collins Chabane in a car crash. Since then, that function fell under the minister in the Presidency, and at times had a deputy minister in place.

Ramaphosa said such a minister would "focus greater attention on the performance of government", a key theme in his administration. The incoming performance monitoring and evaluation minister in the Presidency is Maropene Ramokgopa, formerly the presidential international affairs adviser and, since the December ANC Nasrec conference, also the governing party's second deputy secretary-general.

In addition, a new minister in the Presidency was announced. Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, whom the grapevine has long put close to Ramaphosa, replaces Mondli Gungubele, who had been closely linked to the President in government and party.

And two new deputy ministers in the Presidency were named – Nomasondo Motaung and Kenny Morolong, both elevated from the ANC parliamentary back benches that supplied a total of seven new deputy ministers announced on Monday evening.

In a surprise move, Nkosazana

Dlamini Zuma kept a spot in Cabinet – as minister for women, youth and people with disabilities in the Presidency. Her departure had been much speculated, given she was one of a handful of ANC MPs who voted for the Section 89 impeachment inquiry recommendation report to go ahead in December 2022.

Her deputy will be MP Sisi Tolashe, one-time ANC Women's League secretary-general; the post had been vacant since September 2021.

That means Maite Nkoana-Mashabane is dropped, one of two ministers widely regarded as non-performing, alongside Nathi Mthethwa, as the sports, arts and culture ministry is now headed by Zizi Kodwa. Becoming a full minister is perhaps the sweetener for being moved out of the Presidency.

Widely expected was the departure of Lindiwe Sisulu, who had called the President a "liar" and attacked his leadership. Also expected was the dropping of deputy minister Phumulo Masualle, who had contested in the anti-Ramaphosa camp at the December Nasrec elective ANC conference. He has been replaced in public enterprises by Obed Bapela, who must be among the longest-serving deputies.

Tourism now will be headed by Good party leader Patricia de Lille, whose former deputy in Public Works, ex-Eastern Cape premier Noxolo Kiviet becomes public service and administration minister.

The two other deputy ministers making it into Cabinet are long-time deputy at transport, Sindi Chikunga, who becomes transport minister – Fikile Mbalula is full-time at Luthuli House as ANC secretary-general – and Coopera-



President Cyril Ramaphosa announces the new members of the National Executive during an address held at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, 6 March 2023. (Photo: GCIS)

tive Governance Deputy Minister Thembi Nkadimeng takes over the portfolio as minister.

Monday's reshuffle shows Ramaphosa still has one Cabinet post handy for appointing a non-MP in terms of Section 91 (3)(c) of the Constitution that allows two such non-parliamentarians to serve in the Cabinet.

But this raises questions over the need to swear in as an MP the trade, industry and competition minister, Ebrahim Patel, just hours before the presidential announcement. Or the need to swear in as an MP the other minister who was not, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana.

A cynical move

For both to become legislators is a cynical move to give Ramaphosa scope to appoint two other non-MPs into this Cabinet. It bears remembering that Patel only got in as minister as a non-MP because he was so low on the 2019 ANC elected public representatives list he didn't make it to the parliamentary benches.

This time around, like never before, Parliament got pulled into the massaging and ANC prepping for a Cabinet reshuffle – the elected public representatives' candidates' lists of five provinces were changed, by "persuading" sitting MPs to resign, so those earmarked

for Cabinet could become legislators.

That meant Mashatile and Parks Tau – he returns to his previous posting of cooperative governance deputy minister – took the spots of Tshilidzi Munyai and Matshidiso Mfikoe, who resigned as ANC MPs so the Gauteng legislature lists could be amended.

Ex-KwaZulu-Natal premier and MEC Sihle Zikalala, the incoming public works minister, took the spot on the parliamentary benches vacated by Mervyn Dirks.

The Limpopo legislature's elected public representatives list was amended after ANC MP Masefako Dikgale resigned, so the list could accommodate Maropene Ramokgopa as a legislator, and now incoming performance, monitoring and evaluation minister.

For Godongwana to top the Eastern Cape legislature lists, Mike Basopu resigned as MP, and ANC MP Linda Moss did the same in the Western Cape so the lists could be amended to accommodate Patel.

Ramaphosa, in Monday's televised announcement of the reshuffled executive, said the amount of time it's taken to finalise this, "is the result of a number of processes that needed to be followed, some of which relate to the requirements of the Constitution relating to the appointment of members of the national executive".

Section 91(2) of the Constitution on appointing a Cabinet is clear and simple: "The President appoints the deputy president and ministers, assigns them their powers and functions, and may dismiss them."

But ANC criteria and dynamics are something else – from consultations with Tripartite Alliance partners Cosatu and the South

African Communist Party, the ANC leagues for women, veterans and youth, and others. Then the ticking-off of gender, youth and geographical requirements. And so it's really more about the ANC factions and their appeasement and Byzantine manoeuvrings.

The massaging, if not outright manipulation of the national legislature, and its processes, to pave the way for this 6 March reshuffle will come back to haunt Parliament and the provincial legislatures.

Curiously, the line on Mbalula has been that he doesn't have to resign, as his Cabinet term ends in the reshuffle. However, he still has to resign as MP – and now without a resignation from Cabinet, he's effectively in the same position as ditched colleagues Sisulu, Mthethwa and Nkoana-Mashabane.

But Parliament's back benches have provided a pool of deputy ministers. They include not only the two new Presidency deputy ministers, but also ANC MP Judith Tshabalala as deputy in water and sanitation alongside David Mahlobo who remains in place, and Bernice Swarts as public works deputy, while Dipuo Peters, a one-time energy minister, returns to the executive as deputy in the small business development portfolio.

On Monday evening, Ramaphosa said he was confident this was his team to resolve South Africa's challenges: rotational power cuts, unemployment, poverty, high cost of living, crime and corruption.

"I have instructed both new and existing members of Cabinet to act with speed and urgency to address the challenges that our country faces. I expect them to fulfil their tasks with rigour and dedication, to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to corruption wherever it exists, and to place the interests of the people of South Africa foremost," said Ramaphosa.

Initial political and business reactions to the announcement were tepid. How this new Cabinet fares, time will tell – at latest, the 2024 elections. DM

Cloud communications platform promotes more women into top positions

By Guardian Correspondent

Global cloud communications platform Infobip celebrates the International Women's Day by reinforcing the relevance of gender equity as part of its company structure and the value added upon the business strategy, go-to-market, and high performance, due to women that are part of its employee's team force.

Infobip says it celebrates the date by strengthening pillars of gender equity on a global level by highlighting the strongly established female presence as part of the company's organizational structure. Of Croatian origin and with a presence in over 70 countries worldwide, Infobip is a multinational company known for being a communications platform for all platforms and is therefore an extremely technological company, made mostly by engineers.

Contrary to what many people may think when talking about a technology industry and a company made by engineers, at Infobip, the volume of women in vital positions for the business stands out when we look at the female representation in all regions where Infobip is in the world.

From Africa to the world, Tshidsegang Mosenyegi was promoted during her maternity leave at Infobip and became head of marketing for the Middle East and Africa region.

"My promotion is proof that Infobip recognizes its professionals through meritocracy and results, and I am happy to work in an organization that thinks this way," she says.

From North America to Asia, women represent between 39 percent and 54 percent of the company's workforce, which also has more than 43 percent women working in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Female representation in Croatia, Latin America, and India averages around 34 percent.

According to Accenture's latest

Resetting Tech Culture study from 2021, there are 5 proposed actions to be taken by tech companies which are looking to retain women on their teams.

Among the proposals are a work environment that supports women with strategic mentors and collaboration networks among other company employees, thus providing an interesting place to work, and a workplace in which employees are recognized for their talents, creativity, and innovation.

Mirela Topi, head of people at the company in EMEA Region, comments: "I've been at Infobip for a little over a year and I really feel that I can be who I want to be. I can position myself and, through my role, support other women in their career paths in an easy and promising way."

Giovanna Dominiquini, Sales Manager for the South Region of Latin America says "My relationship with Infobip has existed since 2017. Since then, I have been recognized for my deliveries to the business in the region where I work, which shows that recognition for both men and women is a uniform reality in our company. I am proud to work in a company that offers such an environment of equity like Infobip," says Dominiquini.

Infobip's APAC head of marketing Jessica Furtado says: "Infobip is a company that breathes diversity of opinions and cultures. Everyone here is given the opportunity to lead their projects, enabling them to move forward with confidence and contribute their ideas".

"As leaders, we are committed to maintaining an environment where everyone can work together, regardless of gender with equal opportunities and access to resources so that they can reach their full potential. We have a culture of respect, inclusion, and collaboration, where everyone can contribute their unique skillsets and perspectives," she added.



Tshidsegang Mosenyegi, Infobip's head of marketing for the Middle East and Africa region

EABL pushes DSE index up on week's opening

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange All Share Index (DSEI) opened the week in high note after closing at 1,942.33 points on Monday, an increase of 19.13 percent, compared with 1,923.02 points recorded during last week's close.

The DSE market report shows the increase of all share index caused by appreciation of East African Breweries Limited (EABL) share by 8.18 percent to 3,440/- on Monday close, compared with last week's closing price of 3,180/-.

The increase of EABL share price has also pushed its market capitalization to 2.7trn/- compared with 2.5trn/- respectively as well as total DSE market capitalization to 16.18trn/- compared with

16.02trn/- respectively.

This week, the British multinational Diageo's offer to buy an extra 14.97 percent stake in East African Breweries Plc (EABL) were oversubscribed in the first phase of the offer, signaling high investor appetite for the premium the company offered for the shares.

Diageo on Monday said it has been offered 122.018 million shares by EABL owners in the initial phase, which closed on February 24, which is higher than the entire number of 118.394 million units the company is looking to buy in two steps, according to Kenyan media.

The three percent oversubscription means that allocations will now be done on a prorated basis as earlier advertised by Diageo, prioritising early bidders who

were on the EABL shareholder register by January 16 (the record date of the offer).

The London-based company is executing the acquisition of the additional stake through its wholly-owned subsidiary Diageo Kenya, through which it already holds a 50.03 percent stake in EABL.

This stake will rise to 65 percent now that Diageo has already achieved offers exceeding its target.

Meanwhile, Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which measures the performance of locally listed companies closed flat at 4,041.47 points during the reported period.

Share prices for locally listed companies remained flat during the week's opening, compared with last week's close.

The market report shows total

turnover amounting 38.5m/- was recorded during the week opening, following the transaction of 57,557 shares traded in 47 deals, lower than 97.5mn/- recorded on Friday last week.

Top mover was CRDB Bank Plc, which transacted 53,215 shares valued 23.7mn/- traded at a price ranging between 445/- and 450/- in 28 deals.

NMB Plc became second after transacting 2,077 shares valued 7.2mn/- traded at a price ranging from 3,500/- to 3,600/- in six deals and Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC) followed after transacting 1,641 shares valued 6.7mn/- traded at a price of 4,100/- in eight deals.

During the week's opening, all shares were sold and bought by local investors 100 percent.



Maunga Orphanage Centre Director Ms Zainabu Maunga (seated) speaking after receiving various items donated by Halotel Tanzania as part of commemorating the International Women's Day. Standing left is Halotel Customer Care Officer Ms. Hanh Hong Thi Nguyen. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Orphans find comforter ahead of International Women's Day

By Guardian Reporter

As part of commemorating the International Women's Day and implementation of its Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR), Halotel Tanzania has donated various items to Maunga orphanage centre to improve and bring smiles to people living in difficult condition.

The donated items include 670 Kg bags of rice, 50 kgs of beans, 80 liters buckets of cooking oil, 140 kgs of maize flour, 20 kgs of sugar, detergent and bar washing soaps, 6 dozens of sanitary pads. The donation is also part of Halotel's ongoing commitment to supporting local communities, particularly those in needs in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking on the hand over event at the Orphanage Centre,

Halotel Customer Care Officer Ms. Hanh Hong Thi Nguyen noted that the charity is just part of the company's biggest efforts to show love and care to the society in need towards the climax to mark and celebrate International Women's Day on 8th March 2023.

She also spoke about the importance of supporting women and girls in Tanzania, by stating, "As a company, we recognize the critical role that women play in society and the economy. We believe that it is our responsibility to support and empower women, particularly those who are most vulnerable".

The center which received the donation is a home to over 120 children who have been orphaned and many have experienced significant trauma and hardship.

The center provides a safe and nurturing environment where they can receive the care and support they need.

"Today we're giving 670 Kg bags of rice, 50 kgs of beans, 80 liters buckets of cooking oil, 140 kgs of maize flour, 20 kgs of sugar, detergent and bar washing soaps, 6 dozens of sanitary pads and others. For showing a little support to them we have seen that it's good for us to give them these gifts to help them feel loved like other people," Hanh added.

In addition to the donation, Halotel is also hosting a series of events and activities at Halotel shops available all over the country to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The activity includes provid-

ing gifts to any woman customer who will visit Halotel shops for a service and will stand a chance to receive different gifts ranging from African prints, scratch card voucher etc all designed to inspire and empower women for innovation and technology for gender equality.

Speaking about the donation, the center's director Mrs. Zainab Maunga expressed her gratitude to Halotel by stating, "We are so grateful for this generous donation from Halotel. It will make a huge difference to the children here, who are in desperate need of basic necessities like food and clothing. We appreciate Halotel's commitment to supporting our community, and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the future."

Dar City Council issues 2.9bn/- loans to women, youths



Ilala district commissioner Edward Mpogoro (3rd R), and DCB Commercial Bank managing director Isidori Msaki (4th R) present a 790mn/- dummy cheque to representatives of 60 women, youth and people living with disabilities issued by Dar es Salaam City Council. The groups are account holders with the bank. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

The DCB Commercial Bank has received 790mn/- as part of the 2.9bn/- loans issued by Dar es Salaam City Council to 76 entrepreneurship groups in Dar es Salaam, while promising to offer the needed support to all entrepreneurship beneficiary.

DCB Commercial Bank Managing Director Isidori Msaki said yesterday that the bank will ensure that the youth, women and disabled groups are supported 100 percent, so as to grow their business and improve their income to stimulate economic growth and create jobs.

"DCB Commercial bank supports government initia-

tives of ensuring that its citizens benefit from the loans offered by various councils in the country," he said.

The Dar es Salaam City Council is implementing the law that requires it to set aside 10 percent of its revenue collections to support various social groups particularly women, youths and disabled groups.

The Ilala District Commissioner (DC) Edward Mpogoro who was the guest of honour at the dummy cheque handing event to DCB Commercial bank and other banks acknowledged the women for their involvement in various economic activities.

Mpogoro said the move does not only ensure the groups economic improve-

ment, but also stimulate country's economic growth.

The DC acknowledged various women, youths and disabled groups for their quality products, saying they needed to grab the opportunity to export their products in the neighbouring countries.

"Today 76 groups will benefit from the 2.9bn/- loans offered by Dar es Salaam City Council at free interest rate," he said.

Mpogoro asked the groups to use the funds wisely so as to benefit from the loans and also repay back to ensure other groups also access the loans.

He asked the DCC to ensure that they help various groups to market their prod-

ucts so as to be assured of the market for their products.

So far, the Dar es Salaam City Council has issued at least Sh23.5 billion to at least 1,973 groups in Dar es Salaam city ad of June last year.

At least 420 groups had applied for the DCC loans totaling 33bn/-.

Commenting, Dar es Salaam City Council's executive director Eng. Aman Mafuru said over 1,000 entrepreneurship groups have already benefited from the local government loans through digital loan management system.

A beneficiary from Ua Waidi, Ilham Habibi which got 60mn/- loan from DCC, said the loan will help to improve their lives.

Ethiopia's tax reforms boon to the govt but bane to businesses

By Samuel Bogale

Whoever is in charge of the Ethiopian economy will have to work under strict budgetary constraints. In most years, the budget deficit amounts to less than two percent of the GDP. Even as the economy expanded, government revenue remained relatively constant at around 10 percent of the GDP. While such difficulties are not uncommon, the effects of the war in northern Ethiopia and the coronavirus pandemic-driven global economic slowdown on government revenue over the past two years have made them rather different. This is in addition to the sharp decline in external financing, a common method of financing deficits.

Expanding the tax base is seen by policymakers as a means to increase tax revenue. This is evidenced by their rush to amend major tax laws in an effort to maximise taxation. In particular, this year has been a busy one for Ministry of Finance officials, who have introduced property tax, revised excise tax, and are currently amending the value-added tax (VAT). At his June 2022 address to the House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR), Finance Minister Ahmed Shide expressed confidence that the government's revenue would increase as a result of the implementation of three reform measures to the tax regime. Yet, implementation has been sluggish thus far this year.

In January, the House of Federation (HoF) and the HPR adopted a joint resolution delegating the



A view of Addis Ababa in December 2017.

responsibility for collecting property tax to the respective regional administrations. However, a proclamation to regulate this type of tax is still in the works. The ministry has not yet issued the updated VAT proclamation, and the HPR has not yet approved the revised excise tax proclamation.

Advertisement - "For the coming fiscal year, we planned the revenue taking into account the introduction of the property tax, the updated excise tax, and the value-added tax," Ahmed stated

in his address to the Parliament. Revenue forecasts for the fiscal year totaled 477.8 billion birr, with taxes expected to bring in 400 billion birr of that total. Revenue versus the planned budget of 786.6 billion birr caused the deficit to soar to a record 309 billion birr.

Each new tax that the Finance Ministry put in place raised eyebrows, but the draft VAT proclamation is getting the most attention currently. Several people have expressed surprise at several

aspects of the proposed VAT proclamation. The new proclamation still has a value-added tax of 15 percent, but it taxes ride-hailing services, telecom services, and those provided by financial institutions, as well as those related to the provision of energy services.

The Finance Ministry spent the last four days holding consultative meetings with key stakeholders that would be affected by the move after making the draft proclamation available for public comment in the middle of last month.

On the first day of the meeting, February 27, 2023, representatives from firms in telecommunications, agriculture, mining, and associated services participated and forwarded their feedback. The next day, banking institution management met with Wasihun Abate, the Ministry's tax affairs advisor.

Wasihun elaborated on how the new proclamation will put an end to the practice of various businesses receiving VAT exemption rights over the past two decades. The inclusion of financial institutions in the list of VAT-paying firms is one of the most significant changes made by the proclamation. "The National Bank of Ethiopia views money transfers as part of a bank's services, but we consider it not a service of banks since there are other firms doing it," he said in an effort to encourage banks to charge VAT on money transfers.

He was also critique of the salary payment services banks offer to their corporate clients, including government offices. Wasihun believes VAT should be imposed on such services. A value-added tax will be added to the costs associated with providing letters of credit and other services for which banks receive commissions. The inclusion of insurance claims into the VAT system was another hotly contested topic during the session.

Wasihun, the advisor, explained to the attendees that a 15 percent VAT will be imposed on all insurance paid-claims to policyholders other than life. It will be up to the insurance firms to collect these taxes and transfer payment to the government within the required time frame. Insurance industry representatives present at the meeting voiced their concern that the rule would have a negative impact on their business.

Abraham Merasha, CEO of Lion Insurance, stated that this regulation will have a significant impact on businesses since it will scare away customers. He says that the main reason people buy insurance is to protect their possessions in the event of an accident, so cutting their payouts by 15 percent wouldn't be in line with the spirit of the service.

Wasihun's reaction to Abraham's worries was that insurance companies should sign contracts reflecting this change and figure out how to include the 15 percent from the start.

This allows businesses to provide their customers with comprehensive insurance protection while also lowering risk, according to Wasihun. VAT will also be imposed on electricity and water supplies as a result of the proclamation. But the amount of monthly use that will be subject to or exempt from VAT will be determined by a directive issued at a later date.

"It was to benefit society that such supplies were excluded from the existing proclamation, yet everyone was making use of it," Wasihun said, referring to commercial entities. He explained at length about ride-hailing services, which were another topic of interest to the attendees.

Considering the impact on inflation and the administrative burden, he argued that transportation services should be exempt from VAT. In spite of this, he claimed that ride-hailing services should be charged because they are the preferred mode of transportation for people with disposable income.

After the proclamation is put into effect, the government's primary source of revenue will be the value-added tax (VAT) on pre-packaged telecommunications services and products.



Results show hope for more lithium deposits in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

China Dongsheng International Inc has announced positive soil geochemical sampling results from an initial sampling phase of the company's expansive Titan 2 lithium property in Tanzania.

The Titan 2 project is located approximately 20 miles west of the Titan 1 claim group and is centered over a large, flat lying area of approximately 60 square kilometers.

"As part of the preliminary prospecting work on the project one line of surficial geochemical soil sampling was conducted over a length of 1.3 kilometers," said the statement issued by Chinese company.

Results from the line averaged 3,930 ppm Lithium.

The lowest value returned 800 ppm Li and the highest value, located at the end of the line, returned 1.98 percent Li₂O (9,200 ppm Li).

Values for other elements broadly mirror and confirm the distribution of the anomalous lithium values. Craig Alford, CEO of the Company, noted "the results from this initial prospecting sampling were extremely impressive. Much like Titan 1, our end of line samples returned the highest grade. Our field team has now returned to the site to follow up on the strong Lithium results by employing a sample grid over a much larger area

that is roughly 2.5 miles by 2 miles in size."

Rigorous Quality control of the samples was maintained and all samples were prepared and analyzed at the independent and ISO 9001 certified African Minerals and Geosciences Centre (AMGC) in Dar es Salaam.

China Dongsheng International Inc is a lithium explorer and developer with operations in Nevada, USA and Tanzania.

Last month, China Dongsheng announced that it has entered into agreement with Kilimanjaro Lithium, to earn up to a 100 percent interest in several prospecting licenses that make up two large projects in Tanzania.

The company said in a statement that will acquire an immediate 80 percent interest in the PLs by issuing 133 million common shares at a deemed value of \$6.7 million.

After CDSG has attained initial 80 percent ownership, the company shall be responsible for exploration and development expenditures and shall make payments totaling \$350,000.00 over the next 9 months.

To attain the final 20 percent interest in the properties, CDSG will make further payments of \$1 million for each additional 5 percent interest for the full 100 percent interest for an aggregate payment of \$4 million of additional payments.

PM all for enhanced oil palm seedlings production

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed the Tanzania Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA) to widen its palm oil seedlings production to at least 300,000 seedlings in a year.

The premier noted that it was far disconcerting that Tanzania spends over 470bn/- to import cooking oil annually while the country has all potential to grow numerous edible oil raw crops, chiefly palm oil.

According to minister Majaliwa, increase in production and distribution of the seedlings will automatically stimulate and assist more farmers to chip in and start cultivating the crop, the needed helpful development which will improve edible oil production within the country.

As part of responding to the prime minister's directives, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at ASA, Dr. Sophia Kashenge said the Agency was working to intensify palm oil production nurseries at its three main farms.

So far, she expressed that ASA had established palm oil seedlings production nurseries at its farms of Bugaga (Kigoma), Mwele farm (Tanga) and the Morogoro-based Msimba farm.

"The three major forms comprise useful nurseries for the production of palm oil seedlings and we're currently working to install modern irrigation schemes and green houses at the areas in order to ensure that we increase production and at the needed quality,"

she briefed.

Together with that, Dr. Kashenge added that the state-owned seed Agency will continue working to attract and work in collaboration with numerous potential stakeholders in the private sector in order to widen production of the seedlings.

"We at ASA feels very grateful for the manner to which the government continues to trust us when it comes to seed production in the country and we will continue standing at forefront to ensure that the farmers across the country are timely distributed with enough, but improved seedlings as well as seeds for all crops," she assured.

Recently during his audience with all stakeholders in the country's palm oil stakeholders held in Kigoma region, among others, minister Majaliwa directed for major revamp in the production of the crop, possible in all regions where the crop can flourish.

"All regional, district and political parties' leaders have platforms to meet the citizens at all times. Let's go and encourage them to cultivate palm oil because it is a crop that will provide them with money over a long period of time," Majaliwa said.

The round table forum meant also to brainstorm over the challenges facing farmers engaged in the cultivation of crops and ways to ensure the country has a sufficient amount of palm oil, the development that Majaliwa expressed will help the nation to avoid importing large amounts of edible oil.



Tanzania Agricultural Seed Agency CEO Dr Sophia Kashenge makes a presentation on the status of the production of palm oil seedlings at a recent meeting that attracted various stakeholders. It was held in Kigoma. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

Africa's oil industry all set to flourish in 2023

By Felicity Bradstock

Several energy firms have developed oil and gas projects in Africa and the Caribbean in recent years as they shift to focus on low-carbon oil and future-proofing their operations. With mounting pressure to decarbonize, many oil and gas majors have moved away from aging, carbon-intensive operating sites in favor of developing new projects in non-traditional oil regions. Meanwhile, African countries are determined to claim their piece of the global energy pie, unwilling to give up valuable natural resources without taking a stake in operations. So, as several states across Africa continue to develop their oil industries, what's expected for 2023?

As the demand for oil and natural gas continued to rise in the post-pandemic period, we saw governments turn to alternative oil powers for their supply, as countries across the world imposed sanctions on Russian oil. As well as boosting oil production from traditional sites, many countries began to foster relationships with new oil powers, in the hope of en-



Uganda oil project

sure a low-carbon oil supply while the global demand for fossil fuels remains high. Most of these low-carbon operations are being developed in regions with recent discoveries of huge reserves, such as the Carib-

bean and Africa, where oil majors are using low-carbon production methods and carbon capture technology to ensure crude output is less harmful to the environment.

At the COP27 climate sum-

mit, held in November, in Egypt, African government representatives made it clear that countries across Africa should be allowed to develop their fossil fuel resources to help lift their people out of poverty.

As the strong global demand for oil and gas became clear after the US and Europe moved away from Russian energy, African leaders spotted the opportunity to promote the development of low-carbon oil across the continent. Namibia's petroleum commissioner, Maggy Shino, stated "There are a lot of oil and gas companies present at COP because Africa wants to send a message that we are going to develop all of our energy resources for the benefit of our people because our issue is energy poverty."

This has helped spur the development of the oil and gas industry, with several projects planned for

the continent in 2023. In addition, the annual Africa Oil Week will be held again in October, to promote opportunities in the continent's oil industry.

More than 70 oil and gas projects are slated to come online by 2025, which could provide as much as 2.3 million bpd of crude, according to analysts. TotalEnergies announced it would be investing in Angola's Begonia field last year, which adds to its other projects in the region. This could boost its production in the area by 30,000 bpd. Operations are expected to commence towards the end of 2024, following an investment of \$850 million.

One of Africa's biggest oil producers, Nigeria, also has big plans to diversify its oil operations by developing new projects outside the Niger Delta in the north of the country. After years of delays, Shell is go-

ing ahead with its Bonga North Project this year, to be followed by the \$10-billion Bonga South West field in 2024. Bonga North is believed to hold as much as 525 million barrels of crude, which could support Nigeria's goal of boosting production to pre-pandemic levels, having repeatedly failed to achieve OPEC quotas in recent months.

Uganda has plans to continue expanding its oil industry through its TotalEnergies-operated Lake Albert Development. The project has seen an investment of \$10 billion to date. Uganda has major plans for the development of the Tilenga and Kingfisher upstream oil projects, and the construction of the long-anticipated 1,500-km East African Crude Oil Pipeline, which has seen years of delays. If completed, Uganda could see an output of 230,000 bpd from Lake Albert.

And Ghana is focusing

on its domestic production, which it hopes to double by the end of the year, from under 200,000 bpd to around 420,000 bpd. Recent discoveries in the Tano Cape Three Points Block have attracted greater foreign investment in the region, with Norway's Aker Energy running operations.

And new oil powers are emerging in Africa, as Africa Oil Corp (AOC) announced two production-sharing contracts with the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in February. AOC is expected to hold 80 percent of operated interests in the offshore Blocks EG-18 and EG-31 if government approval is achieved, with state-owned GEPetrol holding the remaining 20 percent. The companies plan to spend \$7 million on the initial exploration period. AOC expects the developments to offer "low-cost, low-risk gas development opportunities."

US banking forced to raise rates on deposits

NEW YORK

US banks are being forced to do something they haven't done for 15 years: fight for deposits.

After years of earning next to nothing, depositors are discovering a trove of higher-yielding options like Treasury bills and money market funds as the Federal Reserve ratchets up benchmark interest rates.

The shift has been so pronounced that commercial bank deposits fell last year for the first time since 1948 as net withdrawals hit \$278 billion, according to Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. data.

To stem the outflows, banks are finally starting to lift their own rates from rock-bottom levels, particularly on certificates of deposit, or CDs.

More than dozen US lenders including Capital One Financial Inc. are now offering an annual percentage yield of 5 percent on CDs maturing in around a year, a rate that would have been unthinkably high two years ago. Even the big banks are feeling the heat. At Wells Fargo & Co., 11-month CDs now pay 4 percent.

The jump in rates on CDs and other bank deposits has been a boon for consumers and businesses, but it's a costly development for the US banking industry, which is bracing for a slowdown in lending and more write-downs, says Barclays Plc analyst Jason Goldberg. And for smaller regional and community banks, losing deposits can be serious and weigh heavily on profitability.

"There are challenges ahead for banks," Goldberg said. "Banks reflect the economy they operate in, and most forecasts call for slowing GDP growth and increasing unemployment."

The very biggest banks can afford to slow-walk their rate increases, simply because they still have relatively high deposit levels. Overall, the average rate on a one-year CD is roughly 1.5 percent.

That's up from 0.25 percent a week before the Fed began raising rates a year ago, but still well below inflation. After a year of record profits, the foot-dragging has earned banks plenty of ire from politicians globally.

Nevertheless, banks are feeling more pressure to boost rates, which will raise funding costs and crimp profit margins. According to Barclays, the median large-cap bank can expect growth in net interest income, a measure of lending profits, to slow to 11% this year, from 22% last year.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon made clear that some institutions will feel pressure on the firm's earnings call in January: "Banks are competing for the capital, money, now. We've never had rates go up this fast."

For depositors, CDs have been popular because they tend to offer the highest rates. For banks, they're a way to lock up funding for a set period of time, unlike checking or savings accounts.

Rising CD rates have led to huge growth in sales of the product: CDs outstanding totaled \$1.7 trillion in the US banking industry in the fourth quarter, up from \$1.49 trillion in the third. That's the biggest quarterly jump in at least two decades, according to S&P.

"The money really woke up in the late summer – banks felt pressure to really catch up on funding in a big way," said S&P Global analyst Nathan Stovall. Boosting rates on CDs is one key way to do so, he said.



ITV

WEDNESDAY 8 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt
14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA
18:30 Jarida la wanawake
19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari
21:05 Albu Yako
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta
22:00 Ripoti maalum
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Habari
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

THURSDAY 9 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo

FRIDAY 10 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri Wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA rpt
11:15 Jungu kuu
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Ma-

SATURDAY 11 March

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:30 Usafiri wako
13:00 Jagina
13:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kislam
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Jagina
18:45 Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

SATURDAY 11 March

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:30 Usafiri wako
13:00 Jagina
13:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kislam
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Jagina
18:45 Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

SUNDAY 12 March

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt

BONGO MOVIE RPT:

14:00 DW: Afrimax rpt
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kislam
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Jagina
18:45 Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

CAPITAL

Wed 08 March

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Dw
11:00 Al Jazeera
11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt
12:00 Dw News Africa rpt
12:30 Our Earth
13:00 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Business Edition Rpt
16:30 Culinary delight rpt
17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza huru
18:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt
20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45:
22:45 The Décor
23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 09 March

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Dw
11:00 Al Jazeera
11:30 Spots gazette
12:00 Innovation
12:30 Culinary
13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Tomorrow Today

16:30 Business edition rpt

17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Out & About Rpt
19:30 EcoAfrica
20:00 Our Earth Rpt
20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Capchat rpt
23:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 10 March

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Dw
11:00 Al Jazeera
11:30 Capchat
12:30 Décor
13:00 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Dw News Africa rpt
16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Rev
19:30 Out & About Rpt
20:00 Albu Yako
20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
00:00 Al Jazeera

Sat 11 March

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Jagina rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n' about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30 Our Earth rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Al Jazeera
14:30 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana
17:15 EcoAfrica
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Décor
20:00 Ripoti Maalum
20:30 Tomorrow Today
21:00 Out n' About
21:30 Music: Club 101 rpt
23:00 Capchat Rpt
01:00 Al Jazeera



Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell

WORLD

International Women's Day:
Date, history and 2023 theme

AS the world gears up to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) on Wednesday, here is a look at what the global event stands for, this year's theme and the issues that activists are focusing on.

What is international women's day?

IWD is an annual event to celebrate the achievements of women and push for rights progress. It has roots in the US socialist and labour movements of the early 20th century, particularly as women were fighting for better working conditions and the right to vote.

The first recorded celebration was in 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland when over a million people rallied to support women's rights.

Since then, the event has grown not only in size but also in its scope. Focus has expanded to issues ranging from violence against women to parity in the workplace.

While no single group has ownership

of the event, the United Nations is often at the forefront of celebrations after it officially recognized IWD in 1977. However, celebrations around the world are usually decentralized, though some countries recognize IWD as a public holiday, including China, Russia and Uganda.

What is this year's international women's day theme?

The UN's theme this year is "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality." The topic highlights how technology is crucial to advancing rights but a growing digital gender gap is impacting everything from women's job opportunities to safety online.

According to the UN, 259 million fewer women have access to the internet than men, and women are largely underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers.

"Bringing women into technology results in more creative solutions and has



Students participate in marathon ahead of the International Women's Day in Hyderabad, India, on Monday, AP

greater potential for innovations that meet women's needs and promote gender equality," says the UN's website. "Their lack of inclusion, by contrast, comes with massive costs."

Previous UN themes have included climate change, rural women and HIV/AIDS.

Why is international women's day important?

While the UN's theme this year underscores how the fight for gender equality has evolved in the 21st century, celebrations around the world are also focused on longstanding issues including poverty and violence.

A World Health Organization report in 2021

found that nearly one in three women worldwide is subjected to physical or sexual violence during her lifetime, an issue that ties in with women's economic opportunities, access to sex education and reproductive rights.

In recent years, there has also been a push to make IWD more inclusive of racialized women as well as of transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people, since the early movement was largely focused on cisgender white women fighting for voting rights.

While IWD is a chance to raise awareness on rights gaps, organizers also use the day to celebrate progress and the achievements of individual women.

Qin: China rejects 'decoupling', unilateral sanctions

TUNIS

BEIJING - China rejects "decoupling," opposes severing industrial and supply chains, and opposes imposing unilateral sanctions, the Chinese foreign minister said yesterday.

The international currencies should not be used as "a trump card" for unilateral sanctions, still less a byword for bullying and coercion, Qin Gang said at a press conference on the sidelines of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress.

The Chinese foreign minister touched upon a range of national and international issues, including China's foreign policy, foreign relations, and its stance on various major global issues, during the press conference attended by journalists from home and abroad.

China stands firmly against any form of hegemonism and power politics, against the Cold War mentality and camp-based confrontation, and against containment and suppression, he said.

China will take multilateralism as the way forward and promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, said the foreign minister.

As China's domestic COVID-19 situation turns for the better, China has steadily resumed exchanges with foreign countries, and the country's diplomacy has pressed the "acceleration button" and sounded the clarion call, he said.

China-Russia relations

China and Russia have found a path of major-country relations featuring strategic mutual trust and good neighborliness, setting a good example for a new type of international relations, Qin said.

The more unstable the world becomes, the more imperative it is for China and Russia to steadily advance their relations, he added.

The China-Russia relationship is not a threat to any country, nor is it subject to any interference or discord sown by any third party, he added.

With China and Russia working together, the world will have the driving force toward multipolarity and greater democracy in international relations, and global strategic balance and stability will be better ensured, he stressed.

China's rejuvenation

Containing and suppressing China won't make the US great, and it will not stop the rejuvenation of China, said Qin.

Saying that the US' China policy has entirely deviated from the rational and sound track, he said:

"The US claims that it seeks to out-compete China but does not seek conflict. Yet in reality, its so-called 'competition' means to contain and suppress China in all respects, and get the two countries locked in a zero-sum game."

The US rhetoric of "establishing guardrails" and "not seeking conflict" simply means China should not respond in words or action when slandered or attacked. "That is just impossible," he said.

"If the US does not hit the brake but continue to speed down the wrong path, no amount of guardrails can prevent derailling and there will surely be conflict and confrontation."

China is firmly opposed to such competition, which is a reckless gamble with the stakes being the fundamental interests of the two peoples and even the future of humanity, he said.

"If the US has the ambition to make itself great again, it should also have a broad mind for the development of other countries," he added.

Interference in Taiwan affairs

The US should stop containing China by exploiting the Taiwan question and return to the fundamental of the one-China principle, said Qin, adding that if the US truly expects peaceful Taiwan Straits, it should honor its political commitment to China and unequivocally oppose and forestall "Taiwan independence".

For peace and stability across the Straits, its real threat is the separatist forces for "Taiwan independence" while its solid anchor is the one-China principle and its genuine guardrails are the three China-US joint communiques, he said.

Stressing that mishandling of the Taiwan question will shake the very foundation of China-US relations, he said: "The Taiwan question is at the very core of China's core interests, the bedrock of the political foundation of China-US relations, and the first red line that must not be crossed in China-US relations."

The US has unshirkable responsibility for having caused the Taiwan question, and the reason why China raises this question to the US is to urge it to stop interfering in China's internal affairs, said the minister.

No country has the right to interfere in Taiwan affairs as resolving the Taiwan question is China's own business, he said.

For people on both sides of the Straits are of the same family, China will continue to show the utmost sincerity and make the utmost efforts to achieve peaceful reunifi-



Foreign Minister Qin Gang holds a copy of China's Constitution while talking about the Taiwan question during his press conference yesterday. (PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY)

But China will reserve the option of taking all necessary measures, he said.

One should never underestimate the firm resolve, strong will and great capability of the Chinese government and people to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity, he stressed.

China will continue to show the utmost sincerity and make the utmost efforts to achieve peaceful reunification, but it will reserve the option of taking all necessary measures, added Qin.

Russia-Ukraine conflict

Stressing that China has not provided any weapons to either side of the Ukraine conflict, the Chinese foreign minister said China is not the creator of the crisis, nor a party directly concerned.

"What has China done to deserve being blamed, or even sanctioned and threatened? This is absolutely unacceptable," he said.

Calling the Ukraine crisis a tragedy that could have been avoided, he said it is in essence an eruption of the problems built up in the security governance of Europe.

China always makes its own judgment independently based on the merits of the issue, said Qin, adding that China chooses peace over war, dialogue over sanctions, and cooling down the situation over fueling the flames.

Noting that efforts for peace talks have been repeatedly undermined, he said that there seems to be "an invisible hand" pushing for the protraction and escalation of the conflict and using the Ukraine crisis to serve certain geopolitical agenda.

Stressing that conflict, sanctions and pressure will not solve the problem, he said what is needed is calmness, reason and dialogue.

The process of peace talks should begin as soon as possible, he said.

Chinese diplomacy

There is no shortage of kindness and goodwill in China's diplomacy, but in face of "jackals or wolves," Chinese diplomats would have no choice but to confront them head-on to protect the motherland, Qin said refuting the claim that the country adopted the so-called "wolf warrior" diplomacy.

China is willing to promote security and stability, be a partner for development and prosperity, and boost unity and strength in the Middle East, he said.

Sino-Japan relations

Should some people from the Japanese side choose the beggary-neighbor approach rather than pursue a friendly partnership, and take part in a new Cold War to contain China, the bilateral relations would only suffer new wounds when the old ones are yet to be healed, he warned.

China and Japan should promote win-win cooperation and jointly ensure stable and smooth industrial and supply chains, said Qin.

The Chinese people will never accept any form of historical revisionism that challenges the postwar international order and international justice, he said while responding to a question about the China-Japan relationship.

The foreign minister also urged Japan to properly handle the disposal of Fukushima nuclear wastewater in a responsible manner.

'Indo-Pacific Strategy'

The US "Indo-Pacific Strategy" claims to safeguard regional security, but in fact it provokes confrontation and seeks to create an Asia-Pacific version of NATO, said Qin.

The so-called "Indo-Pacific Strategy" seeks to gang up to form exclusive blocs, stir up confrontation, and undermine regional integra-

tion, he added.

The US claim to "shape the strategic environment in which China operates" actually reveals the real purpose of its Indo-Pacific strategy, that is to encircle China, said Qin.

Such an attempt will only disrupt the ASEAN-centered open and inclusive regional cooperation architecture, and undermine the overall and long-term interests of regional countries. It is bound to fail, he said.

The Chinese minister cautioned that no Cold War should be reignited and no Ukraine-style crisis should be repeated in Asia.

Partnership with Europe

Saying that China will continuously deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership with Europe, the foreign minister underscored that China-Europe relations are not targeted at, dependent on, or subjected to a third party.

No matter how the situation develops, China always regards Europe as a comprehensive strategic partner and supports European integration, he said.

China hopes Europe truly achieve strategic autonomy and lasting security and stability, he added.

China is willing to work with Europe to uphold true multilateralism and to deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership, he said, adding that China hopes Europe truly achieve strategic autonomy and lasting security and stability.

No worry about China's economy

Saying that it is unnecessary to be concerned about China's economic outlook, Qin said as China accelerates high-quality development, promotes high standard opening-up and fosters a new development paradigm, it will surely bring new opportunities to all countries in the world, especially regional countries.

China's modernization

The modernization of China, with a population of over 1.4 billion, is an unprecedented feat in the human history and of great significance to the world, said the foreign minister.

Pointing out that Chinese modernization suits the country's reality, he said Chinese modernization has provided important inspirations for other countries by putting the people first and as the modernization of common prosperity for all.

The process of Chinese modernization is a boost to global peace, justice and progress, he said.

COP28 president-designate:
Climate actions unity needed

HOUSTON

COP28 UAE President-Designate Sultan Al Jaber on Monday highlighted the need for unity and solidarity in tackling the energy trilemma and fighting the climate change.

"This is a global challenge that calls for global solutions from every stakeholder acting in unity and solidarity," he said in a keynote address at the CERAWeek, an influential global energy forum kicking off in the US city of Houston on Monday.

"Let's unite a divided world with a COP of solidarity, a COP of action and a COP for all. All of us need to be pulling in the same direction. Because there is more energy in unity than division," he told the delegates.

The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is to be held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), later this year.

"By 2030, there will be an extra half a billion people living on the earth, demanding more energy every year. At the same time, the world needs to cut emissions by seven percent each year to keep 1.5 alive - that's 43 percent in less than seven years," said Al Jaber, also chief executive of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

"The entire financial community needs to play a bigger role. In 2022, the world invested \$1.4T in the energy transition. According to the IEA, we need over three times that amount," he continued.

Meanwhile, Al Jaber noted that only 15 percent of clean tech investment reaches developing economies, where 80 percent of the global population live.

"That's why we need to think seriously about fundamental reform of IFIs and the multilateral banks to unlock concessional finance, lower risk and attract greater private investment," he said. "We must ensure that no one is left behind."

As mandated by the Paris Climate Agreement, COP28 UAE is expected to deliver the first ever global stocktake, a comprehensive evaluation of progress against climate goals.

"This year, the world will evaluate exactly where we are when it comes to climate progress through the first Global Stocktake. And we know we are way off track. We need a major course correction," said the COP28 president-designate.

When asked about what he hopes to achieve at COP28, Al Jaber outlined the key priorities across mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance, and process innovation.

The term "loss and damage" in UN climate negotiations refers to expenses already incurred as a result of climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels or extreme heat waves.

"We want real results. The world must move from treaties to implementation. Solutions are needed inside and outside formal negotiations. It will also be a COP for all-inclusive of diverse stakeholders, accountable for commitments, and actionable on solutions," he said.

"Let's aim to achieve net-zero even earlier. Let's also scale up best practices to reach net-zero methane emissions by 2030," he said, adding that making a dent in the climate crisis is not just about decarbonizing oil and gas operations since aluminum, steel, cement, and many other heavy industries make up 30 percent of global emissions.

More than 7,000 participants including policymakers, industry leaders, company executives, investors and researchers from over 80 countries and regions around the world are expected to attend the five-day CERAWeek energy forum, according to S&P Global, the organizer.

Xinhua

Diplomat points to envoy's difficulties in conveying Russia's position to Washington

WASHINGTON

RUSSIAN Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov has difficulties in conveying Moscow's position to US Department of State officials, the Russian Embassy's Press Secretary Igor Girenko said in a statement.

When commenting on US Department of State Spokesperson Ned Price's remark about US officials' contact with the Russian envoy, Girenko said: "If the official representative of the State Department does not pretend, then at least he does not tell everything about the nature of such interaction."

Confirming the very fact of the Russian Ambassador's conversations taking place, however, he forgets that such contacts are few."

"Not always has Anatoly Antonov the ability to quickly and efficiently fulfill Moscow's instructions. The State Department's heads either refuse to receive the Ambassador, or redirect Mr Antonov to low-level officials."

There were cases when the Ambassador could not even state the Russian position during the meeting. He was interrupted and it was made clear that Americans had more important things to attend to than listen to the opinion of Russia," the diplomat noted.

He added that "after the Russian Ambassador's demarches, our requests remain unanswered or we get a reaction after several years."

"There is no feedback on the Embassy's appeals on the problems of the Arctic and APEC, where the United States is currently chairing. A blatant example of the indifference of the local officialdom is that for almost two years, after repeated Anatoly Antonov's appeals, Washington has been dragging out, under various pretexts, the process of agreeing on the texts of the diplomatic notes on the termination of the Agreement Regarding Assurances Concerning the Source Material Transferred From the US to the Russian Federation of March 24, 1911 (the so-called The Assurances Agreement)," Girenko stressed. **Agencies**

Xinhua

Russian diplomat blames West for recruiting hackers for operations against Moscow

UNITED NATIONS

WESTERN countries are recruiting hackers to carry out operations against Moscow, Russian representative Irina Tyazhlova said at a meeting of the United Nations open-ended working group on cybersecurity.

"We believe the goal of attempts by the US and its allies to hype up the issue of 'Russian hackers' and 'Russian cyberthreat' is no longer a secret to anyone. The only goal is to conceal their own destructive activities in cyberspace," the diplomat pointed out.

"In fact, NATO countries openly seek to militarize cyberspace, actively increasing their offensive capabilities and improving ways to conduct cyberattacks. There is ample documentary evidence of this, including the public revelations of high-ranking officials' public revelations of acts of cyber sabotage against Russia," Tyazhlova added.

"After the start of the special military operation in Ukraine, Western nations launched a full-fledged campaign against Russia, seeking to test the strength of our economy, financial and energy sectors and crucial industries," she pointed out.

"Russia's information facilities keep facing massive cyberattacks, which have increased tenfold since the launch of the special operation," the diplomat went on to say.

"The Western bloc actively recruits mercenary hackers and uses the information and communication potential of its allies and the private companies that it controls, deliberately involving users from all over the world into these criminal activities," she stressed.

According to her, "this scenario includes Ukraine as a testing ground." "The West allocates considerable funds, trains personnel and provides technical assistance in increasing the Kiev regime's offensive cyber potential," Tyazhlova emphasized.

"No wonder that they involved Kiev in the activities of the Tallinn-based NATO cyber defense center," she added.

FAO seeks funds to ramp up humanitarian response in Somalia

MOGADISHU

THE Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said Monday it urgently requires additional funding to ramp up humanitarian response in Somalia, which is facing a devastating drought in 40 years.

The FAO said while humanitarian assistance has prevented worse outcomes and staved off famine in parts of Somalia thus far, millions of rural Somali people continue to face exceptional challenges to their food security.

"The current situation demonstrates the urgent need to massively scale up investments and policies for disaster risk reduction and resilience building, highlighting agriculture's crucial role in achieving a sustainable future for the people of eastern Africa," it said in a statement published in Rome, Italy and circulated in Somalia.

According to the FAO, reversing the alarming trend requires not only sustained and at-scale humanitarian assistance but also transformative actions to sustainably improve food and water security, reduce people's vulnerability to shocks and stresses, and improve their adaptation to climate change.

Somalia is in the midst of the longest and most severe drought in its history, following five consecutive poor rainy seasons and an anticipated sixth, exacerbated by high food and water prices, conflict, and poor access to water, sanitation, and health service.

The course of China-US relations should be set by the two peoples, not the US' hysterical neo-McCarthyism - Chinese FM

CHINA-US relations should be guided by common interests, shared responsibilities and friendship between the two peoples, not US domestic politics and hysterical neo-McCarthyism, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang said at a press conference during the two sessions yesterday.

Answering to a question raised by US National Broadcasting Company (NBC) on China-US relations, Qin said that by seeing China as its main rival and the most serious geopolitical challenge, the US' perception of China, like doing up wrong the first button on a shirt, has largely deviated from a rational path.

The US' so-called competition with China is in fact an all-round suppression and containment, a zero-sum game where one lives and the other dies. Like a dishonest runner in an Olympic race, the US doesn't want to do its best but wants to trip its rival or even make the other run in the Paralympics. "This is not fair but absolute foul play!" the Chinese Foreign Minister remarked.

"The US so-called guardrails or the concept of non-conflict in its relations with China actually means that China must not fight back. But this cannot be done," noted Qin.

If the US does not hit the brakes and continues along the wrong path, even more guardrails cannot stop the derailment and eventually overturning of the car. Such competition is a gamble with the fundamental interests of the two peoples and even the future of mankind, and China is of course firmly opposed to it, Qin said.

Speaking of the unmanned airship incident, the Chinese foreign minister reiterated that it was purely an accident caused



by force majeure. However, the US has violated the spirit of international law and practice by presumption of guilt, overreacting and dramatizing the case, and thus created a diplomatic crisis that could have been avoided.

If the US has the ambition to make America great again, it should also have the grace

to let other countries thrive. Suppression will not make the US greater, and it will not stop China's march toward rejuvenation, Qin said.

On the Taiwan question, Qin said the issue is the nation's first uncrossable red line. If the Taiwan question is not handled properly, China-US relations will be thrown off

course. If the US truly wants peace across the Taiwan Straits, it should stop using the island to contain China, and make clear its opposition to secessionist forces.

Qin reiterated that China will always remain committed to promoting the healthy and stable development of bilateral ties in accordance with the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

He expressed the hope that the US government will listen to the voices of the two peoples, eliminate the strategic anxiety, abandon a Cold War mentality and reject the unwarranted abduction of "political correctness," but honor its commitments and walk in the same direction as China.

Global Times

Israel president says judicial compromise 'closer' as protests escalate

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI President Isaac Herzog on Monday said a compromise in the government's judicial overhaul plan could be imminent even as protests against the reform continued to spread.

Local media circulated a letter by 10 former air force chiefs to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warning of the "grave and tangible" threat posed by the judicial overhaul plan, a day after reservists said they would not turn up for training in protest.

In a statement late on Monday, Netanyahu criticized the threats to refuse military service, which he said endangered Israel's existence.

On the battlefield, soldiers have stood united "throughout all of Israel's

wars, regardless of the struggles and disagreements among us," he said, speaking from a Border Police base in the occupied West Bank settlement of Beit Horon.

"There is room for protest, there is room for disagreements, for expressing opinions, but there is no room for refusal." Although the presidency is a ceremonial post, Herzog convened 100 heads of authorities for an emergency meeting designed to come up with a solution to proposals that have split the country and led to mass nationwide protests.

"We are closer than ever to the possibility of an agreed outline. There are agreements behind the scenes on most things," Herzog said in a statement, without giving details.

Herzog's comments sent financial markets sharply higher even though there was no immediate sign of a deal between the government and opposition.

He said it would now depend on leaders of the ruling coalition and opposition to "put the country and the citizens above everything else" and implement it, adding that his plan works to placate both sides.

Heads of the opposition Yair Lapid and Benny Gantz issued a joint statement in response, commending the president's efforts to reach a compro-



mise but demanding that Netanyahu halt the legislation process to allow for "honest and effective dialogue".

"Israel is on the brink of a national emergency - and Netanyahu refuses to stop," they wrote on Twitter.

Netanyahu did not immediately respond to Herzog's efforts.

Herzog last month floated a compromise plan to spare the country what he described as a "constitutional collapse". The judicial overhaul plan, which has already received initial parliamentary approval, would give the government greater sway on selecting judges and limit the power of the Supreme Court to strike down legislation. Critics of the planned law changes say Netanyahu - on trial on graft charges that he denies - is pursuing steps that

will hurt Israel's democratic checks and balances, enable corruption and bring diplomatic isolation.

Proponents say the changes are needed to curb what they deem an activist judiciary that interferes in politics. Lapid has called for compromise talks and a freeze of the legislation for 60 days but Netanyahu said he would only agree to negotiations without preconditions.

Optimism over a possible compromise filed financial markets and sent the shekel up 2 percent on Monday to 3.59 per dollar - its strongest level since Feb 21. Similarly, Tel Aviv share indexes were up 1.5 percent and government bond prices were also up close to 1 percent.

Agencies

Türkiye opposition leader looks to emerge from Erdogan shadow

ISTANBUL

STUCK in Tayyip Erdogan's shadow throughout his career, Turkish opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu believes his time may have come after suffering repeated election defeats and scorn from the man who has dominated politics for two decades.

An opposition alliance on Monday named Kilicdaroglu, chairman of the Republican People's Party (CHP), its candidate to take on President Erdogan in May 14 elections that are seen as perhaps the most consequential in Türkiye's modern history.

His prospects may have been boosted by a last minute deal to reunite an opposition bloc that had splintered on Friday over whether he should be the candidate.

After a 72-hour political drama, the six parties agreed that the popular mayors of Istanbul and Ankara would serve as his vice-presidents should he overcome Erdogan.

Kilicdaroglu would also be capitalizing on the opposition's 2019 triumph when the CHP defeated Erdogan's ruling AK Party (AKP) in Istanbul and other big cities in local elections, thanks to support from other opposition parties.

A cost-of-living crisis amid rampant inflation and years of economic turmoil have eroded Erdogan's support, giving Kilicdaroglu another advantage. "We will rule Türkiye with consultations and compromise," Kilicdaroglu told several thousand supporters cheering outside the headquarters of the Felicity Party, one of the six in the opposition bloc.

"We will establish the rule of morality and justice together," he said.

Kilicdaroglu's detractors say he lacks Erdogan's power to rally and capture audiences, and has no clear or convincing vision for what a post-Erdogan era looks like.

His backers underscore his reputation as an ethical bureaucrat, said Gonul Tol, head of the Türkiye program at Washington-based think-tank Middle East Institute said.

"He is not a corrupt man. He doesn't steal," she said. "He wants to conclude his political career as the person who has resuscitated the Turkish democracy, that's why he is the right man."

Tight election

Polls suggest a tight presidential and parliamentary vote, which will decide not just who leads Türkiye but how it is governed, where its economy is headed and what role it may play to ease conflict in Ukraine and



the Middle East.

Yet many wonder whether the earnest and sometimes feisty former civil servant can defeat Erdogan, the country's longest-serving leader, whose campaigning charisma has helped deliver more than a dozen election victories over two decades.

His nomination comes a month after two huge earthquakes left Türkiye's southeast in ruins, and unleashed a wave of criticism of government over the poor disaster response and years of subpar building standards.

Initial polls since the quakes had suggested that Erdogan was able to largely retain his support despite the disaster. But the emergence of a united opposition, even after a delay in picking its candidate, could prove a bigger challenge for the strongman, analysts say.

Entry into politics

Erdogan's unorthodox economic policies, including interest rate cuts when inflation soared above 85 percent last year, have strained households and sparked a series of currency crashes since 2018.

The hardship presents a historic opening for Kilicdaroglu, a former economist, to end Erdogan's reign that began when AKP first came to power in 2002. In that election, he entered parliament for the center-left CHP, a party established by modern Türkiye's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk which has struggled to reach beyond its secularist grassroots towards more conservative Turks.

He has spoken in recent years of a desire to heal old wounds with devout Muslims and Kurds, including groups in Diyarbakir that he met and acknowledged that CHP had upset in the past.

But Kilicdaroglu has struggled to maintain momentum. Recent polling showed Erdogan's support had edged up since last summer thanks to mea-

sures including a raise in the minimum wage.

Following the earthquake, Kilicdaroglu adopted a more combative tone that helped him consolidate his own base, researcher Nezir Onur Kuru said. But it prevented him from appealing to indecisive voters.

"In times of crisis, center and right-wing voters - which make up over 60 percent of the electorate - seek unifying and result-oriented messages from politicians. Kilicdaroglu did not do this," said Kuru, of research firm Toplumsal Etki Arastirmalari Merkezi (TEAM).

"That did not help the overall opposition."

Rise through the ranks

Kilicdaroglu rose to prominence as the CHP's anti-graft campaigner, appearing on TV to brandish dossiers against officials which led to high-profile resignations. In 2009 he lost an election as the CHP's Istanbul mayoral candidate.

The following year, he was elected unopposed as CHP leader after his predecessor's resignation in the wake of scandal.

At that party convention, a campaign song blasted across a packed hall describing him as "a clean and honest" man.

Wearing a striped shirt and a black blazer, Kilicdaroglu told cheering supporters: "We are coming to power. We are coming to protect the rights of the poor, the oppressed, the workers and labourers".

His election fuelled party hopes of a new start, but support for CHP has since failed to surpass about 25 percent.

Lebanon's Hezbollah backs Frangieh for presidency

BEIRUT

THE powerful armed Hezbollah group will back Christian politician Suleiman Frangieh to be Lebanon's president, its leader said on Monday, a move that gives him important support but does not immediately secure his election.

Lebanon has had no head of state since former president Michel Aoun's term ended at the end of October, deepening institutional paralysis in a country where one of the world's worst economic crises has been festering for years.

"The natural candidate we support in the presidential elections is (former) minister Suleiman Frangieh," Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said.

Frangieh, 56, is heir to an old Lebanese Christian political dynasty and a friend of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

His grandfather of the same name served as president from 1970 into Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

Frangieh has the support of House Speaker Nabih Berri's Amal Movement party but still appears to fall short of the 65 votes required for him to be elected in the 128-member legislature.

A Hezbollah ally, he appeared close to becoming president in 2016 but Hezbollah's support ultimately went to Aoun - another of its Christian allies who now have a 19-member bloc in parliament but have opposed Frangieh's election.

Frangieh's candidacy is also opposed by the Lebanese Forces (LF), a party which also has some 20 lawmakers in parliament and is led by Christian politician Samir Geagea.

Frangieh's parents and sister were killed by the Lebanese Forces militia in 1978 at their home in the north of the country. Frangieh held Geagea - an LF commander at the time - responsible for the raid.

Geagea has denied taking

part, saying he was wounded before reaching the house. The two reconciled in 2018.

Foreign role

Foreign states have historically played a part in determining the presidency's fate in a country that has been a theatre for international rivalries.

In 2008, a six-month presidential vacuum was brought to an end by a Qatari-mediated deal backed by other powers.

Last month, representatives from France, the US, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Qatar met in Paris to discuss how to end the political stalemate in Lebanon, though the meeting did not result in the clear backing of any one presidential candidate, according to people briefed on the meeting.

A Lebanese political source and a European diplomatic source told Reuters that Saudi Arabia has opposed Frangieh's candidacy given his close relationship to Assad and Hezbollah.

Saudi Arabia in the past spent heavily on supporting Lebanon but ties have soured over Hezbollah's growing role at home and in the region.

"Hezbollah are sending a signal to regional powers that Frangieh is officially their candidate and are saying they are not ready to consider a plan B," said Karim Emile Bitar, director of the institute of political science at Beirut's Saint Joseph University.

"This could lead to a protracted political struggle and further delay presidential elections." Hezbollah and its allies have close ties to Syria and Iran, while their opponents in the Christian and Sunni Muslim communities traditionally look to the West and Sunni-led Gulf Arab states.

The presidency has fallen vacant several times since the 1975-90 war, including for 29 months before Aoun was elected in 2016 in a deal that saw Saad Hariri elected prime minister.

Agencies

China Aims 5%

China aims to achieve a faster economic growth of around with better quality of development in 2023

<p>To create around 12 million new urban jobs, with a surveyed urban unemployment rate of around 5.5%</p>	<p>To ensure that growth in personal income is generally in step with national economic growth</p>
<p>To keep the consumer price index increase at around 3%</p>	<p>To keep grain output above 650 million tons</p>
<p>For steady increases in both the volume and quality of imports and exports and a basic equilibrium in the balance of payments</p>	<p>To reduce energy consumption per unit of GDP by around 2%</p>

Source: China's 2023 Government Work Report

PD International
ANALYTICS

Local women's football in focus



Yanga Princess' midfielder, Irene Kisisa (R), negotiates her way past Arusha's The Tigers Queens midfielder when they took on each other in a 2022/23 Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League clash held at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on February 7. Yanga Princess posted a 5-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA PRINCESS

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

SINCE its infancy in the early 2000s, local women's football has unquestionably come along by leaps and bounds.

Indeed, in those early days of women's football, many doubters and naysayers scornfully rubbished the whole idea of women playing football.

Thankfully, as time wore on, these wrongheaded critics began to change their biased attitudes due to the magnificent success that the Twiga Stars were impressively able to achieve.

However, the exciting thing about this remarkable progress is that it is not just driven by the Twiga Stars as the national U-20 and U-17 women's football teams have also thrillingly joined in on the act.

It should be recollected that both the national U-20 and U-17 women's football teams have gloriously clinched the COSAFA U-20 Women's Championship

and the COSAFA U-17 Women's Championship respectively in recent years.

Still, if there were any remaining doubters of the wealth of potential in local women's football, they must have been silenced last year when the Serengeti Girls dazzlingly went on a fairytale run through the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup to the quarterfinals where they were walloped 3-0 by Colombia.

Indeed, despite that bitter loss, the Serengeti Girls still deservedly earned rave reviews for their overall performance as it marked their maiden appearance at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

Viewed against this backdrop of amazing progress, it is not difficult to make the case for greater investment into local women's football which continues to soar to greater heights.

Such investment could include attracting more sponsors for the national women's football league and straining every sinew to groom the raw talent at

the grassroots level.

In addition, forging partnerships with countries that excel in women's football might be a peach of an idea too.

For example, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) could perhaps set up an arrangement with global powerhouses like the USA and England that would see our coaches visit both countries to receive further training.

At the end of the day though, what cannot be denied is the bald truth that local women's football doubtlessly deserves much greater investment for it to truly flourish.

Speaking of doing well, many die-hard football aficionados will undoubtedly be hoping that Simba SC can maintain their winning ways in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group Stage after edging out the Ugandan side Vipers SC 1-0 in their last clash.

Indeed, the Msimbazi Street side is set to lock horns with their Ugandan rivals this week in what is certain to be a blockbuster

showdown between the two teams who are both on a quest for glory in continental club football.

Meanwhile, as Simba SC will be trying their damndest to get the better of Vipers SC, Yanga are also due to face-off against Malian club AS Real Bamako in an eagerly awaited 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage duel this week.

In marked contrast to Simba SC who had an abysmal start to their CAF Champions League Group Stage campaign, Yanga has only lost once and has since bagged a victory plus a draw against their various group opponents in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Needless to say then, it is hoped that our country's two biggest clubs will be able to secure victories in their respective clashes as such wins could prove to be priceless once the group stage of both the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup has run its course.

Tanzanians urged to learn Indian music

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

DAR ES SALAAM'S Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) has organized a function, dubbed 'An Evening of Ghazals', as one of the events aiming at celebrating International Women's Day.

The function had the participation of Tanzanian and Diaspora music enthusiasts, mostly students of SVCC music class conducted by TIC, Vishnu Mishra.

Soumya Chavan, SVCC's Director, said on Saturday that it was organized by SVCC to have attendants dancing and singing together to strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and Tanzania.

During the event, there were 17 performances and about 17 songs performed by singers from the Indian diaspora and seven Tanzanian singers now learning music at SVCC.

"As we celebrate International Women's Day we are very glad to see students studying at SVCC get a chance to sing Indian music after having a class conducted by TIC Vishnu Mishra," Soumya said.

The mesmerizing performances enthralled the audience-packed venue. India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan, graced the occasion.

The center has children coming to learn music and right now it has rolled out scholarship programs for people willing to learn Indian music and culture.

Soumya noted that interested people can apply for the music scholarship program under Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

The ICCR was founded on April 9 1950 to promote and develop India's relations with other countries in the field of culture.

Currently, there are 36 cultural centers all over the world working under the ICCR, Ministry of External Affairs in close association with the Indian Embassies and High Commissions.

Soumya revealed: "As we celebrate International Women's Day, the United Nations observance of the day, under the theme 'Digital, Innovation, and Technology for Gender Equality', recognizes and celebrates the women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education."

The observance will explore the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities.

It will also spotlight the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and

addressing online and information and communications technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

Highlighting SVCC, she said it was established in 2010 in Dar es Salaam. It is located at Toure Drive and Chake Chake Road with facilities for classes and public performances.

The center conducts music classes for tabla, keyboard, and Indian classical music at its premises and those located at partner organizations.

Yoga classes are conducted at the SVCC and partner institutions' premises from Monday to Friday.

The Hindi language is also taught at SVCC every Saturday and Sunday to interested students.

The Hindi students perform songs on Hindi Day, World Hindi Diwas, Independence Day, Republic Day, and other programs organized by India's High Commission to Tanzania and SVCC.

It celebrates festivals for India and coordinates performances by artists and groups traveling from India to Tanzania under ICCR sponsorship.

On October 2 every year, the SVCC organizes a celebration of Gandhi Jayanti at Mahatma Gandhi's bust installed at the University of Dar es Salaam in 2014.

The ICCR also offers various scholarships for Tanzanian students to study in India. SVCC has been celebrating International Day of Yoga at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam where more than 4000 yoga enthusiasts participate every year.

The center also coordinated IDY events in other towns in Tanzania including Arusha, Mwanza, Tanga, Tabora, Dodoma, Morogoro, Mbeya, and Iringa.

"So far we have SVCC's Director, Soumya, the head of the center, Sumit Kumar serving as a Yoga instructor, Vishnu Mishra, a music teacher, and Surojato Roy, a tabla teacher all posted by ICCR," she said.

India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Pradhan, said the event encourages cultural exchanges and building friendships through art and culture.

Fadhil Pazi, now studying Indian music at the center, called on Tanzanians to visit the center to learn the music which will in turn allow them to earn cash and improve their livelihood.

So far the center conducts music classes for tabla, keyboard, and Indian classical music at its premises and partner organizations.

The Hindi language is also taught at SVCC every Saturday and Sunday to interested students.

The SVCC's Director noted: "Let us learn international language including Hindi to work with Indian investors planning to invest in Tanzania."

FIFA introduces Electronic Player Passport

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE world football governing body (FIFA) has introduced the Electronic Player Passport (EPP) which will be keeping data of minor players.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Director of Legal, Media, and Marketing, Boniface Wambura, disclosed upon his return from Mexico where he attended the fifth edition of FIFA Football Law Review (FLAR).

He said under the EPP, the database of a player starting from the age of 12 will be under FIFA connect.

Wambura said the player data will include solidarity contributions and training rewards.

He explained the benefits of EPP as clubs that nurtured a player will be paid accordingly, help reduce age cheating and keep proper records of players.

"There have been cas-



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Director of Legal, Media, and Marketing, Boniface Wambura.

es of age cheating but, with EPP, data of a player starting from the age of 12 will be under FIFA connect, at FIFA connect each player will have his or her identity number," Wambura noted.

"Currently many clubs which nurtured players are not getting their right solidarity contribution and training rewards and there are also some clubs which under declare transfer fees of

players but, with EPP, this will be history," the TFF leader pointed out.

"It will also help keep records of players as many players do not have proper records of their movements from one club to another, hence, bringing confusion on the club to benefit from the solidarity contribution and training rewards payments," he said.

The FLAR also dis-

cussed changes in the FIFA clearing house, disciplinary code, ethics code, football agents' regulations, and transfer system as well as Regulations Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP).

Wambura also said there are discussions on how the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) operates and participants complained that it takes longer for the court to complete cases before it.

He said the participants suggested that the maximum case hearing at the court should be four months and there should be a rotation of arbitrators.

"There was a presentation from CAS official but participants complained that cases at the sports court take a long to be concluded, they suggested that the maximum of hearing a case should be four months," Wambura noted.

"They also suggested that they should be a rotation of arbitrators as this will help to reduce the

workload as in most cases some arbitrators are hearing many cases while others do not have," he said.

There was also a presentation on why FIFA and UEFA rejected the formation of the European Super League (ESL).

The meeting, which was attended by 300 participants from all over the world and had 15 speakers, was opened by FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

Infantino stressed the importance of the transfer reforms to meet modern challenges facing football and the significance of events like FLAR in bringing the football world together and strengthening principles and participation.

FIFA Chief Legal and Compliance Officer Emilio Garcia Silvero presented an overview of the legal work, achievements, and challenges of 2022 and outlined the road ahead for intensifying efforts aimed at implementing the transfer reforms ultimately realizing FIFA vision 2020-2023.



Tanzanian singers, Fadhil Ally (L) and Hamida Salehe, sing an Indian song to celebrate International Women's Day at a function, termed 'An Evening of Ghazals', which took place at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. The function brought together Tanzanian and Diaspora music enthusiasts to learn music from an instructor, Vishnu Mishra. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTER

Spurs face uncertain future despite Conte return for AC Milan clash

LONDON

ANTONIO Conte's uncertain future threatens to ruin Tottenham's spluttering season as the Italian returns to the bench for Wednesday's decisive Champions League showdown against AC Milan.

Conte is set to be back in charge of Tottenham after missing the last four games as he recovered from gallbladder surgery.

Watching on television back home in Italy while remaining in contact with his assistant Cristian Stellini, Conte saw Tottenham endure a choppy period that encapsulated the club's inconsistent form throughout his reign.

A pair of 2-0 wins against West Ham and Chelsea suggested Tottenham were on course to clinch a top four place in the Premier League with a flourish. But that optimism was punctured by a dismal 1-0 loss at second tier Sheffield United in the FA Cup fifth round and another drab league defeat by the same score at Wolves on Saturday.

Conte has walked back into Tottenham's plush training complex this week to find a club not exactly in crisis -- they still sit fourth in the Premier League for now -- but once again drifting seemingly without direction towards an anti-climactic end to the season.

The north Londoners haven't won a major trophy since 2008 and even a manager of Conte's pedigree has been unable to break the drought.

While Jurgen Klopp memorably referred to his Liverpool players as "mentality monsters" during the peak of their success under the German, Tottenham's often limp response to pressure has made them look more like "mentality midgets".

Conte has portrayed Tottenham's problems as beyond his control, subtly hinting at frustration with the transfer policy of chairman Daniel Levy without completely condemning him in public.

But the 53-year-old is taking his share of the blame from Tottenham fans, who have grown tired of his conservative tactics and questionable substitutions.

- 'Massive boost' -

Stellini's run of three successive wins prior to the FA Cup defeat made some Tottenham devotees wonder what the future would look like without Conte.

The former title winner at Chelsea, Inter Milan and Juventus has yet to sign an extension to a contract that expires at the end of this season and would surely be in demand from Serie A clubs if he was available.

Even if Tottenham finish in the top four to guarantee a return to the Champions League, it would be little surprise if Conte and Levy decided a parting of the ways was the only option in May.

Against that troubled backdrop, Tottenham host Milan in the last 16 second leg looking to overturn a 1-0 deficit from the first meeting at the San Siro.

AFP

Man Utd must trust Erik ten Hag - but can he still trust all his players?



Erik ten Hag

BY JASON BURT

THIS is not Manchester United. The words Erik ten Hag uttered after the traumatic 7-0 defeat away to Liverpool will be used as a line in the sand by the shocked United manager.

This is not Manchester United. He repeated the theme on Monday as he spoke privately - and calmly - at the club's Carrington training base about what now needs

to happen within the squad to ensure this is a one-off.

The good news for United is that while the result, and the scale of the defeat, will go down in the record books and will obviously be used as a taunt for years to come, it does not actually feel as critical as the 4-0 loss away to Brentford in what was only Ten Hag's second game in charge. Or even the 6-3 defeat at Manchester City.

After those two games it appeared United and

Ten Hag were in crisis partly because there was a genuine fear that the former Ajax coach simply might not be up to the job. After Brentford the question was asked: will these players respond to him? After City the question was whether, tactically, he could cope.

Interestingly his response to both set-backs was to do something positive. There was the old-school run he sent the players on, to cover the gap in distance cov-

ered between them and Brentford, but - crucially - with Ten Hag joining in. That showed a collective responsibility and impressed the players.

After City, Ten Hag - finally - integrated Casemiro into his team after accepting he had shown too much loyalty to Scott McTominay. And we all know the difference the Brazilian international has made since then.

What can Ten Hag do now? Does he need to put another big marker down? Does he - for example - take the captaincy away from Bruno Fernandes? The reality is that would appear not just petty but pointless and would suggest a far bigger problem.

Ten Hag options are limited. United have a vital Europa League tie beginning at home to Real Betis on Thursday and at the very least there must be a response to the "unprofessional" debacle that unfolded at Anfield. If not then there really is fresh crisis for the club.

United do not have the strength in depth and have too many games to play to make wholesale changes for the remainder of the campaign and Ten Hag needs no reminding that the starting XI against Liverpool was the same that was lauded following the Carabao Cup Final triumph against Newcastle United just seven days earlier as he brought home United's first trophy for six years.

The flying United received from former players, led by Roy Keane, following the Liverpool game was inevitable but it should also be remembered that this is the same Roy Keane

who accused Ten Hag of being disrespectful in his handling of Cristiano Ronaldo and who, previously, steadfastly backed Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as manager.

The progress United have made on the pitch under Ten Hag - the attention to detail, the coaching acumen and fair but firm man-management - will mean that the club's hierarchy are not shaken by what happened at Anfield in the way they were following the 9-0 aggregate defeats to Liverpool last season.

Then United were drowning and desperately in search of a life raft. Now that life raft has just been hit by a great big wave and they have to ensure that no permanent damage has been done and they do not continue to ship water.

The way Ten Hag dealt with Ronaldo will convince United that he is up to the scale of the task. The 53-year-old's Dutchman's professional approach - and it is key that he used the word "unprofessional" in criticising the United team on Sunday - left the pouting striker nowhere to go. So his contract was ripped up. If handled badly it could have been the end for Ten Hag. Instead he impressed the dressing room.

On a far lesser scale Ten Hag was sure-footed in punishing Marcus Rashford for sleeping in and missing a team meeting before the game away to Wolverhampton Wanderers - only for the striker to come on and score the only goal and then defuse a potential row with his own conciliatory comments. Ten Hag is blunt but not aggressive. There is no malice.

In a way Ten Hag has been lucky - the Rashford episode could have backfired; the Ronaldo

one even more so. But he has also made his own luck with good decision-making - such as his conduct towards Harry Maguire who is clearly on his way out but has not been humiliated - even if he will curse that it deserted him against Liverpool.

What that result should do, conversely, is empower Ten Hag even more. His one questionable transfer - and it is an issue - is the insistence that United spent £85million on Antony which was more than twice their original valuation for the Brazilian winger.

There were even those around Ten Hag who urged him to sign Cody Gakpo instead, who would have cost less than half the price. Then when the manager did want the Dutch forward there was no money left in the budget for the January window. And we all saw what Gakpo did to United even if he has not yet played consistently well for Liverpool.

As ever a big summer looms for United. But it appears to be, through Uefa's new Financial Sustainability rules and the £307million outstanding on transfer fees, one where they will have to sell before they can buy - although that might change, of course, should there be new owners.

Ten Hag is fully aware of this and the importance of ensuring Champions League qualification and has made clear his priorities which are primarily a striker and a midfielder. What the Liverpool defeat should do, however, is convince United even more that they have to listen to him and back him. He has earned that. Some of the players, though, have lost that trust.

THE TELEGRAPH

PSG clash the true test for Bayern's Champions League recruits

BAYERN Munich host Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday with the stage set for star turns from their 2022-23 additions Sadio Mane and Matthijs de Ligt.

With Bayern having won ten league titles in succession, the two big-name summer recruits were brought to Munich mainly with European nights in mind.

Bayern return to the Allianz Arena with a 1-0 advantage after former PSG forward Kingsley Coman's second-half goal at the Parc des Princes in the first leg, the same scoreline and goalscorer of their 2019-20 Champions League final win.

Bayern need only to avoid defeat to ensure passage to the quarter finals. But just as it is for PSG boss Christophe Galtier, Bayern manager Julian Nagelsmann is well aware that elimination will leave a burn that domestic results will not be able to cleanse.

Nagelsmann said as much after his side's tighter-than-hoped win at Stuttgart on Saturday, saying he hoped it was

not the "result" but "the manner and style of our game (against PSG) is how the season will be seen."

Early European exits are not to be tolerated in the Bavarian capital, regardless of the quality of their opposition.

Only once have Bayern been knocked out before reaching the quarter finals in the past ten years, a decade in which they have lifted the European Cup twice.

That elimination came against eventual champions Liverpool in 2018-19 and despite winning the league and cup double that same season, the sting ultimately proved fatal for then manager Niko Kovac.

- Mane's midweek pedigree -

After Bayern's 2-1 win at Stuttgart on Saturday, Nagelsmann locked the dressing room door to give a speech reminding his side of the task ahead of them against Paris.

"I told them that on Wednesday we have a very important game and that we need to bring our intensity," the 35-year-old

manager told Germany's Sky.

"They're a difficult team to beat and are one of the best teams in Europe."

Key to that intensity and focus will be Mane, who has a habit of performing on the European stage, including scoring a go-ahead goal for Liverpool at the Allianz Arena which helped secure Bayern's elimination.

Mane made the move from Liverpool to Munich in the summer of 2022 having appeared in three of the past five Champions League finals, winning one and scoring in another.

The forward is line for his first start in four months on Wednesday as he continues his return from a leg injury which ruled him out of Senegal's World Cup campaign.

Mane has made two appearances from the bench in the league since recovering from the injury and despite looking sharp has not yet recaptured his best form.

"It's normal that he needs a bit more rhythm" said Nagelsmann on Saturday after Mane's

30-minute cameo from the bench on Saturday.

"We'll wait and see on Wednesday whether he will start."

- De Ligt focused -

Behind Mane in the centre of defence is de Ligt, the man tasked with shutting down PSG's strike duo of Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe.

Since moving from Juventus, de Ligt took a little longer than Mane to establish himself in Munich, initially coming off the bench.

France star Lucas Hernandez's ACL injury in Qatar in November however gave de Ligt an opportunity which he grabbed with both hands.

De Ligt played perhaps his best game for Bayern against Stuttgart on Saturday, clearing a goal off the line before scoring one of his own at the other end of the pitch in a furious two-minute period.

Even with news emerging that Neymar will miss the tie, the Dutch defender said on Saturday Bayern will have their hands full with Paris' "dangerous" duo of Mbappe and Messi.

"They are two very good strikers. It will be very difficult," de Ligt told Germany's SID news agency.

"We have to play a top game and be extra focused."

Meanwhile, Kylian Mbappe heads to Munich fresh from a record-breaking weekend with Paris Saint-Germain and determined to lead the French giants past Bayern and into the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

PSG trail 1-0 from the first leg of the heavy-weight last-16 tie, after injury reduced Mbappe to a cameo appearance off

the bench in that match last month.

Yet the 24-year-old France superstar did enough in his short time on the pitch then -- including having a goal disallowed for a marginal offside -- to make it clear that he can swing the tie the Parisians' way.

Since that game, the Ligue 1 leaders have recovered from a worrying slump in form to claim three straight domestic wins, scoring 11 goals in the process.

Mbappe has netted five of them, including one in Saturday's 4-2 win over Nantes that saw him overtake Edinson Cavani and

become PSG's all-time top scorer, five and a half years after signing from Monaco in 2017.

The player who in December became the first to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final since Geoff Hurst in 1966, boasts the remarkable record of 201 goals from 247 games in a PSG shirt.

- 'Leave a mark' -

"Every player plays to leave a mark and so that his name goes down in football history, to not be forgotten. I think with this record that people will remember me here," Mbappe said after being awarded a trophy by PSG

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man Utd must trust Erik ten Hag – but can he still trust all his players?

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Gymkhana golfers bid farewell to Mark Ocitti

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM Gymkhana Club (DGC) golfer Shaiza Bhanji last Sunday emerged victorious in a special golf tournament aimed at bidding farewell to outgoing Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) Managing Director, Mark Ocitti.

The tournament, which took place at the DGC course, involved golfers from Moshi Gymkhana Club, Lugalo Club, and the DGC golfers.

The DGC Chairman, Lesser Sayore, said during the presentation ceremony the club organized the showdown in honour of Ocitti that has been a member of the club.

Sayore pointed out Ocitti's company has been doing a great job of sponsoring various tournaments at the club.

Shaiza triumphed in the showdown, played in Stable Ford format, after posting 36 points followed by Kain Mbaya who scored 34 points to settle for second place.

"I'm very happy to win on this course, my game is improving steadily and I hope to perform even better in the upcoming events," Shaiza said shortly after winning the tournament.

The winner took home the trophy after repelling the challenge by Kain and Hussein Dewji.

Hitesh Valambia won the Division B event after recording 43 points followed by second-placed Mohamed Sammy who carded 37 points.

Valambia revealed: "The competition was really hard, it wasn't easy, I couldn't putt and I had challenges with the greens but I tried my best, and thank God I have won."

Gulam Dewji was the top-placed golfer in the Division C event after returning 38 points, beating second-placed Pradeep Kumar Srivastava (Maxinsure Company's CEO) by three points.

In the Ladies' category, Iddah Kwanyah scored 37 points to win the category's top prize while the second position went to Yvonne Ondari who recorded 29 points.

Nsajigwa Mwansasu was the Men's guest winner, having scored 38 points to win the top honour, while the second position went to Theo Mushi who returned 35 points.

"I am happy with the victory, but I have to work on my game because I dropped several shots, especially at the par-three 11th hole," Mwansasu revealed.

The golfer added: "I want to build upon this success and hopefully I will win bigger tournaments soon."

The Ladies' guest prize went to Zainab Bacho, who notched 33 points, and the runner-up position went to Catherine Mabula who returned 30 points.



Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC)'s Chairman, Lesser Sayore (L), presents a trophy to golfer Gulam Dewji that triumphed in Division C of a special tournament that took place at the club's course last weekend. The tournament was held in honour of outgoing Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) Managing Director, Mark Ocitti. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Yanga searches for second win in 2022/23 CAF CC, hosts AS Real Bamako



Tanzania's Yanga winger, Tuisila Kisinda (L), negotiates his way past Mali's AS Real Bamako right-back, Souleymane Coulibaly, during the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group D tie which took place at Stade du 26 Mars in Bamako, Mali on February 19. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

A lot is at stake for Tanzania's Yanga head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, and his men as they host Mali's AS Real Bamako on matchday 4 of Group D of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Both teams played to a 1-1 draw a week ago in Mali.

This is a must-win fixture for Yanga if they want to advance to the next round of the second tier of continental tournaments.

They must ensure they take three points from this encounter otherwise they will heap huge pressure on themselves to take maximum points from their final two matches as qualification may fall out of their own hands.

Yanga has taken four points from their opening three games in Group D of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup.

They opened their campaign with a 2-0 loss away to Tunisia's US Monastir before bouncing back with a 3-1 home victory over DR Congo's TP Mazembe.

An injury-time equalizer by AS Real Bamako denied Yanga maximum points in Bamako last week to complicate the Group D standing.

Nabi's men are positioned second in Group D, three

points behind US Monastir who will host TP Mazembe in the other Group D match today.

Third-placed TP Mazembe has recorded three points and AS Real Bamako is last in the group with two points. As it stands all teams still retain a chance to progress to the knockout stage.

This sets up a situation where Yanga more or less needs to win this week.

Halfway through the

Group Stage, three points would go a long way in positioning the Tanzanian club for a historic quarterfinal ticket.

Considering the quality the team possesses, the country's soccer fanatics can expect the host to dominate this game with the support of the home crowd.

This is easier said than done but, respectfully, this should be one of the more favourable fixtures in the

group stage and this is the time to finally come to life.

The primary objective for Nabi is to win this game at any cost. The performance will have to be a step up from the reverse fixture, but the building blocks are certainly there.

Mudathir Yahya, Stephane Aziz Ki, and Bakari Mwamnyeto each received a yellow card previously, therefore they will have to be cautious in this fixture.

AS Real Bamako was initially primed to be the group whipping boys but draws in ties against US Monastir and Yanga have shown they can compete.

While the Mali club did not generate a ton of scoring chances at home, another draw would keep Group D completely up in the air, which is exactly what this side would want to see while Yanga would want to avoid.



Opah Clement. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA QUEENS SC

Simba Queens SC skipper Opah Clement, joins Turkey's Besiktas

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIAN striker, Opah Clement, has joined Turkish giants Besiktas Women's FC from Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League side, Simba Queens.

Beiktas Women's FC is the women's football section of Beiktas JK, a major sports club in Istanbul, Turkey.

The two-time Turkish women's league champions are currently third in the Women's I League with 24 points, six fewer than leaders ALG Spor. They have played 14 matches in Group A.

Simba Queens confirmed the news but did not reveal the length of her contract.

"The management of

Simba SC has reached an agreement for the sale of the captain of our Simba Queens team, Opa Clement, to Besiktas of Turkey," part of the club's official report read.

The in-form striker has already left for Turkey to start her career with Besiktas Women's FC which is participating in the Turkish women's top-flight league.

She leaves the Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League as the showdown's leading goal scorer.

She scored nine league goals for defending champions, Simba Queens, at the halfway mark of the 2022/23 campaign.

After helping Simba Queens to a fourth-place

finish in last year's CAF Women's Champions League, Opah revealed that she was keen on trying her luck abroad again.

She had earlier suited up for the Turkish women's outfit, Kayserispor, in the 2021/22 season, scoring five goals in 10 matches during her brief spell before reuniting with Simba Queens for the CECAFA Women's Club Championship Qualifiers.

The Tanzania international was named the Woman of the Match following her contributions in the 2022 CAF Women's Champions League.

Opa's notable showing was her 79th-minute match-winner in Simba Queens' 2-0 win over

Zambia's Green Buffaloes in the continental showdown tie that took place in Morocco. She was also named in the team of the tournament.

The 23-year-old goal machine now joins several Tanzanian players who have secured transfer moves to overseas clubs.

Former Yanga Princess striker Aisha Masaka is a player for Swedish Women's Premier League side, BK Häcken, battling it out in the Damallsvenskan on a four-year deal.

Compatriot Juliet Singano, the other former Simba Queens player, last year joined Mexican side, FC Juárez Femenil, to take part in the country's women's top flight, Liga MX Femenil.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

