



### National Pg 3 Submit applications, bus owners told



### National Pg 4 Villagers to remove invasive jumbos



### National Pg 6 Adopt quality measures, processors urged



## Niger's military sets three-year transition

NIAMEY

NIGER'S coup leader has promised to return the West African nation to civilian rule within three years.

Gen Abdourahamane Tchiani (pictured) made the announcement after meeting mediators from the West African regional bloc Ecowas in the capital, Niamey.

ECOWAS has threatened military action to reverse last month's overthrow of President Mohamed Bazoum if talks fail.

The junta head said that Niger did not want a war but would defend itself against any foreign intervention.

"If an attack were to be undertaken against us, it will not be the walk in the park some people seem to think," he warned in his televised address on Saturday evening.

Gen Tchiani also reiterated criticism of what he called the "illegal and inhumane" sanctions imposed by Ecowas on the landlocked country.

This has included cutting electricity, resulting in blackouts in Niamey and other major cities, as well as blocking crucial imports.

Lorry drivers have been stuck for weeks waiting to bring in supplies, forcing up food prices.

**“He wields huge influence in Niger, part of which used to be in the Sokoto Caliphate, a powerful kingdom before colonial rule**

"Sanctions are not conceived with the aim of finding a solution but to bring us to our knees and humiliate us," Gen Tchiani said.

Thousands of men came to a stadium in Niamey on Saturday to register for a volunteer force in case of invasion - although overcrowding prevented the registration process starting, report said.

Regional efforts to reverse the coup have been backed by the US and France, which both have military bases in Niger. These bases are part of efforts to tackle jihadist groups in the wider Sahel region.

The junta leader, who headed the presidential guard before seizing power on 26 July, said military intervention could worsen the Islamist insurgencies linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

"They seem ignorant to the fact that it is in large part thanks to the professionalism and valour of the defence and security forces of Niger that Niger has remained a barrier preventing terrorist hordes from destabilising the whole region," he said.

The coup mirrors similar recent takeovers in neighbouring Burkina Faso and Mali.

And the influence of Russia in the wider Sahel region is also growing through its

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Samia: Jobs won't be lost as Treasury restructures firms



President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents an award for outstanding financial and operational performance for up to this June to NIC Insurance managing director Dr Elirehema Doriye (2nd-R) and board chairman Justine Mwandu (R) at the Public CEOs Forum held in Arusha city at the weekend. The event coincided with the commemoration of 60 years of the national insurance corporation's services in Tanzania. Witnessing the event include Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment), Prof Kitilia Mkumbo (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

WORKERS in public sector organisations that are slated for extensive restructuring will not be laid off, only moved to different firms and government departments, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has declared.

In opening remarks at the working sessions for board chairmen and chief executive officers of public institutions with a commercial mandate here over the weekend, the president said that while undertaking major transformations in corporate institutions no jobs will be lost.

The job fears allayed by the president arise from intentions to cut out underperforming public firms, while merging various firms or organizations with overlapping responsibilities.

The shift will be coordinated by the office of the Treasury Registrar as it is 'upgraded; from holding shares of public commercial institutions and organizational supervisor, to a fully-fledged Public Investments Authority.

The president set out the changes in

## TCRA leads in public coffers' contributions

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has emerged as the foremost government institution among a select group of entities recognised for their outstanding dividend contributions up to June 2023.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan handed the prestigious accolade to Dr Jabiri Bakari, the TCRA director general, with a certificate of recognition, where a similar certificate was presented to Khalfan Salehe, the board vice chairman.

The award presentation occurred at the

**“Government institutions currently account for 17 percent of the country's job openings**

Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) at the weekend, accompanying a CEOs and board chairmen for public sector firms three day working session with the Treasury Registrar.

Awards and certificates of recognition were handed to various state firms and agencies along with regulatory authorities, ranked on the basis of contributions to public coffers.

Nehemiah Mchechu, the Treasury Registrar, said that TCRA made a remarkable contribution of 272.4bn/- to the Treasury, with President Samia commending the recognised institutions for their contributions.

She reiterated the need for extensive changes in operations of a range of public firms, to eliminate their dependence on Treasury subsidies and attain sustainability.

"Government-owned institutions should contribute by generating dividends for the

TURN TO PAGE 2



## 14 parties line up for Mbarali by-election

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

CONTESTANTS from 14 political parties are expected to feature in the by-election

for Mbarali constituency, Mbeya Region on September 19.

The by-election follows the death of the former MP Francis Mtega (pictured) in an

accident involving his motorcycle and a power tiller.

Misana Kwangula, the Mbarali assistant returning officer, said the run up to the by-election began with parties moving into the selection of candidates after the National Electoral Commission announced the seat to be vacant.

While the leading opposition party, Chadema is boycotting the polls, the returning officer says the 14 parties picked contestants in accordance with their internal procedures.

They collected forms and returned for regulatory endorsement except one party whose contestant did not return the forms, he said, listing the contesting parties as the ruling CCM, Tanzania Labour Party (TLP), the United Democratic Party (UDP), ACT Wazalendo, Democratic Party (DP), Alliance of Farmers AAFP, CCK, Alliance for Democratic Change (ADC), National League for Democracy (NLD), National Reconstruction Alliance (NRA), Union for Multiparty Democracy (UMD), ADA TADEA

TURN TO PAGE 2





## TCRA leads in public coffers' contributions

FROM PAGE 1

government. However, we must eliminate political interference on these organizations if we want them to truly thrive," she stated.

Government institutions currently account for 17 percent of the country's job openings, she said, affirming the government's commitment to preserving jobs even with structural reforms in operation of public firms.

In handing the certificates, she said that the government acknowledges that certain institutions are performing exceptionally well, making significant contributions to public coffers by delivering exemplary services.

The government categorized institutions into groups, of those providing regular dividends, those yielding dividends but with minority government shares, those generating substantial profits, and those that have undergone substantial operational and

managerial reforms.

The Treasury Registrar currently oversees 248 institutions in which the government holds over 51 percent of shares, entrusted with strategies of the various institutions, advising the government on mergers and consolidations, he said.

The CEOs and board chairmen deliberated on how public firms can stimulate economic growth while reducing reliance on fiscal subsidies.

The registrar cited the paramount importance of public firms aligning with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) set for 2030.

Non-tax contributions from government institutions, including dividends, profits and levy collections currently stand at 3.0 percent of total revenues, with the government seeking that public firms contribute up to 10 percent of non-tax revenues within the next five years.

## 14 parties line up for Mbarali by-election

FROM PAGE 1

and Demokrasia Makini.

"The forms were issued from August 19 and Saturday was the final day to collect and return the forms, all parties having returned the forms except NRA," he said.

Speaking to reporters after returning the forms, some contestants said they expect to win in the contest. Bahati Ndingo (CCM), erstwhile Special Seats MP through the Parents Organisation, said she has great expectations to emerge the winner.

She vowed to conduct a modern political campaign to ensure she emerges winner and start serving the constituents.

"My party is heavily supported in the area, hence I believe I will win the seat, I will conduct house to house campaigning explaining the good deeds that have been brought to them by the CCM government," she stated.

Mary Mbwilo, the district CCM

chairperson who sought for the nomination in the party's primaries, said the party has a good contestant assured of winning.

ACT-Wazalendo contestant Modestus Kilufi, who sought for the CCM nomination in the 2015 polls also talked of emerging the winner.

He said he still has the thirst to lead Mbarali people especially in fighting for their rights. They are faced with many challenges that have not been addressed, he stated.

"For a long time we have been calling for solutions to the issue of boundaries with conservation areas, water problems, land disputes all of which are yet to be addressed," he stated, vowing to begin working on the issues right after the polls.

Other contestants who collected and returned the forms include Hussein Msea (ADA TADEA), Halima Magambo (AAFP), Fatuma Rashid Zania (NLD), Moris Ngonolo (TLP), Bariki Manyalu (Demokrasia Makini) and Hashimu Abbas (ADC).

## Niger's military sets three years transition

FROM PAGE 1

mercenary group Wagner.

Gen Tchiani did not give details about the handover of power, but said the principles for the transition would be decided within 30 days at a "dialogue" hosted by the coup leaders.

Ecowas has not yet commented on the announcement except to say that during the visit on Saturday, mediators also met Bazoum, who has been in detention with his wife

and son since the coup.

Their delegation was led by former Nigerian military leader Gen Abdulsalami Abubakar and also included Nigeria's most senior Muslim leader, the Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III.

He wields huge influence in Niger, part of which used to be in the Sokoto Caliphate, a powerful kingdom before colonial rule.

Saturday's meeting was the first between leaders of the junta and ECOWAS.

## DRC faces worst cholera epidemic in last six years

KINSHASA

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is facing its worst cholera epidemic for 6 years, warns the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), due to a spike in conflict and displacement in the eastern part of the country.

The UN agency reports that 31,342 cases of suspected or confirmed cholera and 230 deaths were notified throughout the country during the first 7 months of this year, including many children.

North Kivu is the most affected province. On its own, more than 21,400 confirmed or suspected cases, including more than 8,000 children under the age of 5, have been recorded since the start of the year, while over the whole of 2022, only 5,120 cases there had been identified, including 1,200 in

children under 5 years of age.

UNICEF's senior coordinator for emergencies in the DRC, Shameza Abdulla, calls for an urgent reaction in order to avoid the worst.

"If urgent measures are not taken in the coming months, the epidemic risks spreading to parts of the country that have been spared for many years," she said, adding: "It is also likely to continue to spread in displacement sites where systems are already overwhelmed and where the population, especially children, is very vulnerable to disease and, potentially, death. Displaced families have already suffered so much."

In a similar situation in 2017, cholera expanded to the entire country, including the capital city, Kinshasa, leading to almost 55,000 cases and more than 1,100 deaths.



Sister Jacqueline Gbanga (C), officer in-charge of Masanga Health Centre in Tarime District, shares details on equipment and supplies at the health facility with Jessica Greene (R), the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) coordinator in Tanzania, during a recent visit to Mara Region. The tour was meant to assess PEPFAR's impact in Tanzania in the last 20 years. With them is Dr George Mgomella, associate director of programmes at the Dar es Salaam office of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Photo courtesy of US Embassy

## Kenya's public debt rises by a record \$10.8 billion

NAIROBI

KENYA'S debt level has reached record highs despite President William Ruto's vow to tame the country's appetite for loans, treasury figures show.

Total public debt rose by a record 1.56 trillion shillings (\$10.8 billion) in the financial year ended June 30 to 10.1 trillion shillings (\$70.75 billion), breaching a debt ceiling of 10 trillion shillings, according to the data released recently.

"The increase in the public debt is attributed to external loan disbursements, exchange rate fluctuations and the uptake of domestic and external debt," the Treasury said.

Loan repayment costs, mainly to China, have shot up as the local currency trades at record lows of around 144 shillings to the dollar.

The cost of debt servicing in the year ended June was 391 billion

shillings (\$2.7 billion), of which the highest payment -- 107 billion shillings (\$743 million) -- went to China.

The debt load has prompted warnings from global credit ratings agencies including Fitch Ratings which last month downgraded Kenya's ability to repay international lenders from "stable to negative", citing tax hikes and social unrest.

Kenyan lawmakers voted in June to change the debt ceiling from a fixed shilling amount to a proportion of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The Senate is yet to pass the amendment.

Ruto came to power last year on a promise to revive the economy in the country of about 53 million people.

Economic growth slowed to 4.8 percent in 2022 from 7.6 percent the previous year and is forecast

to expand by more than five percent this year, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Outlining his plan for a "bottom-up" economic transformation, Ruto promised to slash government debt and introduce policies putting money in the pockets of impoverished Kenyans.

But his first act after taking office in September last year was to cut food and fuel subsidies introduced by his predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta, saying he preferred subsidizing production instead of consumption.

In June, Ruto introduced new taxes that increased prices for basic goods such as fuel and food and mobile money transfers, as well as a controversial levy on all taxpayers to fund a housing scheme.

But in a U-turn on Monday, his administration reinstated a fraction of the fuel subsidy following several rounds of deadly anti-government

protests and public anger over the high cost of living.

The subsidy "to cushion consumers from the spike in pump prices" will last for a month, the country's energy regulator said.

"Expectations of higher international oil prices and the possibility of further shilling weakness will test the government's commitment to contain fuel prices in the coming months," think tank Oxford Economics Africa said Tuesday, adding that the subsidy was against the wishes of the IMF.

Kenya is one of the most dynamic economies in East Africa but about a third of the population lives in poverty.

Inflation in Kenya has remained stubbornly high, at an annual rate of 7.3 percent last month.

Ruto has insisted the tax hikes are needed to create jobs and fill government coffers and ease over-reliance on borrowing.



Dr Samwel Shelukindo (L), Permanent Secretary in the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry, exchanges greetings with Cecep Herawan, Secretary General of the Indonesian Foreign Affairs ministry, shortly before talks in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of Foreign Affairs ministry

## Mali drops French as official language

BAMAKO

WITH its new constitution, Mali has dropped French, which has been the country's official language since 1960.

According to reports, under the new constitution passed overwhelmingly with 96.91% of the vote in a June 18 referendum, French is no longer the official language. Although French will

be the working language, 13 other national languages spoken in the country will receive official language status.

Mali which has about 70 other local languages spoken in the country and some of them, including Bambara, Bobo, Dogon, and Minianka, were granted national language status under a 1982 decree.

Recall that, Mali's junta

leader Col. Assimi Goita put the country's new constitution into effect, marking the beginning of the Fourth Republic in the West African nation.

According to the Presidency, Mali's military since taking power in an August 2020 coup, has maintained that the constitution would be critical to rebuilding the country.

Mali witnessed two subsequent

coups in recent years, one in August 2020 and the other in May 2021.

The junta had initially promised to hold elections in February 2022 but later delayed them to February 2024.

The decision by Mali to drop French comes at a time of growing anti-France sentiments across West Africa due to its perceived military and political interference.





Deogratius Ndejemi, Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), addresses residents of Bugomba 'A' village in Kahama District yesterday shortly after gracing the launch of primary schools built with BOOST project funding. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

## Bus owners called on to submit applications for 24-hour operation

By Getrude Mbago

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has urged owners of commuter buses interested to operate 24 hours to start submitting their applications for the authority to work on them.

Currently, some buses are allowed to commence their journey at 3am and park before midnight.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam on Friday, LATRA's director of road transport, Johansen Kahatano, said the authority will have to go through the applications and provide a go ahead for buses which will meet requirements.

"We are now preparing to start allowing buses to operate 24 hours but there are some measures that need to be completed which include settling the issue of routes and security so as to make the service safe for all. We hope the service will start soon because there are discussions going on between Home Affairs and the Works and Transport ministries so as to reach consensus on how the routes will be planned considering the areas with high demand," he said.

According to him, the authority is implementing directives issued by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in June this year while adjourning the 11th session of the 12th Parliament in Dodoma where he wanted responsible authorities to start working on processes to allow 24 operation of passenger buses.

The government granted permission for upcountry passenger buses to operate for 24 hours in a bid to further stimulate the economy in the transport sub-sector.

Majaliwa said: "In light of the improvement in roads and communication countrywide, as well as the opinions of various stakeholders in the transport sector, including lawmakers, it appears

that bus owners and drivers are willing to comply with road safety regulations."

To implement the decision, the Premier said the Ministry of Home Affairs would cooperate with the Ministry of Works and Transport, particularly in the transportation sector, to establish a procedure for bus owners and drivers who plan to transport passengers at night.

At the end of the 1990s, passenger buses were banned from travelling at night because of frequent incidents of bus hijacking, which resulted in passengers being looted and humiliated, high rate of bus accidents, which resulted in deaths and permanent disabilities, as well as property and road infrastructure damage.

Meanwhile, Kahatano warned some passenger buses that have been violating placed regulations and commencing their journey contrary to the time which they have been given.

"There are some buses which have been allowed to start their journey at 5am but violating it and starting at 4am or 3am, this is a violation of the law and guidelines, we are monitoring them very closely and we will take stern measures against them," he explained.

**“We are now preparing to start allowing buses to operate 24 hours but there are some measures that need to be completed which include settling the issue of routes and security so as to make the service safe for all**

## India upgrades supercomputer at NM-AIST

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

IN order to ensure that Tanzania's largest and highest performing remains power supplied against all odds, the High Commission of India in Dar es Salaam has reinforced the Param Kilimanjaro with 64 solar-powered standby batteries.

The added hardware accessories for uninterrupted power supply to the nation's largest technological brain, is part of the upgradation of India-Tanzania Information Communication Technology Centre at the Arusha campus of the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology.

The India High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta handed the batteries to the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Technology,

Prof Anthony Mshandete.

"The Param Kilimanjaro, which is the largest supercomputer in East Africa, was operating under capacity because of challenges arising from power shading, but now with auxiliary power supply it will attain its full potential," said the Deputy Vice Chancellor.

Dr Judith Leo, Acting Dean of School of Computation and Communication Science and Engineering said the super computer is used for research, data dissemination, and high-level technical training and data management.

"India will continue to support Tanzania's technological advancement in training, medicine and communication sectors," stated the High Commissioner of India, Binaya Srikanta during the event.

He pointed out that the India-Tanzania Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology initiative is already bearing fruits in the country.

Through the initiative, India helped to establish the country's most powerful supercomputer, the Param-Kilimanjaro installed at Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology in Arusha.

Previously India installed another Param Serengeti High Speed Super Computer, IT laboratories, and tele-medicine center at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) which is linked to 10 remote regional hubs.

The Param-Kilimanjaro of Arusha is essentially five-times more powerful than the Param-Serengeti in Dar es Salaam.

The NM-AIST Param Kilimanjaro

at NM-AIST is a 100 terabyte (100,000 gigabyte) machine compared to the Param Serengeti operating at the Dar-es-Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), which features only 20 terabytes (20,000 gigabyte).

A supercomputer is a highly intelligent computer with a high-level computational capacity compared to a general-purpose computer.

Performance of a supercomputer is measured in floating-point operations per second (FLOPS) instead of million instructions per second (MIPS).

The India-Tanzania education relationship is as old as the 62 years of Independence, with more than 500 scholarships extended to students from Tanzania going to study in New Delhi or Mumbai.



National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mussa Hassan Zungu (3rd-L), legislator for Dar es Salaam's Ilala constituency, presents a gas stove to food vendor Editha Mahona yesterday in a gesture meant to protect the environment. Left is Kivukoni councillor Sharik Choughule. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## New AI model aids in African sustainability efforts by accurately predicting fish stocks

By Emma Desrochers

SMALL-scale fisheries in Africa and Asia, where accurate stock predictions are often too expensive to conduct, are underperforming relative to their maximum sustained yields due to undue strain from overfishing, a new study has said.

African countries, in particular, are becoming net importers rather than exporters as fishery yields are declining at an estimated 1 million metric tons (MT) per year. Human, environmental, geographical, and ecological factors impact fish biomass and yields, the complexity of which makes it challenging to estimate.

However, a new artificial intelligence (AI) pilot tool managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) that, with limited data, can quickly and accurately estimate coastal fish stocks in data-poor areas aims to mitigate the issue and more clearly estimate fish biomass in these types of fisheries.

"People are fishing without knowing the state of their fishery and what the potential is for sustainable fishing. They

often do not know if they are overfishing or underfishing in the coarsest terms," WCS Conservation Biologist and Lead Study Author Tim McClanahan said. "This is particularly true in tropical fisheries where the species of fish are many, the ecosystems are complex, and science is insufficient to answer these questions."

Applied to Western Indian Ocean coral reefs using biomass data from past research, the AI model produced an 85 percent accurate prediction for fish census biomass data, which in turn, allows fishers to connect overfishing with their inability to meet maximum sustainable yield, as well as lost catch and income.

"The 85 percent we achieved is as high as you can expect, but the question is over how large an area can you use this model - just nearby sites or perhaps the whole ocean? The farther away from your data the model is predicting, the weaker the predictions. But, in many cases poor predictions are better than no predictions," McClanahan said.

According to the WCS, stock assessments typically employed by

developed countries are expensive and labor-intensive, making them nearly impossible for fisheries in countries like Africa and Asia, which have the highest percentage of small-scale fisheries relying on nearshore ecosystems for income and food, to conduct.

## JOB VACANCIES

Company in Dar Es Salaam is looking for **Technical Support Managers, Advisors & Technicians** who have experience in working with **Construction Equipments such as Excavators, Backhoes, Motor Graders, Rollers, etc**

Skilled at managing customer queries, issues and providing technical assistance to clients.

Candidates who have worked previously at dealerships of Construction Equipments will be preferred.

Send your CV / Introduction on:  
[Office@primemachineryltd.com](mailto:Office@primemachineryltd.com)  
whatsapp number: 255 756292455

217561901



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### CONSULTANCY TO REVIEW AMDT SUBSECTORS INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

#### About AMDT

The Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) was established in 2014 by the Governments of Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, and Switzerland in cooperation with Tanzania as a long-term facility with the overall objective of increasing incomes and employment opportunities for poor women, men, and young people. With a strong pro-poor focus, AMDT works with the Private Sector, Government, and Civil Society Organizations to promote the Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P)/Market Systems Development (MSD) approach that stimulates changes to market systems leading to a broad and sustained impact on the lives of smallholder farmers as well as the competitiveness of agricultural MSMEs.

AMDT promotes inclusive private sector-led economic growth in green job-creating and income sustaining rural agricultural value chains. The Trust applies the Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P)/Market Systems Development (MSD) approach that stimulates changes to market systems leading to a broad and sustained impact on the lives of smallholder farmers as well as the competitiveness of agricultural MSMEs. To achieve the goal, AMDT collaborates with various partners with the right incentives and capacity to implement systemic interventions that lead to desired systemic results.

These partners include the Government of Tanzania, private sector companies, civil society organisations and smallholder farmers. The Trust invests together with market actors, in interventions that are: (i) based on diagnosed constraints and pro-poor opportunities, (ii) are well coordinated to enhance the leveraging of investments and resources targeting similar outcomes, (iii) stimulate the development of inclusive, competitive, and resilient agricultural market systems, leading to sustained benefits and impacts for the productive poor.

As part of its continued improvement and planned future growth, AMDT is seeking for eligible, reputable, and qualified consultants on the assignments mentioned below: <http://amdt.co.tz/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/AMDT-TOR-Consultancy-to-Review-Sector-Strategies-17082023.pdf>

All bidders are requested to access detailed Terms of Reference through the above links on AMDT website. The links provide all required information and complete tender descriptions.

For more information or inquiries, interested bidders are advised to contact AMDT through:

[procurement@amdt.co.tz](mailto:procurement@amdt.co.tz) by COB 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

**HOW TO APPLY:**  
Applicants MUST follow all due instructions in the RFP. All applications must be sent through [procurement@amdt.co.tz](mailto:procurement@amdt.co.tz)

Only qualified bidders will be contacted via email.

CLOSING DATE: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023.

217561901



## Hope as Arusha Region gets 5bn/- seeds plant

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) has installed 5bn/- worth seed processing plant in Arusha Region. Seed stakeholders have the government's decision to make such huge investment in the construction of seed processing plant and warehouse that will cost 5bn/- at Kisongo area in Arusha Region.

The government has also assured that it will work together with the firm to make sure the plant is completed in time and to address challenges facing it.

The commendation was given at the weekend by Arusha Regional Commissioner, Johgn Mongela when launching the seed plant construction at the project site here.

He praised Seed.Co for the decision saying not only it will help in the availability of adequate seeds in the country, but also it will be producing quality seeds.

"Seed.Co are in 22 countries in Africa, which means it is a big company, and this is in tandem with Tanzania having a good investing environment, which will spur more big investors in the country," he said.

"Always, President samia Suluhu Hassan has been urging investors wherever possible to support investors with all our might as the government alone cannot pride solutions for shortfall in all its sectors. "Hence the government has every reason to support Seed. Co and other investors who want to invest in the country and the government pledges full support to them," the Rc said.

Earlier, Seed.Co Director General, Morgan Nzwere said that they have been in Tanzania for a long time engaged in renting business but now the need for seeds has increased, hence they decided to invest in the seed processing plant and the warehouse.

He added that as for now Seed.Co are operating in 22 African countries and is among large seed firm in the continent owing to the quality of seeds they produce including those for maize, barley, wheat, beans and various kinds of vegetables.

"The plant is expected to cost

5bn/- and is being constructed in the 6,000 square metres of land and will alter the land scape of the Kisongo area," he said and added that it will also increase government revenues as well as assist in making sure of the country's food security.

"We are still communicating with the government for more areas for seeds production to make sure all types of seeds are produced here in the country and stop the dependence to import seeds," he added.

For his part, the Managing Director of Tanzania Seed Trade Association (TASTA) Dr Bob Shuma said that as for now they have been urging for big seed firms to invest in the country.

"We have not less than 60 seed producing firms in the country but those of international standards are 20, Seed.Co being one of them," he said and added that for 15 years they have been collaborating with the government in making sure there are the is a good environment for the production of seeds and now they have reached a good stage for establishing a huge firm for producing standard quality seeds.



**Always, President samia Suluhu Hassan has been urging investors wherever possible to support investors with all our might as the government alone cannot pride solutions for shortfall in all its sectors**

## Most young Zimbabwean voters dream of 'change'

HARARE

JUST days before a national election to pick a president and lawmakers, one word is on the lips of most young Zimbabweans: "change".

Yet, questions about who can deliver change and whether it might happen draw elusive or conflicting answers on the bustling and trafficked streets of Harare, the capital.

"There needs to be a change in almost everything, we need change," said Tsitsi Chifura, a 22-year-old human resources student, echoing the concerns of many others at the lack of work opportunities.

"We have nothing to do, we are just sitting (around)," she said as she walked on the streets of the central business district.

About two-thirds of Zimbabweans are under 25, according to the United Nations.

Many will be voting for the first time on August 23, in an election where unemployment, estimated by economists at about 70 percent in the formal sector, is one of the top concerns.

Talk of change often implies support for the opposition, led by Nelson Chamisa, a 45-year-old lawyer and pastor. But almost no one says that out loud.

"I am scared," said Valentine Kamupini a 25-year-old chef, adding he was still hoping for "a good result", speaking a few blocks from a giant portrait of President Emmerson Mnangagwa which towers over the city.

The ruling ZANU-PF party, in power since independence in 1980 has a low tolerance for dissent and has been accused by rights groups

of resorting to violence, repression and intimidation to secure a favourable vote.

Yet, analysts say the party's long dominance might play against it at the ballot box.

"Young blood" vs 'geriatrics' "Most young people are sick and tired...of being ruled by a geriatric lot," said Zimbabwean political analyst Brian Kagoro.

Mnangagwa, who is seeking a second term, is 80 and came to power after a 2017 military-led coup that deposed the late Robert Mugabe, then 93.

"We need young blood that is energetic, fresh minds. The current one is old-fashioned," said Tawanda Gwanzura, 28, also a chef, adding there would be "no change" if the government were to win.

Others believe Mnangagwa, who also promised change for Zimbabwe when he was first elected in 2018, is still the best candidate to deliver on that promise after the polls.

"We are looking for jobs. So I think with president Mnangagwa we will have jobs," said Faustina Nyamhandu, 22, unemployed.

The president, who has been on a ribbon-cutting spree in recent weeks, "is making in-roads" she added.

Both ZANU-PF and Chamisa's Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) have refreshed their ranks, filing youthful candidates for legislative and municipal elections, to woo young voters.

But some feel that doesn't really matter, as amid widespread fears of rigging, their vote won't count either.

"We all know the outcome," said Mafadzwa Taruvinga, 24, explaining why she will not vote. "I think there will be no change at all".



Kigamboni trader Godfrey Tarimo (R) receives a dummy cheque for 1m/- from Tigo Pesa high value customer manager Mary Rutta in Dar es Salaam yesterday for having emerged one of the winners of the firm's 'Cha Wote' promotion raffle winners. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt extends 6.7bn/- for Ushetu District water project

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

THE government, through its Water ministry has provided 6.7bn/- in FY 2023/24 to address the long time safe and clean water challenges in Ushetu district, Shinyanga Region by drawing water from Lake Victoria

The district's residents explain that they use unsafe drinking water from wells and ponds they dug and added that they face the danger of

being infected with water borne diseases.

Paulina Julius, Ulewe Ward resident said those with wells in their residences sell them 20 litre bucket of water for up to 1,000/- and those without financial ability are forced to fetch water from ponds dug for livestock to drink.

"We use this water because we have no alternative, cost for digging wells is very big and a foot is dug at 2,000/- and to get water you have to dig down up to 25 feet depending

on the area you live," she said.

Director of RUWASA, Eng. Mkama Bwire and Deputy PO-RALG Minister Deogratius Ndejemi said work on the water project for Bugomba "A" Village in Ulewe ward will start soon.

He said already they have finished feasibility studies and will soon start implementation of the project by building a 500,000 litre water tank at Ulowa Ward that will supply water to all 20 wards.

Bwire further said that earlier

they were forced to research for digging deep wells, but discovered that in many areas there was no adequate quantities of water under the ground.

For his part Deputy PO-RALG Minister Ndejemi said the government continues to solve various challenges facing the people in the health, education, water, farming and road infrastructures sectors and pledged to supervise the water project in collaboration with the water ministry



Kagera regional commissioner Fatma Mwasa (2nd-R) pictured yesterday moving to present a gas stove to one of scores of residents of the region (in white-and-green dress). Oryx Energies gave away the stoves for free. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt deploys chopper, vehicle to keep elephants away from residences, farms

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

AS residents from various villages and wards in Nachingwea District, Lindi Region, complain over invasion of elephants in their areas creating havoc in their security and destruction to crops, the government has responded by dispatching working equipment including a helicopter and a vehicle for the personnel to remove the beasts and return them to their

natural habitats.

Nachingwea District Commissioner, Mohamed Moyo made the remarks at the weekend as he was addressing a Councillors meeting in Nachingwea.

He said already the helicopter is in operation to chase away the elephants from three wards of Ndiiti, Kiparamnero and Mkoka iof Nachingwea district.

He told the meeting that the vehicle and the personnel are

expected to arrive in the district on Monday (today).

The DC said apart from these equipment, there is also the project for the control of the beasts that was launched the previous week in Ruvuma Region, that will involve strategies to control the destructive wildlife, especially elephants.

He said the project will involve the youth from villages and in particular those diligent who will

bring about the desired results in Nachingwea District and other areas.

He also appealed to Councillors to assist in getting disciplined youth for to be employed that will earn the income by protecting farmers' resources including crops.

Earlier, submitting complaints on behalf of farmers, Councillors Ally Ahamadi Mtile (Kiparamnero Ward), Saidi Mohamedi Kuleni (Mkoka) and Kaisi Juma Lukanga (Ndiiti) requested to know steps taken by the government in removing elephants that have been endangering people's lives in their areas.



# RC urges DCs to establish special land centres to resolve disputes

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albert Chalamila has directed all district commissioners to establish special land centres in their areas to resolve disputes that arise from time to time.

He made the call over the weekend when he visited Kigamboni District in Dar es Salaam to listen to and resolve various land disputes.

He said that DCs should learn from Kigamboni District Commissioner, Halima Bulembo who has established such a clinic which has helped to a large extent to end conflicts.

Chalamila warned anyone who refuses to cooperate in resolving land disputes that he will not hesitate to take stern measures.

He also instructed the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Kigamboni District to initiate investigation on the Muhimbili and Kichangani land

dispute.

In addition, RC Chalamila instructed the land commissioner office in the region to immediately stop the issuance of land documents in the area.

He also wanted the Kigamboni municipal executive director to start checking all the land owners in different areas in order to deal with land frauds.

Meanwhile, Chalamila has received an aid of desks worth 51m/- donated by NMB Bank to support the government's efforts in improving the education sector.

He received the desks from Manager of NMB Bank in the Dar es Salaam region, Dismas Prosper.

The aid includes 200 desks for Mtakuja Primary School, Miembeni, Kombo and Vingunguti, 400 desks for Airwing primary school and Kerezange secondary school.

He also received 100 tables and chairs for the students of Kivule and Gerezani Secondary School, 34 tables and chairs for the teachers of Bonyokwa Primary School.

RC Chalamila thanked NMB Bank for the support and urged other stakeholders to continue supporting improvements in the education sector in the region.

Chalamila received other challenges presented to him by the students of Mtakuja primary school, including poor infrastructure and toilet holes, where he asked the leadership of the City of Dar es Salaam to resolve the challenge immediately.

NMB Bank Manager for Dar es Salaam Region, Dismas Prosper said that a good community foundation is built through access to quality education.

Dismas said that NMB is a major stakeholder in the education sector and that it will continue extending support to the government's efforts in improving access to quality education.

Ilala District Commissioner, Edward Mpogolo thanked NMB Bank for the support which aims to improve teaching and learning environment in various public schools.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured in Arusha city at the weekend presenting a certificate to Airtel Tanzania managing director Dinesh Balsingh (R) in recognition of the firm's dividend to the government for last year. This was at a working session attended by the board chairpersons and top executives of government agencies and other public institutions. Looking on are Airtel Tanzania board chairman Eliud Betri Sanga (2nd-R) and Minister of State in President's Office (Planning and Investment) Prof Kitila Mkumbo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Drought-resistance project to shield vulnerable communities in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENTS of three drought-prone Shehias in North A District, Unguja North Region in Zanzibar are set to benefit from deep wells for agriculture alongside entrepreneurship empowerment to shield them from the impact of climate change.

A statement released yesterday by the Vice President's Office said the safety net is implemented under the Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Rural Resilience (EBARR) and named the benefiting Shehias as Jugakuu, Mbuyutende and Kijini.

The wells come along construction of the centers of breeding entrepreneurs, tailoring, soap production as well as greenhouses for sustainable agriculture.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office (Environment) Dr Switbert Mkama paid a visit at the weekend to inspect implementation of the project and was impressed by the pace and quality so far, the advisory said.

He encouraged leaders in the area especially Shehas of the three Shehias that have benefited from the projects to supervise implementation and encourage resident to plant trees and water them.

"Personally, I am satisfied with the way you manage these projects and I congratulate the shehas for managing them and the community for accepting them and actively participating in implementing

them, I ask you to ensure that it continues to have the same quality," he stressed.

Since the construction of buildings for sewing entrepreneurs and soap production will involve machines and equipment, Dr. Mkama said it is important to have a strategic plan so that the project is sustainable even when it expires.

He said that the sewing machines that will be provided along with other equipment including lights and water pipes will need minor repairs and electricity will be paid for so the members of the community should look at how to service it without waiting for the government.

Along with that, the DPS urged that entrepreneurship education be given to those who will benefit from the project, it is also important to educate them about infrastructure maintenance.

Alawi Haji Hija, Coordinator of EBARR in North A District, said that through the nurseries, people will be taught to practise drought-tolerant agriculture including use of well water to irrigate crops.

He also said that the wells will help them in accessing water service for home use which they were unable to get due to the challenge of drought.

With that, Hija added that the areas where the project is being implemented have been measured and have already been included in the plan for the best use of land to be protected.

Thus, he said that a fence will

be built around the project area to protect and maintain it while the water service continues to exist for the people of those areas.

The Sheha of Jugakuu Ali Abdallah Pili thanked and congratulated the government through the VPO for implementing the EBARR Project as water wells use solar energy, which is cheap and they can afford it.

"We are very grateful to the government for this project and we have found a group that makes good soap and you have provided us with modern fishing boats that our citizens use in fishing activities and thus earn an income," he said.

However, the sheikh advised the group members to respect and take care of the projects and cooperate fully in various activities related to the projects.

Projects visited and inspected by Dr. Mkama in Matemwe North District 'A' has cost 760m/-.

The EBARR project funded by the Fund for Developing Countries through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is also implemented in the districts of Mpwapwa (Dodoma), Simanjiro (Manyara), Mvomero (Morogoro) and Kishapu (Shinyanga).

Through the project, citizens of drought-prone areas are empowered to earn an income in an alternative way without getting involved in acts of environmental damage, including cutting down trees for energy and watering livestock at the sources as infrastructure is being built for that purpose.



WORLD BANK GROUP

## ADVERTISEMENT

### Short Term Consultant – Environmental Specialist, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Organization	: World Bank
Sector	: Environment
Grade	: Short Term Consultant (STC)
Term Duration	: Minimum of 50 days initially
Recruitment Type	: Local
Location	: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Required Language(s)	: English
Preferred Language(s)	: Fluency in Kiswahili language
Closing Date:	

#### Description

The World Bank Group is one of the largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries; a unique global partnership of five institutions dedicated to ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. With 189 member countries and more than 120 offices worldwide, we work with public and private sector partners, investing in ground-breaking projects and using data, research, and technology to develop solutions to the most urgent global challenges. For more information, visit [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).

#### Eastern and Southern Africa (E AFR) Region

The World Bank's Eastern and Southern Africa Region, comprised of approximately 1,207 staff, mostly based in 26 country offices, has been helping countries realize their considerable development potential by focusing on the following priorities:

- **Creating Jobs and Transforming Economies:** We are working with countries across Africa to stimulate job creation and economic transformation by leveraging all sources of finance, expertise, and solutions to promote investment.
- **Building up the Digital Economy:** We are supporting Africa's vision to ensure that every African individual, business, and government is connected by 2030 – a vision that, if realized, can boost growth by up to 2 percentage points per year, and reduce poverty by 1 percentage point per year in Sub-Saharan Africa alone.
- **Institutions more Efficient and Accountable:** Our support is helping governments strengthen public policy processes, manage resources effectively, and reinforce fair and reliable delivery of public services.
- **Investing in People:** We are at the forefront of helping African countries accelerate human capital gains and empower women by improving their access to education and skills acquisition, sexual and reproductive health services, and employment opportunities. With the influx COVID-19, we are mobilizing financial support and timely analysis and advice to countries across the subregion deal with the pandemic.
- **Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:** In the face of increasing climate-related risks, we are working with African countries to advance efforts to adopt renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and green infrastructure. Several East African countries are currently facing a debilitating Desert Locust infestation, threatening the already precarious food security situation. The Bank has put together a program to help affected countries deal with the scourge.
- **Addressing the Drivers of Fragility, Conflict, and Violence:** Given the cross-border nature of conflicts in Africa, we are employing an approach that simultaneously focuses on the drivers of fragility while also supporting well-targeted regional initiatives to create opportunities for peace and shared prosperity.
- **Building Partnerships and Working across the African Continent:** We are scaling up our work on regional integration, taking a holistic view of the continent that covers both North and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Eastern and Southern Africa (E AFR) Region:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/af/eastern-and-southern-africa>

#### The Sustainable Development Practice Group

The Sustainable Development (SD) Practice Group (PG) helps countries tackle their most complex challenges in the areas of Agriculture and Food, Climate Change, Environment, Natural Resources & Blue Economy, Environmental and Social Framework, Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience & Land, Social Sustainability and Inclusion, and Water.

Environment Natural Resources & Blue Economy Global Practice

The sustainable management of the environment and natural resources is vital for economic growth and human wellbeing. When managed well, renewable natural resources, watersheds, productive landscapes and seascapes can provide the foundation for sustained inclusive growth, food security and poverty reduction. For more information: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment>

#### Unit and Country Context

The Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Unit for Africa East and Southern Region (SAEE2) (one of four Environment units in Africa) has about 40 staff. Half of these staff work on environmental safeguards/environmental risk management. The skills of these staff include, economics, pollution management, forestry, fisheries management, landscapes management, watershed management, and natural areas protection.

#### The Task:

SAEE2 wishes to add short term consultants (STCs) to its roster of consultants based in Tanzania. The consultants on this roster may be hired on a part-time basis to support environmental safeguards and environmental risk management compliance on World Bank projects in Tanzania based on business needs. These assignments will be based in Tanzania. The STC Environmental Specialist will report to the Senior Environmental Specialist responsible for Tanzania's environmental risk management, under the supervision of the Practice Manager.

This being a locally recruited position, the conditions of employment will be in line with the employment market in Tanzania.

#### Duties and Accountabilities of the STC Environmental Specialist includes:

Provide conceptual, operational and technical support to World Bank operations on environmental safeguards and standards under World Bank policies and the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) including: (i) advise Client on the requirements of environmental safeguard policies and ESF to guide them on delivering quality environmental safeguards project documentation and supporting analysis; (ii) supervise the Borrower's preparation of safeguard documents and implementation of safeguard and ESF procedures and to meet the Bank's requirements; (iii) work with technical colleagues to understand technical proposals and identify environmental issues as well as management solutions at the early stage of a project; (iv) prepare Bank internal safeguard/ESF documents; (v) carry out monitoring and supervision on client's compliance to environmental commitments during project implementation; (vi) promote knowledge sharing and experience exchange on safeguard issues. Close cooperation with the Social Safeguards/ESF/Standards Specialist assigned to each operation is required.

#### More specifically the STC Environmental Specialist will be required to undertake the following tasks:

- Provide technical support for the screening of Bank projects for

environmental, impacts, and vulnerabilities and identify risk management opportunities/strategies including in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and climate change adaptation and mitigation in Bank operations.

- Monitor compliance of all project-financed activities utilizing the World Bank safeguards policies;
- In accordance with the Bank's ESF (adopted in 2016), contribute to the determination of the appropriate environmental risk classification of projects (including projects involving financial intermediaries) taking into account all relevant information such as the type, location, sensitivity and scale of the project, the nature and magnitude of the potential impacts, the capacity and commitment of the Borrower (and any other entities responsible for project implementation) to manage risks and impacts in a manner consistent with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs).
- Monitor compliance of all project-financed activities with applicable ESSs including on OHS guidelines, sector specific guidelines, other relevant policies, and contract specific conditions; flag issues of non-compliance to borrower and Bank management and advise and support the borrower in developing and implementing remedies.
- Provide guidance to the borrower on open and transparent engagement (through consultations, information disclosure and grievance redress mechanism) with relevant project stakeholders throughout the project cycle.
- Participate as team member in World Bank operations, advising on environmental and safeguards/Standards approaches, the Bank's policies and requirements, and technical issues, during preparation and supervision.
- Proactively work with the Bank teams and clients to improve the performance of the portfolio regarding environmental safeguards /ESF Standards and outcomes.
- Prepare the relevant documentation related to environmental risks and impacts of potential projects. Provide environmental input in project documents including Concept Review, Appraisal and Decision/Negotiations Packages.
- Maintain effective communication with counterparts (and development partner community and NGOs as and when required or needed), and other local agencies and organizations on World Bank activities in the environment sector.
- Provide experienced mentorship to clients in the preparation of project cycle documentation including terms of reference (ToR) for environmental safeguard instruments, such as environmental and social assessments (incl. strategic, regional, and cumulative); environmental and social management frameworks and plans, Electronic Waste Management Plans, Pest Management Plans, and supervising their implementation. Contract specifications related to environmental safeguards and risks management, particularly for large dams and water projects. Provide technical training for the domestic EA practitioners on the WBG safeguard policies and requirements.
- Actively seek to learn World Bank Group procedures, and contribute to their improvement, by participating in training offered, keeping abreast of research and development knowledge in the environment and natural resources sector, and relevant safeguard management process.
- Contribute to other ENB programs and activities in Tanzania, as needed and directed by the Unit Manager.

#### Selection Criteria

It is expected that the successful candidate/s will meet the following selection criteria:

- Advanced degree (master's or PhD) in environmental science/management, environmental engineering, environmental economics, or other relevant discipline.
- A minimum of 5 years relevant operational experience and proven track record as an environmental assessment and management professional, including Operational Health and Safety (OHS) issues. This should include specific field-based project experience.
- Good analytical skills, ability to think strategically, analyse and synthesize diverse qualitative and quantitative environmental – related data and information.
- Knowledge of the World Bank's safeguards policies, ESF and/or IFC's Performance Standards /MIGA Environmental and Social policies or similar standards would be an advantage.
- Ability to manage and follow up on multiple work-streams simultaneously.
- Ability to work well with a range of stakeholders, including project-affected parties, government officials, non-governmental organizations / civil society, as well as project investors and their staff.
- Ability to communicate ideas clearly and confidently, articulate issues and recommend solutions.
- Demonstrated capacity to work in teams and share knowledge.
- A strong sense of teamwork and ability to work independently with limited supervision.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Advanced knowledge of MS office applications (Word, Excel, Power Point).
- Excellent oral and written communications skills in English.
- Fluency in Kiswahili language in addition to English, is required; and
- Ability and willingness to travel frequently within Tanzania, including to remote rural areas.

#### The following would be an advantage but not required:

- Knowledge and experience in environmental assessment and management of investment projects involving large scale civil works, extractive or industrial activities would be a strong advantage, especially the experience in the preparation of environmental safeguard/risk management documents of the lending projects of the WBG or other international organizations.
- Demonstrated project management / operational skills, including occupational health and safety management would be an advantage.
- Experience working with contractors that have weak implementation capacity in environmental risk management would be an advantage.

#### Type of contract

STC are paid on daily basis and are paid for actual days worked. Under this assignment, the consultant should be based in Tanzania. The number of working hours per week is not set as the consultant engagement will depend on current workload and business need. It is, however, expected that the STC will start on a trial 50 days contract, then if performance is satisfactory the candidates will be offered a contract for up to 150 days per year.

#### How to Apply

To apply send an expression of interest and a CV detailing academic qualifications, experience and description of similar assignments performed to the email address [STJobs\\_Tanzania@worldbank.org](mailto:STJobs_Tanzania@worldbank.org). Note that this is not a request for financial and/or technical proposals. Consultants shall be selected in accordance with World Bank procedures.

The World Bank Group is committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality, culture, and educational background. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview. Closing date is **15<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**





Dr Lugano Wilson (C), a director in the Industry and Trade ministry, cuts the ribbon at the weekend to launch a 17.9m/- sunflower oil refinery at Mkoka village in Kongwa District. The plant is a United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) donation. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Government scraps 374 levies

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MEMBERS of the business community in the country have reason to smile as the government announced abolishes 374 levies out of 380.

Minister for Industry and Trade Dr Ashatu Kijaji said here at the weekend that the scrapping of 374 out of 380 levies, taxes and fees was continued efforts to create friendly business environment.

Addressing the business community in Dodoma during the meeting that focused on addressing challenges facing traders the minister said, through the business blueprint, the remaining taxes that hinder smooth business will be resolved soon.

On inconveniences encountered by the business community when it comes to business licences in

local authorities Dr Kijaji said the ministry is working to address it as it finalises the process to assign Business Registration and Licencing Agency (BRELA) to carry out the task.

"The government started the implementation of the blueprint in 2019, a document that, among other things, enables us to review and assess the business environment. When we started there were 380 levies, taxes and fees on the list that were to be looked at, but we are now remaining with only six which will be cleared soon," she said.

The blueprint provides the government's main framework and it presents key challenges affecting the business environment in the country along with a set of recommendations for reform to put in place a more business friendly environment.

During the meeting, which was attended by Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule, members of the business community complained about the existence of multiple fees related to licences which have been posing a burden to traders.

Others are cumbersome pre-approval procedures, which create rent seeking opportunities, presence of a multiplicity and duplicity of processes, loopholes in some laws and regulations which are applied by regulators during inspection.

"It is important to put in place a framework for addressing regulatory hurdles and create a smart, functional and fair business regulatory regime in the country," said Dr Kijaji.

Dr Kijaji called for preparation of booklets that contain the checklist

of all taxes and fees which should be handed over to the Regional Commissioner so that authorities can revisit them in case any challenges that relate with the charges emerge.

As for licence issuance, the minister said all permits will now be issued by a single entity. In the past Brela was responsible for issuing Class A licence while the councils were responsible for issuing Class B permit, an arrangement that raised complaints from the business community, as it involved a lot of bureaucracy, especially in payment of crop cess during their transportation.

On her part, RC Senyamule assured the minister of the regional administration's commitment to have in place an arrangement where business operators from all walks of life carry out their business according to the laid down procedures for their improved social welfare.

## Small-scale sunflower processors urged to adopt quality and standard measures

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SMALL-SCALE sunflower processors have been urged to adopt quality and standard measures as well as procedures in efforts to tap the available oil market both locally and internationally.

The call was made here by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT), Dr. Hashil T. Abdallah, saying they have to change with the emerging technologies and market demands.

He was speaking at the closure of a training that informed 20 small-scale sunflower processors on quality and standards requirements and procedures contained in a manual developed by the ministry with support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The manual, also, aim at enlightening small scale-sunflower processors on decision making criteria for investing in small-scale sunflower processing feasibly and profitably.

The manual was developed to contribute to elevating the knowledge of small-scale sunflower processors on quality, standards and decision making on investments, which are among the challenges they face.

The event was coupled with the inaugurating an energy efficient 1,000 litres sunflower oil refinery which has been fabricated by the Dodoma Region Vocational Training and Service Centre (DRVTSC) of the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA).

The manufacturing of the refinery had three objectives of reducing numerous challenges related to imported technology such as incompatibility to local environment, high importation costs and limited access to post installation maintenance and repair services.

"With such benefits and the capacity of the refinery which matches with the needs of the majority of small-scale sunflower processors, domestic manufacture of the sunflower oil refinery will enable an increased number of the small-scale sunflower processors to access the facility to enhance their businesses," said the PS.

Development of the manual for small-scale sunflower oil processors, training of 20 small-scale sunflower oil processors on good processing practices and investment decision making as presented in the manual and the manufacturing of the sunflower oil refinery by VETA at the DRVTSC has been cofounded by Government, UNIDO and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), a joint business plan of the United Nations System (UNS) in Tanzania

and the government, 2022-2027.

Dr. Abdallah expressed sincere gratitude to UNIDO and SIDA for supporting government efforts towards developing the sunflower value chain.

He also thanked the Vocational Education and Training Authority, particularly the Dodoma Region Vocational Training and Service Centre, for taking courage to venture in fabricating the energy efficient

sunflower oil refinery. He encouraged other training and research institutions to invest in domestic manufacturing of equipment so as to contribute increasingly to Tanzania's economic growth.

Referring to the sunflower oil refinery, he underscored its contribution to sustaining the livelihoods of various segments of the population involved in the sunflower value chain and creating employment opportunities.

He urged the small-scale sunflower processors to use both the detailed and well-articulated manual, and the easily accessible and highly affordable appropriate technology for sunflower refining that is now available in the country, to improve their businesses.

He, furthermore, mentioned that, as the global demand for refined sunflower oil is on the increase, with world market prices poised to rise, investing in domestic sunflower oil refining is highly desirable for reducing significantly the country's expenditure on edible oil imports which, currently, account for nearly 60% of the country's demand for edible oils.

Earlier, Gerald Runyoro, National Programme Officer in the UNIDO Field Office in Tanzania, thanked the ministry and other institutions together with individuals for their collaboration in the process of and developing the manual for small-scale sunflower processors and producing the sunflower oil refinery.

He acknowledged that without their support, and the financial support from SIDA through the One Fund of the United Nations System in Tanzania, it would not have been possible to realize the achievements.

Runyoro joined Dr. Abdallah to urge the small-scale sunflower processors to use the manual to understand how to produce sunflower oil that meet quality and standards and the sunflower refinery to address increasing demand for the product.

On research and development concerning machinery and equipment, he commended DRVTSC and requested other institutions venture in manufacturing equipment and government to double efforts in improving the business environment for supporting the national agenda of industrialization.

## Twiga Minerals Corp wins notable award for issuing dividend to govt

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TWIGA Minerals Corporation jointly owned by Tanzania government and Barrick Gold Corporation has scooped top award for providing dividend to the government in the Dividend Payments in the Minority Interest Category.

The award was given here at the weekend by President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the opening of the task force meeting for boards chairpersons and chief executive officers of public corporations organised by the Treasury Registrar Office in collaboration with public corporations platform.

Regarding other firms that did well in the category, Treasury Registrar, Nehemia Mchechu named Twiga Minerals by providing 84bn/- dividend to the government in FY 2022/23.

Addressing reporters recently, Barrick Gold Chief Executive Officer, Mark Bristow said Twiga Minerals which is a joint venture by the government and Barrick Gold, has revived gold mining industry in the country through joint venture that is an example to emulate

in such activities, especially in developing countries.

Bristow said since the establishment of Twiga Minerals as a joint venture firm in the 50:50 ration with the Tanzania government owning 16 per cent stake in every mine, gold mining activities have improved.

Mines under Twiga Minerals include North Mara, Bulyanhulu and buzwagi gold mines.

In January 2023 as he was submitting his report to the Parliamentary Energy and Minerals standing Committee, Twiga Minerals Manager, Melkiory Ngido said in 2020 the firm provided the government USD 250 million as dividend while in the period 2017 to 2022 a total of 24.3bn/- was provided to local councils as various charges and levies in the gold mining areas.

"Twiga Minerals plans to develop research work in order to increase the life of its North Mara and Bulyanhulu mines.

The expectation for the Bulyanhulu Mine is for it to reach 20240 and for North Mara to reach 2039," said Ngido at the task force meeting.



Clearing of a rainwater trench beside a Mwenge section of Dar es Salaam's Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road gets slowly under way yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Communities urged to stop cutting trees for charcoal

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

KAGERA regional commissioner Fatma Mwasa has called upon residents to stop cutting down trees for firewood and charcoal, insisting efforts are underway to ensure they shift to clean energy sources.

"It is important that we protect our forests and the environment because the benefits are enormous," said Mwasa noting the only way to protect forest is through use of clean energy especially for cooking.

Mwasa made the remarks over the weekend when speaking shortly

after handing over 300 LPG starter kits to residents from various groups that were donated by Oryx Gas Tanzania Ltd as part of its efforts to support government's vision and agenda for the use of clean energy.

The benefited groups included common health workers, teachers and food vendors.

She said the government in Kagera Region continues to sensitise people on the use of clean energy for cooking as well the need to protect the environment. She the region is blessed with various types of natural trees that needs to be

preserved.

The Regional Commissioner applauded OGTL for considering Kagera Region stressing the need for people to avoid using fossil fuels to remain healthy.

The managing director of Oryx Gas Tanzania Ltd who was represented by Antonia Kilama insisted that the company's main intention is to support efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to reach 80 percent of the use of clean energy for cooking by the year 2030.

Kilama added that Oryx has a sincere desire to help Tanzanians,

especially women who are most affected and the use of wood and charcoal to reach that goal.

The company's marketing manager, Peter Ndomba said they have so far provided over 10,000 LPG starter kits to various groups across the country. He said the company aims at reaching all the society groups for purposes of promoting the use of clean energy.

Ndomba added that they are going to keenly look at Kagera because it is one of the regions that have successfully managed to preserve its forests.



## Offer more training days, entrepreneurs urge SIDO

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

EMERGING entrepreneurs have urged the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) to increase training days from the current five to 14 days so as to enable participants to have wider understanding on business and achieve more skills.

The call was aired in Dar es Salaam over the weekend by an entrepreneur identified as Sein Kennedy during closure of training on food processing preservation and entrepreneurship development skills organized by SIDO.

The session attracted 73 entrepreneurs from Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Dodoma, Lindi, Mbeya, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions.

Speaking on behalf of other participants, Sein said the five days are still not enough for young entrepreneurs to catch up on important skills to help develop their businesses.

"We are requesting SIDO to increase the number of training days to at least 14 days because there are a lot of things that we need to know for our benefits," she said.

She however said the five days training has enabled them to understand how to manufacture various products such as peanut butter and garlic paste.

"We also learnt ways of conducting business in good manners such as registration of business names, and how to obtain license or packaging," she said.

Participants also asked SIDO to increase more training facilities at its premises so that they can participate effectively during training sessions.

They thanked the organization for conducting the training at affordable costs.

She called on other small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) countrywide to attend various training courses that would enable them change and improve their business hence contributing to state coffers.

Dar es Salaam SIDO Acting Regional Manager, Melkiado January, informed SMEs on the services that are offered by the organisation at Vingunguti branch.

He said SIDO offers information

services on technical, business development services and marketing to entrepreneurs.

January urged SMEs to make use of the TBS mark services that are offered free of charge after they attend training.

He thanked Maendeleo commercial bank for supporting entrepreneurs financially.

Earlier, the Managing Director of Maendeleo bank, Dr Ibrahim Mwangalaba urged entrepreneurs to keep record of their business transactions.

He asked entrepreneurs to be faithful while dealing with commercial banks and ensure that they repay loans that would enable them run their business without any challenge and succeed.

Dr Mwangalaba who was guest of honour, said trustiness plays a crucial role for any business to succeed, hence traders have to obey the rules.

He said commercial banks want to do business with faithful people and the doors were open for them to access loans any time.

He further noted that failure to repay back loans have caused some commercial banks to perform below target hence affecting profits.

The bank's MD also asked other business organizations which intend to convene any meeting and discuss various issues relating to entrepreneurship to do so and the bank is ready to support them.



**We are requesting SIDO to increase the number of training days to at least 14 days because there are a lot of things that we need to know for our benefits**



Ramadhani Mtindasi (in white T-shirt), director of projects with the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa), briefs Water deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi (3rd-L) at the weekend on the ongoing implementation of a water distribution project meant to serve Dar es Salaam's Wazo Hill, Tegeta A and Goba suburbs. She was on an inspection tour of the project. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has instructed experts at the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) to increase speed of connecting water to customers who are yet to be reached.

Deputy Minister of Water, Maryprisca Mahundi made the instructions in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when inspecting the DAWASA's project which will benefit residents in Wazo Hill, Tegeta A and Goba areas.

She said the government's intention is to see that many people are connected to clean water service, so all citizens who have completed their applications should be connected to water within a short time.

## Dawasa advised to fast-track connection of water services

She said that the authority has worked hard to eliminate the problem of water for many residents in Kinondoni and Ubungo districts who do not access reliable water services for many years.

Mahundi at the weekend witnessed the implementation of the water project to improve access and distribution of clean water implemented by DAWASA in the areas of Wazo Hill, Tegeta A and Goba.

"DAWASA managers in Mivumoni, Makongo and Kawe regions should work day and night, increase the speed of connecting

the people to water, we want the people to benefit from clean water quickly," she said.

The Deputy Minister said that the Ministry of Water continues to distribute prepaid payment meters, which will enable customers to pay for services before use, thus eliminating the accumulation of debts.

She said that the new meters will remove complaints about the reading of water meters and she asked DAWASA to work on the challenges and complaints it receives from customers and society in general.

DAWASA's projects director,

Eng Ramadhani Mtindasi said the project benefits more than 15,224 residents of Kinondoni district who are in the streets of Wazo Hill, Nyakasangwe, Kisanga, Mivumoni, Kizudi, Madale, Mbopo and Mbezi Juu as well as Tegeta A, Matosa, Goba and Kulangwa streets in Ubungo district.

Kinondoni District Commissioner, Saad Mtambuli the government and the water sector in general for the implementation of the project which has addressed the challenge of sanitation services in the areas of Wazo, Nyakasangwe, Kisanga, Mivumoni, Kizudi, Madale, Mbopo and Mbezi Juu.



One might argue that necessity knows no law, but one also wonders whether really this consignment – of mattresses – could not have been transported in a much safer manner! The scene was captured on a busy street in Dar es Salaam's bustling Kariakoo market zone yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## GEL calls upon Chinese Embassy to open a window for students' visas

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

GLOBAL Education Link (GEL) has asked the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania to open a special window for students applying for visas so as to encourage more to study in the Asian country.

GEL has said that there are a large number of Tanzanian students who are interested studying in China, so this window will help them apply for visas easily and get them on time.

Abdulmalik Mollel, the director of GEL made the call over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during the farewell ceremony for 46 young Tanzanians who are going to study various fields in China with the funding of the Asian country government, an opportunity that is offered every year.

Mollel said China is blessed with many excellent universities that charge normal fees to enable every Tanzanian who wants to study in the country to afford the tuition fees. "If a student wants to study in university with a mix of cultures, with a large attendance of lecturers, with adequate security and low costs, then China is the best choice because all these are there," said Mollel.

Mollel said that for three years China had closed its borders so students were unable to go to the country but he is grateful that the situation has returned to normal and Tanzanian students have started to go to study in China.

"Let's give students the opportunity to do online booking early because on September 15th they have to report at their universities, so they have to get their Visa before that time. But if we delay them, many will be afraid to apply for Chinese universities," he said.

Mollel thanked the embassy for providing great cooperation and hospitality when GEL goes to apply for visas for students who go to pursue their studies in China.

"But booking is what takes a long time, I ask you to open a special window for students when they apply for a visa so that they can get it easily and quickly. If we can do this we will motivate many of our students to study in China," Mollel insisted.

He said that due to the good relationship that exists between the government of Tanzania and China, GEL will continue to increase cooperation to encourage many Tanzanian students to study at various universities in China.

### NIAMEY

ECOWAS envoys arrived in Niger over the weekend in a last-ditch diplomatic effort to reach a peaceful solution to the leadership crisis.

Niger's prime minister welcomed the delegation which was headed by a Nigerian former military head of state, Abdulsalami Abubakar.

This approach will be crowned with success, and I will report

on the discussions to the current President of ECOWAS,' he said. Nigeria's president Bola Tinubu is serving as the ECOWAS president.

Abdulsalami Abubakar met separately with General Abdourahmane Tiani, the junta leader.

During the talks, Tchiani pushed for the lifting of economic and travel

sanctions imposed by ECOWAS after the coup, saying Niger's population was suffering because of them, but he was unwilling to give much in return, said the official. The junta said they were under pressure, at times striking a conciliatory tone and apologizing for past disrespect towards the bloc, while also defiantly standing by

its decision to overthrow Bazoum and unequivocal about him not returning to power, the official added.

Tiani also repeatedly expressed concerns that its former colonial ruler France – which has some 1,500 troops in the country and had been providing training and conducting joint operations with

Niger's military – was actively planning an attack, according to an official who agreed to speak to the Associated Press spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sahel experts say it's not surprising that little seem to have come from Saturday's (Aug. 19) meeting as each party is trying to show they're open to discussions,

yet the chances of an agreement are slim because their positions are starkly different.

ECOWAS envoy Abubakar also met toppled President Mohamed Bazoum during the visit.

Speculations about Bazoum's health had been rife. Since the July 26 coup, Bazoum has been under house arrest with his family.



## Threat of NHIF 'bankruptcy': Let remedial action come soon

PARLIAMENTARY committees have returned to business ahead of the August-September session of the National Assembly, with a committee report setting out in detail the state of National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF). It laid bare a situation of insufficient revenue collections for three consecutive years, which tended to sharply worsen from one year to another. As a matter of fact the report may have a background that didn't hit the headlines, that there was a Community Health Fund (CHF) which collapsed and its services withdrawn.

This background is vital to perhaps grapple with the insurance sector reform quest, whether it is an attempt to rectify what are still usable financing structures of NHIF, as the crucial organs seem to explain. There is another hunch, in that the real purpose is to recreate the CHF by merging with NHIF and in a way making membership compulsory. It will not be enforced like 'head tax,' but a service levy, that to obtain the final stamp of any public warranty it will be vital to have the card. This way not many income earners will escape.

Committee members seemed quite frank in what NHIF accounts show, but appeared somewhat idealistic on the remedies. They may even have been exaggerating in saying that 'looking at its revenue collection trend, you can see that NHIF is likely to die,' as if a private company besieged with a vast commercial debt, thus standing no chance of paying it. After the budget sitting the government announced taking over TANESCO debts, why not uplift NHIF?

After making a factual assessment of the financial situation, the

committee leader appeared to move into another scenario where all this is rapidly solved, underlining that the government is working on a strategy to ensure universal health care (UHC). That is where the CHF comes in, as NHIF is for upper classes, employees who have insurance attached to their conditions of service. An underlying faith in its practicability is not set out in the report but merely taken for granted, and responsible officials explain the procedure, not premises.

Once the bill is passed by the National Assembly, NHIF will be responsible for implementation of the plan, which skips the fact that plenty was on record to the effect that NHIF procurement methods are often wanting, and no one knows if double payments of bills will end. What the parliamentary committee seems to be pursuing is how to get a lot more money for NHIF without really sorting out an efficiency issue in operations, or sufficiency of contributed funds for broad, universal health care. That is how chaos may creep in rather than actual reform.

NHIF membership is said to have increased from 1.05m to 1.35m during the past two years or so, but its efficiency was higher when it had fewer members. Whatever transpired between the committee members and the fund management on the issue, it is clear that insurance works with limited membership, as both CHF and a wider range for NHIF failed to work. It follows that the government can set out free medical care for dispensaries and health centres, and routine payments for referral hospitals, or actual payments for a whole range of medical services from specialists. Universal care formulas paid for by levies are skimpy.

## Victims of terrorism deserve glowing tribute - without fail

TERRORISM, in its broadest sense, is the use of intentional violence and fear to achieve political or ideological aims. The terms 'terrorist' and 'terrorism' originated during the French Revolution of the late 18th century but became widely used internationally and gained worldwide attention in the 1970s during the Troubles in Northern Ireland, the Basque conflict, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The increased use of suicide attacks from the 1980s onwards was typified by the 2001 September 11 attacks in the United States.

Varied political organisations have been accused of using terrorism to achieve their objectives. These include left-wing and right-wing political organisations, nationalist groups, religious groups, revolutionaries, and ruling governments. Legislation declaring terrorism a crime has been adopted in many states. State terrorism is that perpetrated by nation states, but is not considered such by the state conducting it, making legality a grey area.

The fifth International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was commemorated on 21 August 2022. It took place as the world struggles to transition out of the public health emergency triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and confronted the social transformations it has created or accelerated. At the same time, victims of terrorism continued to experience uncertainty and anxiety as armed conflicts, violent attacks, and terrorist acts around the world continued to make headlines and perhaps exacerbate or trigger their traumas.

Remembrance of and paying tribute to victims of terrorism plays

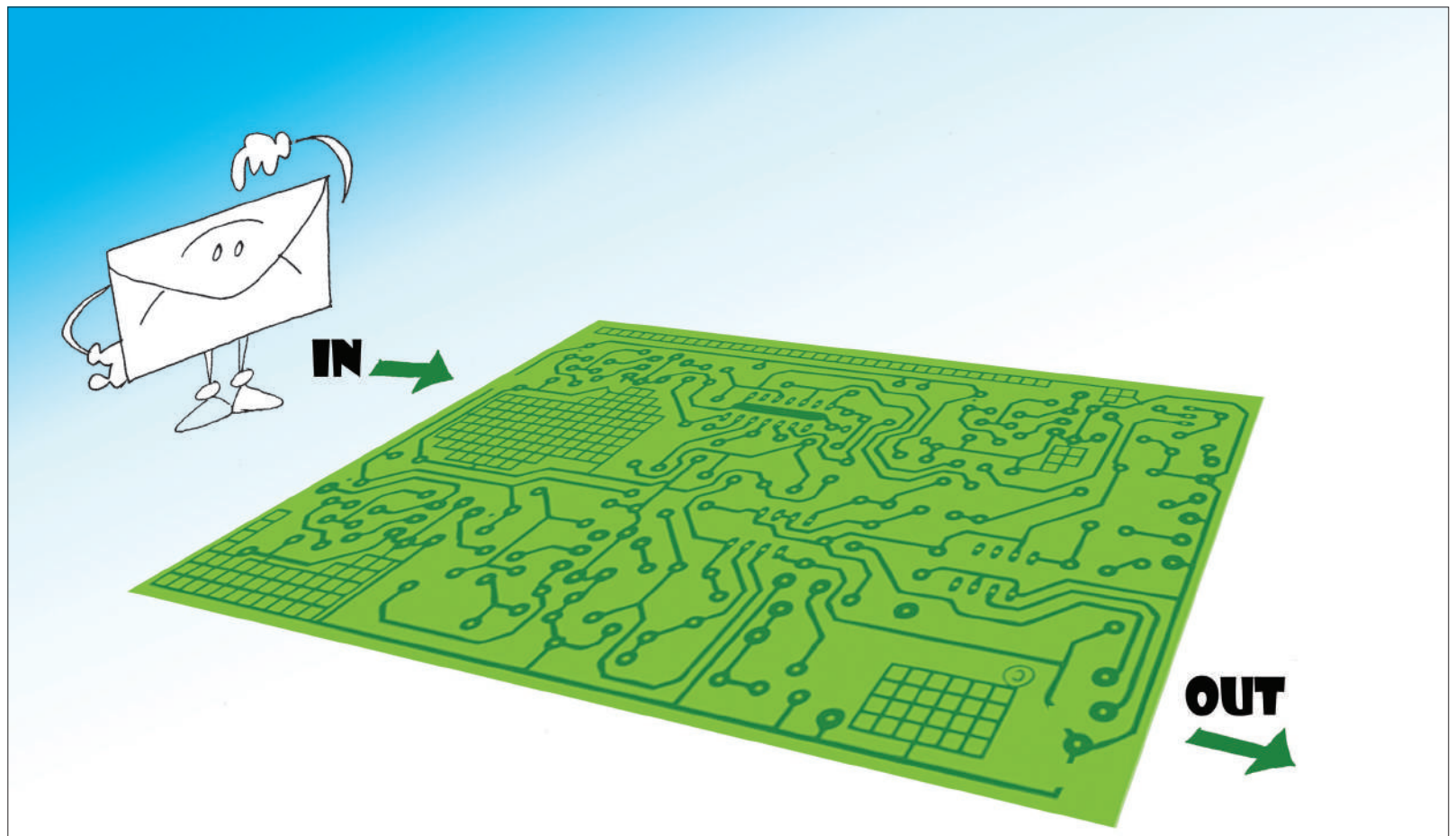
a central role in demonstrating their status as victims is respected and recognised. The International Day serves to commemorate and uphold the dignity of victims and highlights the importance of global solidarity in ensuring that victims are not forgotten.

The theme was "Memories" and was selected following consultation with victims and victims' associations. Memories bind us together as if connected by a red thread, a fil rouge: a thread that signifies our common humanity and solidarity with those who have suffered irreparable losses in the most heinous of circumstances.

To mark the fifth commemoration of the International Day, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) organized a high-level pre-recorded event entitled 'Surviving Terrorism: The Power of Memories' to be broadcast on Sunday, 21 August 2022, on UN Web TV. The pre-recorded event was opened by the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, and featured the participation of the co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, the Republic of Iraq, and the Kingdom of Spain, testimonies from four victims of terrorism, and closing remarks by Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov.

The cornerstone of 2022's virtual observance was the "Memories" campaign, launched by UNOCT's United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCTC) earlier this year. Through film, photography, and carefully crafted captions, the "Memories" campaign tells the stories of victims of terrorism from across the globe who share their memories, emotions and the meaning that they attach to a personal object.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts	Newsdesk	Advertising
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA	News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON 0757154767 General line: 0745700710 E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz	Mobile: 0677020701 E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz Website: www.ippmedia.com epaper.ippmedia.com



## Selling babies at orphanages in Nigeria

By Fisayo Soyombo

CHILD-SELLING is the practice of selling children, usually by parents, legal guardians, or subsequent custodians, including adoption agencies, orphanages and Mother and Baby Homes. Where the subsequent relationship with the child is essentially non-exploitative, it is usually the case that purpose of child-selling was to permit adoption.

The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption is a treaty which bans the buying and selling of children and attempts to impose controls and regulation on inter-country adoption, which gives rise to the practice.[1]

At least 10 babies are sold each day in Nigeria, according to the UN which has put the worth of the global child trafficking business at US\$33 billion annually. In June 2018, authorities in Imo said that there were no fewer than 250 illegal orphanages in the state.

The highly revealing report by investigative journalist, 'Fisayo Soyombo, on a most egregious form of human trafficking in our country should compel serious attention from relevant authorities. The report details how babies

are being sold like merchandise at a popular Lagos orphanage home. Unfortunately, this is an old problem that has refused to go away, perhaps because perpetrators believe there are no consequences. Indeed, the United Nations ranks child trafficking as the third most common crime in Nigeria after financial fraud and drug trafficking. At least 10 babies are sold each day in Nigeria, according to the UN which has put the worth of the global child trafficking business at US\$33 billion annually.

In June 2018, authorities in Imo said that there were no fewer than 250 illegal orphanages in the state. "Out of 272 homes across the state, only 15 were genuine while others were fake," said the then Special Assistant to (now former) Governor Rochas Okorocha on Non-Governmental Organisations and Allied Matters, Simeon Nwulu. "The rate at which children are being marketed and sold like ordinary articles of trade is alarming. At a peanut, the destiny of a child is destroyed and most of these adopters are not well-to-do to take care of these children." Since then, nothing seems to have changed but the malaise is national.

However, we are mindful that there are operators of licensed

orphanages and couples who follow laid down procedures in adopting children and they should be encouraged. But those who take advantage of the increasing number of childless parents by engaging in shady deals for quick money should be exposed and decisively dealt with. They pose a threat to the health of our society. In the same vein, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) must step up its supervisory and monitoring efforts on these orphanages by working hand-in-hand with security agencies, social welfare departments and the civil society.

We understand that the crime is thriving among some desperate persons who have come to regard it as a business because they have several official enablers on their payroll. That perhaps explains why they have operated for so long. Members of these syndicates also scout for young and impoverished females with unwanted pregnancies to lure them to many of the so-called homes and orphanages where they are kept until they are delivered of their babies which they then buy. In some cases, the services of young men are procured to impregnate these girls for the purpose of producing

children that will be taken away from them. These children are then traded like commodities.

It is important to tackle this menace because the adoption fad has assumed a new level of popularity in Nigeria with the number of potential adopters far exceeding what the legal orphanages could offer. In the process, we now have a situation in which even in popular orphanages, like the Lagos case, some unscrupulous people are now offering babies for sale to the highest bidders.

It is therefore important for critical stakeholders to join hands with the security agencies and civil society groups to beam more searchlight on some of these orphanages. The approving authorities should equally raise the standard of establishing orphanages in Nigeria with a view to ensuring that every prospective operator meets some minimal conditions before they are licensed.

Meanwhile, we urge NAPTIP to work with the security agencies in investigating the case that has been brought to light in Lagos. If all the details provided in the story are found to be accurate, culprits should face the full wrath of the law to serve as deterrence to others.

## South Africa is set to make its mark on BRICS history

By Yi Fan

SOUTH Africa, no stranger to international media attention, is in the limelight again. As the host of this year's 2023 BRICS summit, it will see on its soil the first in-person gathering of key Global South leaders in four years and another BRICS summit in Africa in five years amid world fragmentation, intense major-power competition, as well as a conflict on Europe's doorstep that preoccupies the North and ripples through the South.

The Johannesburg summit is conspicuous on several counts. If you only so much as glance at Western media headlines, you will be struck by their angst—"The BRICS are better off disbanding than expanding", "BRICS raging against the dollar is an exercise in futility".

Writing these off as jealousy is easy. But taking a deeper look at their contention can help South Africa in its effort to deliver a successful summit.

### Weight matters

The first argument advanced by Western commentators is that BRICS is disunited. This indicates a fear of

its collective weight. Launched in 2009, BRICS brings together some of the biggest emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs). Together, they are 23 per cent of global GDP and 42 per cent of the world's population. By 2030, they are projected to contribute over 50 per cent to global output.

And many more from the developing world are looking for an entry ticket. According to South Africa, over 40 nations have expressed interest in joining the economic bloc, and 22 of them have already submitted formal applications.

South Africa's proactive role in advancing the process will be important. Admitting the right candidates—those with economic and geopolitical representativeness—will enhance the BRICS' role as the premier platform for EMDCs to pursue economic cooperation and speak up for their legitimate rights and interests.

Developing nations have a history of uniting into a force the West cannot underestimate. In 1955, they met in Indonesia's Bandung to denounce imperialism and colonialism. In 1961, they coalesced in Belgrade as the Non-

aligned Movement to call for more democracy in international relations. In 1964, they came together in Geneva as the Group of 77 to push for a new global economic order that is fair for developing countries.

Now, a historic moment has come for BRICS, and South Africa will be remembered as the place where a key milestone is reached and the future course of BRICS cooperation shaped.

### Development first

The second point Western elites make is that BRICS will not be able to realise its goal of shaping a fairer order for development. On a more concrete level, its talk of de-dollarisation attracts the most derision. Western commentary points to the dollar's dominance and its skewing effect on development processes as a reality developing countries have to live with.

As with all international groupings, members of the BRICS may not see eye to eye on every issue. But South Africa can encourage a focus of attention on their shared goal, which is development.

The country is right to focus the theme of its chairmanship

on Africa. This continent best captures the bottlenecks of global development: the needs are many and urgent, genuine help from rich nations is under-delivered, what little comes by from them tends to have political strings attached, and a global economic governance structure dominated by the West is preventing meaningful progress in developing countries.

South Africa has the chance to re-energise the global dialogue on how to address these impediments, bringing in topics such as de-dollarisation. True, even a layman knows moving away from the dollar will not be easy. But the greenback has been abusing its outsized influence on economies around the world. Its weaponisation is becoming the new norm, pushing many to think about possible alternatives.

All in all, the Johannesburg summit is not just another gathering for the Global South. And what better place to have it than in South Africa, the rainbow nation priding itself on a glorious history of fighting injustices?

Yi Fan is a Beijing-based international affairs commentator



# Strive to seek legal relief whenever your rights are violated

By Telesphor Magobe

**L**AST week, we briefly looked at the offence of rape, which is covered in section 130 of the Penal Code (R.E 2022). It is established when a man has sexual intercourse with a girl who is aged below 18 years whether the girl consents or doesn't consent to it or with a woman without her consent or when she is of unsound mind or is in a state of intoxication administered to her by the man or by some other person.

Another circumstance is when a man uses force, threats or intimidation to put a woman in the fear of death or of bodily injury in order to have sexual intercourse with her or while she is in unlawful detention. It may also arise from a certain relationship in which a person in authority or power uses it to have sexual intercourse with his subordinates.

The case we used was of a person who was charged with rape and was convicted of the offence and sentenced to 30 years of imprisonment by the District Court (the trial court), but who unsuccessfully

appealed to the High Court of Tanzania in Moshi.

However, when he appealed to the Court of Appeal, his conviction and sentence were set aside although it was proved in court by a medical doctor that the girl had been sexually penetrated.

The case was dismissed for lack of evidence on the identity of the perpetrator of rape. We concluded that it is good to be careful with the way we testify lest we lose the case which had been more careful, we would have won it. There are girls or women who have been raped, but the way they testified in court was so insufficient that the court had to dismiss their evidence.

Today, I invite you to briefly look again at unfair termination of employment. A few months ago we looked at unfair termination of employment, but from a different perspective. It was about an employee who is unfairly laid off on the grounds of economic reasons and company restructuring.

Today, we look at unfair termination of employment from the point of view of the husband or wife, who, using his or her position, goes to his or her



spouse's workstation and asks the employer to terminate the employment of his wife or her husband. There are people, especially married women, who have fallen victim to this.

In Tanzania, every person, who is aged above 18 years, is entitled to work by virtue of Article 22(1) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (R.E

2005) and when it happens that his or her employment is terminated, it must be done fairly (following legal procedures).

Article 9 states that "the state authority and all its agencies are obliged to ensure that every person who is able to work does work, and work means any legitimate activity by which a person earns a living." This Article concerns all persons

and does not exclude women - that is, men and women are equally entitled to work or employment.

Therefore, the husband cannot just go to the workstation of his wife to ask for the termination of her employment. If the employer accepts it and does terminate the employee's employment just because the husband has demanded, it amounts to unfair termination of employment and the wife may sue for reinstatement or compensation if she so wishes.

As we have repeated time and time again, the purpose of this column is to help a layperson to be acquainted with the laws he or she is subject to and live as a law-abiding citizen. This includes being vigilant so that where he or she reasonably feels that his or her rights are violated, he or she should claim them.

Those who don't claim their rights lose them because they are the ones who have the locus standi - a right of appearance in a court of justice, or before a legislative body, on a given question or issue - when it comes to claiming rights.

For the cases I have heard of, even after such

unfair termination of employment, the victims condoned it. There is a legal maxim which says "He who sleeps over his rights loses them". That is, only those who are vigilant against the abuse of their rights get court relief.

If there is any justification for dismissal or termination of employment, then it must be done in compliance with the Employment and Labour Relations Act (Chapter 366) and its Regulations, 2017. Section 37(1) of the Act states that: "It shall be unlawful for an employer to terminate the employment of an employee unfairly."

The law puts the burden of proof to the employer to show that the termination was fair or followed legal procedures and there is no section which states that the husband or wife may go to the employer to demand for the termination of employment of his or her spouse.

Today's legal maxim: "An action is not given to him [her] who is not injured."

**The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com**

## Ambassador Mwapachu's autobiography: An extraordinary life lived

By Andrew Bomani

**O**N Saturday, 12th of August 2023, Ambassador Juma Volter Mwapachu's autobiography *A Journey My Life, Speeches & Writings* was launched. It encompasses some of his major speeches and writings. I must confess my delight that Mwapachu documented his life story as I did once ask him in passing about the idea to which he sounded dismissive.

Not many will realise the extent to which Mwapachu has in some form or shape been a central pillar in Tanzania's development vision. Despite our earlier socialist dogma with its attendant problems, Mwapachu never shied away from projecting the possibilities for Tanzania with new contours of thinking.

An attempt to sum up his life reminded me of an autobiography written back in the 1980s by a colourful Zambian public figure, Vernon Mwaanga, titled *An Extraordinary Life*. The message behind the book was extraordinary such that Mwapachu's illustrious life could be summed up similarly.

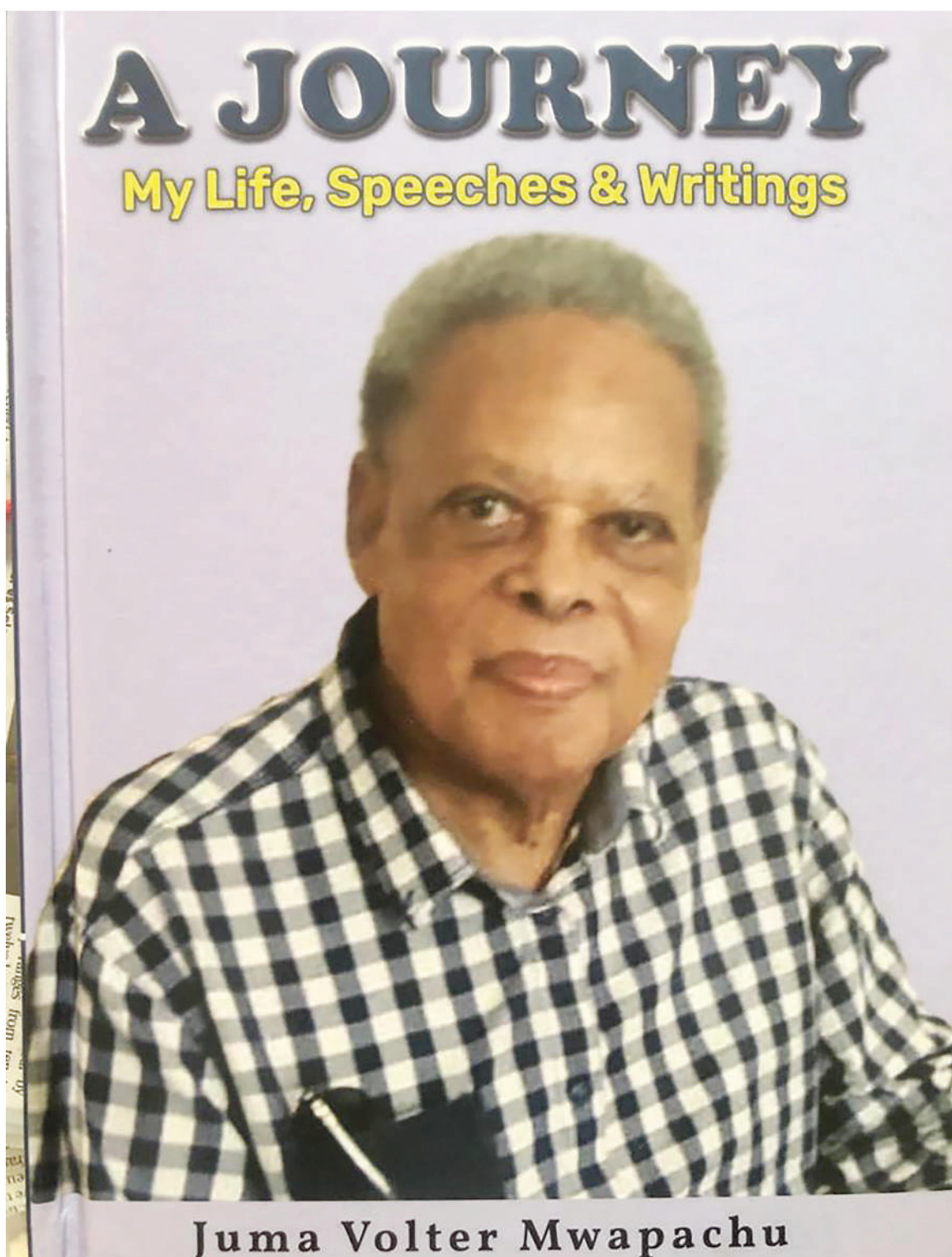
How circumstances though in the country contributed to what some may view as a peripatetic past is not clear about the man whose original quest was to study history at Oxford University.

It is fair to say that the only pathway Mwapachu steered overtly clear of was the political, namely contesting for an electoral seat. This may have been contributed to by having an elder brother taking the political plunge after many years in public service. In my opinion, of the two, Harith Bakari Mwapachu had more of the cool mien suited for a political career.

That said, a very unique opportunity presented itself somehow that I'm sure Juma Mwapachu would have found irresistible. I dare say that the time Mwapachu came closest to the world of politics was during the second term of Benjamin Mkapa in the year 2000.

Someone can argue to the contrary that 2015 brought out the best political talent in him under Edward Lowassa. There is no question that he made a heavy emotional investment that well surpassed that of the candidacy of his brother-in-law, Mark Bomani, in 1995.

Mwapachu was so unabashed about Lowassa, resulting in his departure from CCM on the eve of Nyerere Day in 2015, only to troop back home less than a year later after feeling out of sorts. At the time of his departure, he did issue a very powerful statement that unfortunately is not mentioned in the book. The only upshot is that it was what



some Brits would call 'a moment of madness'.

Back to 2000 and fortuitously Mwapachu was well-disposed towards Mkapa to the point of being posted as ambassador to France. The story goes that it was meant to be the United Kingdom only that a weekly newspaper at the time, RAI, spilled the beans thus contaminating the plot.

I can only imagine that with Mkapa's strong orientation towards international relations, a man like Juma Mwapachu could well have landed himself the role of chief diplomat on a particular understanding. As it were, he be-

came the secretary-general of the EAC in 2006.

And it was Mkapa who brought in constitutional amendments that enables the president to nominate up to 10 individuals to the National Assembly. So, Mwapachu doing a five-year term was doable and which would have, in my estimation, elevated considerably the stature of the ministry domestically and globally. We would have been talking of the topmost foreign minister Tanzania has ever had!

Looking more broadly at Mwapachu and his connection to the political affairs of Tanzania, to quote Jenerali Ulimwengu, who describes

himself in the book as an independent Tanzanian thinker and writer, "the reader also gets a taste of the special relationship JV had with JK Nyerere, who treated him as a dotting father would treat a son, no less."

It's abundantly clear that he was adored by several older people. For the purposes of this article, his umbilical cord to Nyerere was all-too clear when the Justice Nyalali-led Commission was winding up its work in January 1992 and he was selected to be among five to visit Mwalimu Nyerere in Butiama for a highly important brief.

"I came to be told that Pius Msekwa, a senior member of the Commission and then deputy speaker, had advised the chairman that I should be included in the team because Mwalimu loved me and that I should be tasked to present the Commission's majority proposal that Tanzania should be transformed into three governments. Msekwa's argument was that Mwalimu would rudely 'throw us out of his compound' if the chairman or him presented the three-government proposal..."

Msekwa's wish came to pass and Mwapachu was given the unenviable task of informing Nyerere of their recommendation. Mwalimu's reaction was to tell Nyalali, "I do not support your recommendation and if CCM adopts your recommendation, I will move around the country to condemn the proposal. I may even quit CCM if I fail to convince the party. He stood up, took my left hand and said, 'Juma, let us go!'"

When I imagine the task bestowed on Mwapachu as Nyerere's blue-eyed boy, human nature would easily be flattered. Below the surface though, it was an ominous thing. I'm talking here of an abdication of duty by Mwapachu's seniors.

The chairman of the Commission, who was also the Chief Justice, was alarmingly spineless. A whole CJ as Kenyans would put it, lacking the mettle! And following Nyerere's livid reaction, Nyalali was left with only a single option: to resign. Today we would be celebrating the man for his principles as happens in other states.

As a consequence then of Nyerere being vehemently against any change to the Union status

quo, attempts at a constitutional settlement of the Union continue to run into strong headwinds. Curiously though, Judge Warioba was quoted some years ago saying that Nyerere was not about a fixed mindset and that he would have come around the three-tier government structure just as he did on a multi-party system. I wish Mwapachu would have said something on this very significant matter concerning his 'second' father.

In closing, I can't fail to end without a special recognition of Mwapachu the public intellectual. Around 1993/94, Mwapachu had established a magazine called *Change* that was geared at getting to grips with wide-ranging issues affecting the nation.

It was a top-notch magazine that even aroused interest in overseas institutions. How it was allowed to die a natural death was a clear indicator of our slide to becoming an intellectual wasteland. Even the quarterly publication for lawyers eventually disappeared though I blame more laziness on the part of the 'learned friends'.

For the record, upon the death in 2014 of the chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, Ambassador Fulgence Kazaura, the name of Mwapachu kept ringing in my head as someone who was head and shoulders above the others to be considered. My dream never saw the light of day with the appointing authority clearly having his own idea by keeping it vacant for nearly two years and himself taking it up.

My recent depressing experience of a UDSM-hosted event on Nelson Mandela only left me embittered that Mwapachu couldn't offer more with his unmatched national and international record of intellectual rigour.

That is Mwapachu, our preeminent public intellectual. The chancellorship would have been the cherry on the cake. Very well done Ambassador Mwapachu on an extraordinary life lived as well as bequeathing the citizens your book that will serve for many generations to come as a treasure trove.

**Andrew Bomani is a political scientist based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at a\_bomani@yahoo.com**



By Orlando Milesi

# Social activists demand real equality for Chilean women

**W**OMEN social activists recognize that gender equality is gaining ground in Chile, but maintain that there is still a long way to go to turn into reality the promises to “level the playing field” between women and men, while they highlight the importance of addressing the issue of care work.

“We push feminism for the people, because we are looking at everything, not just women but the whole family, from a gender perspective,” social activist Aida Moreno, a veteran weaver who founded the Huamachuco Women’s House in 1989 in the municipality of Renca, northeast of Santiago, told IPS.

She argued that gender inequality is still “an open wound in Chile.”

“The issue of care work, for example, is on the table, but nothing has been resolved yet. All we have is hope,” said the 77-year-old campaigner for women’s rights at her organization’s offices.

Carolina Cartagena, 42, is the national secretary of the Asociación Yo Cuido – an association of caregivers – based in the municipality of Villa Alemana, in the Valparaíso region, 131 kilometers north of the Chilean capital.

In an interview with IPS at the association’s headquarters, she said, “There are many women caregivers whose mental health is already overwhelmed. We have extreme cases...and where does that leave the person being cared for, if his or her caregiver is not well mentally, economically and emotionally?” she asked.

The rights of caregivers emerged as a much more visible issue after left-wing President Gabriel Boric included them among the priorities of his social policy and instructed the respective ministries to mainstream the issue.

The first step was to open a registry of caregivers within the Social Registry of Households. Since 2022, the State has been providing accredited caregivers with a credential that for the time being provides them with facilities to speed up procedures in public services.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family estimates that in a first stage some 25,800 people will be registered in the national registry of caregivers. Their estimate is that there are 470,000 informal live-in caregivers, as they define people who live in the same household and take care of family members on an unpaid basis.

There are also 1.12 million Chileans who require a caregiver and a survey by the ministry found that 85 percent of caregivers are women.

Cartagena sees the registry as a step forward but said that “much remains to be done” for caregivers.

The activist believes that “the most urgent thing is a system of care that is ongoing and permanent. In many cases there are government programs, but they last three months and what do you do for the rest of the year?”

Cartagena was referring to a pilot project implemented so far only in a few municipalities such as Villa Alemana, which lasts three months and provides caregivers with medical assistance, therapies and rehabilitation. Her demand is for it to be made permanent and nationwide.

Yo Cuido brings together 800 families from five regions of this long narrow country wedged between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean: Metropolitan Santiago, in the center; O’Higgins and Valdivia, in the south; and Valparaíso and Coquimbo, in the north.

The association argues that caregiving is a responsibility that should be shared by the government and not just a responsibility of a family or a couple, as the State saves funds thanks to the work of caregivers.

## Changing conditions

The overall living conditions of women in this South American country of 19.5 million people have changed over the last two or three generations, with advances in economic participation and educational levels.

The extension of pre- and post-natal leave and an increase in day care centers were followed by stiffer laws against femicides – gender-based killings – and the decriminalization of therapeutic abortion under three circumstances: fetal malformation, danger to the mother’s life or rape.

But this last achievement is threatened today by the far-right Republican Party, which holds a majority in the council that aims to propose the text of a new constitution that voters will approve or reject in a plebiscite in December.

Sociologist Teresa Valdés, of the Gen-



A celebration held by instructors and participants at the welcome day of the launch of the Cycle of Workshops for caregivers organized by the Asociación Yo Cuido, at its headquarters in the municipality of Villa Alemana, in the Chilean region of Valparaíso. CREDIT: Orlando Milesi / IPS

der and Equity Observatory, told IPS that “gender gaps remain, as do conditions of discrimination, mainly related to machismo (sexism), harassment and the difficulty of getting ahead in the workplace.”

She added that the experience of inequality varies greatly, depending on where the women live.

In Chile, 47.7 percent of households are headed by women, according to the government’s 2022 National Socioeconomic Characterization Survey, and 58.7 percent of these live in poverty.

The latest National Time Use Survey, from 2015, showed that the hours dedicated to unpaid work in a

typical day average 2.74 for Chilean men and 5.89 for Chilean women.

Valdés also warned about the high rates of violence against women in the country, despite policies to promote gender parity.

“The latest prevalence survey says that two out of five women have experienced situations of intimate partner violence and these are higher numbers than before. We do not know if this is because there are more cases than before or because there is more sensitivity and recognition of the violence,” said the sociologist.

And she complained that there is a lack of capacity in public programs to attend to

these victims in the health-care or judicial systems.

“That is a huge debt owed to women, and we continue to see a significant number of femicides per year,” Valdés said. In 2022 there were 43 gender-based murders of women in the country, according to the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity.

Huamachuco, a pillar of training and community services

The Huamachuco Women’s House is a center for training and combating poverty and discrimination against women.

It began in 1989 as a soup kitchen for children and families. Then it became a center for training, especially tradi-

tional embroidery on burlap made from jute or hemp, whose handcrafted works are about to be exhibited in the presidential palace of La Moneda. Later it became a place to learn trades such as hairdressing or sewing.

It currently offers a wide range of workshops and courses including baking, jewelry making, therapeutic massage and a digital skills course provided by Mujeres Emplea, a United Nations employment training program led by UN Women.

But above all, it is a place of support for women who suffer various types of violence and who feel protected by their peers.

Moreno said that women

used to work the same amount or more than today and their work was not recognized. She added that now their work is more highly valued, but still “very insufficiently.”

“There are many gaps we have in terms of men who go out to work and come back home just to rest. He never lays awake at night thinking about what he is going to cook the next day, which is double work when there is no money,” she said.

“Today we are placing value on women’s work. I don’t say price, although I could say it because if a man on his own had to pay for laundry services, food, etc., he wouldn’t be able to afford it with what he earns,” she said.

Moreno is also concerned about children and stressed that “preventing violence against them is a job that has no price.”

The Huamachuco Women’s House is now promoting a very important project: getting kids who have dropped out of basic education back into school, with follow-up.

“We work with children and families and aim to reinsert them in another school. We look for schools and provide them with support. In general, they are critical cases, of parents who are in prison or similar circumstances,” she said.

Women caregivers plead for time off

“Recognition of caregiving is urgently needed because we women become poorer by staying at home and not being able to go out and work to improve our quality of life,” Moreno said.

It is also a central demand of the Asociación Yo Cuido.

“My daughter, age five, has cerebral palsy,” Cartagena said. “There are many moms with children on the autism spectrum. There are caregivers caring for two or three people. The problem is cross-cutting and includes Alzheimer’s. There are women who take care of their 90-year-old mothers.”

And she regretted that there is no legislation to protect caregivers.

“We are fighting for a support and care system that is being promoted with participatory dialogues in different municipalities to learn about the needs of caregivers,” she said.

“Never again alone” is the motto of the association, created in 2018, which defines itself as national, non-profit, social action and non-welfare oriented in character.

“In many cases the person has been born with some type of disability or dependency. Their situation is precarious, they are vulnerable. And the State and society punish you for being in care. You are left without health care, unemployed, often without support or family co-responsibility,” said Cartagena.

She added that many caregivers suffer from psychological and emotional deterioration, as well as poverty.

“A main objective of our association is to ensure the mental health rights of caregivers,” she underlined.

She pointed out that caregiving work involves mainly women: 90 percent of the members of the association are women.

“We want centers to be opened where they can drop off the person they take care of, so they can have just a few hours off a day,” she said.

This is the role of the day care center in Huamachuco that serves women who suffer physical, psychological or economic violence.

“Most of the mothers in these projects are single women who have no networks. And they have to go out to work leaving their children with other people,” said Moreno.

UN Women rewarded the work of this day care center by donating another similar one, fully equipped, to be installed in another part of Renca.

The elderly activist said with pride that “the fruits are there for us to see because there are young people who are now professionals and who say well...if it hadn’t been for this day care center I don’t know what would have become of us.”



Aida Moreno (R) poses with three other participants in the Huamachuco Women’s House in front of a series of burlap embroideries that will be exhibited at the Cultural Center of the presidential palace of La Moneda on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet on Sept. 11, 1973. CREDIT: Orlando Milesi / IPS



# Tour operators join forces with JGI to mentor youths on conservation

By Guardian Reporter,

Arusha

**T**ANZANIA Association of Tour Operators (TATO) and Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) have forged a partnership to inculcate conservation values to the youth, as TATO seeks to payback to the community and nature, as part of its 40 years anniversary.

Founded in 1983, TATO has witnessed tourism development and tourist streams in the country surged from 54,000 tourists in 1983 to 1.5 million in 2022, with the foreign currency earnings rising from \$12.8 million in 1983 to \$2.5 billion in 2022.

Kicking off a first out of 40 planned events, as part of celebrating an incredible journey of 40 years, TATO announced to work with JGI's Roots and Shoots project that seek to nurture young people to affect positive change on conservation drive in their communities.

TATO Chairman, Wilbard Chambulo made a commitment before the World-renowned ethologist and conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall, who graced a flag off of the 40 years anniversary of the flamboyant advocacy agency with 300 plus members in the country's northern safari capital of Arusha, over the weekend.

"As the first beneficiaries of the conservation efforts, we are going to work with JGI's Roots and Shoots project to instill



The founder of Jane Goodall Institute, Dr. Jane Goodall, in a group photo with the board members of the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) in Arusha over the weekend.

youth with conservation values across the country, as TATO turns 40 this year," Chambulo declared, amid applause from the tour operators gathered in Arusha.

Chambulo said an authoritative advocacy agency for the multi-billion-dollar tourism industry, TATO, is proud to be a driving force in fostering tourism business to flourish, as it turns 40 this year.

"With its members controlling 80 percent of Tanzania's tourism market share, TATO is a leading advocacy agency for the tourism industry that earns \$2.5 billion per year for the economy, equivalent to 17 percent of the country's GDP" said TATO CEO, Sirili Akko.

Akko explained that TATO also plays a critical role in connecting businesses and

individuals within the tourism to facilitate knowledge sharing, best practices, trade and networking along the industry value chain.

"The business association has initiated a 'most ambitious' plan with an objective to help local entrepreneurs launch and grow their businesses respectfully and responsibly," he noted.

TATO, under Chambulo's leadership, has successfully managed to support 17 startups and counting to navigate through the intricate and costly process of formalising their tourism businesses, as part of his painstaking efforts to create new employers and taxpayers.

TATO is also one of the pioneers of an extensive anti-poaching programme de-

signed to protect the priceless wildlife heritage into Africa's wild animals-richest national park of Serengeti.

De-snaring Programme, the first of its kind, bankrolled by TATO members and other investors in Serengeti under Chambulo's stewardship, implemented by the Frankfurt Zoological Society in collaboration with the Tanzania National Parks, is designed to remove the widespread snares set by local bush meat mongers to trap mass wildlife within the Serengeti and beyond.

The once poverty-driven subsistence poaching has slowly, but surely, graduated into large-scale and commercial undertaking, putting Tanzania's flagship national park of Serengeti under renewed

pressure after a brief stint of a lull.

The ongoing Serengeti De-Snaring Program has successfully removed thousands of snares and released hundreds of trapped animals in his initiative to promote responsible tourism and protect the sacred landscape of the Serengeti.

Dr. Jane Goodall expressed her gratitude to TATO for unanimously decision to partner with JGI's Roots and Shoots project to impart conservation education on future leaders.

"It was worth coming here," said Dr. Goodall, shortly after TATO announcement to collaborate with JGI's Roots and Shoots project.

The founder of JGI pleaded with the tour operators to educated tourists on the importance of supporting conservation drive and more so to respect wild animals.

"I've seen many changes in Tanzania compared to when I set foot in the first time. The difference between then and now is impossible to explain. Nature is so kind, lets not hurt it to the extent of retailing" Dr. Goodall told the TATO members.

She was also of the view that Tour operators should consider supporting rural communities who have nothing than natural resources to eke a living, if they're to stop utilizing the nature unsustainably.

Dr. Goodall is a passionate road warrior, traveling nearly 300 days each year on a worldwide speaking tour to raise awareness, inspire change, and encourage each individual to do his or her part in making the world a better place.

Jane's love for animals started at a young age and in July of 1960, at the age of 26, she followed her dreams and traveled from England to what is now known as Tanzania, to bravely enter the little-known world of wild chimpanzees.

She was equipped with nothing more than a notebook and a pair of binoculars, but with her unyielding patience and optimism, she won the trust of the Gombe chimpanzees, and opened a window into their lives for all to see.

Jane's studies have taught humanity one of the most important lessons - that we humans are not the only beings on this planet with personalities, minds capable of thinking and above all, emotions.

Her findings shook the scientific community and made the world re-evaluate what it means to be human.

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE ecosystem-based Adaptation for Rural Resilience (EBARR) project is being implemented by the Vice President's Office in four districts on the Tanzania mainland, and one in Zanzibar.

Those districts include Kishapu (Shinyanga), Mvomero (Morogoro), Mpwapwa (Dodoma), Simanjiro (Manara), and one in Zanzibar, Kaskazini "A" (Kaskazini Unguja).

The project aims to increase resilience to climate change in rural communities of Tanzania by strengthening ecosystem resilience and diversifying livelihoods, using an ecosystem-based adaptation approach. It is being executed in semi-arid areas that suffer frequent droughts and water shortages, and areas that are inhabited by herders, farmers, and fishermen who depend on these activities for their livelihoods.

Therefore, EBARR project seeks to support these communities to enhance their adaptive capacity and thus be able to withstand the effects of climate change.

Dr. James Nyarobi EBBAR National project coordinator says the activities implemented by the project are those that first facilitate availability and access to water for irrigation, livestock, and domestic use.

Dr. Nyarobi says: "We have drilled about 14 boreholes in all of the project areas. In Mpwapwa district, we have drilled four (4) boreholes, two (2) boreholes in Mvomero district; two (2) in Simanjiro district; and in Kaskazini 'A' district, Unguja, we have drilled six (6) boreholes and all these boreholes are now functioning and supporting about 25,000 members of the community."

"The goal is to ensure that we solve the challenge of water scarcity in the project areas," Dr. Nyarobi adds.

In all the project areas with water, boreholes are also used for both domestic purposes and horticultural production. The project has constructed screenhouses as demonstration sites (also known as farmer field schools) to show/teach farmers water efficient

## Project drills ten boreholes to curb water shortages



The borehole in the Ng'ambi village in Mpwapwa District Council, Dodoma Region. This is one of the boreholes constructed by the EBARR Project.

farming techniques. This enables the farmer groups that benefit from the project to learn how to grow and produce vegetables with minimum water use throughout the year.

Having one borehole in the area, according to Dr. Nyarobi, it can be used for a variety of activities. They

can do small-scale irrigation activities, grow crops such as vegetables throughout the year, use the water for domestic purposes and build water troughs for their livestock.

Aziz Biiru, the EBARR project coordinator in the Mpwapwa District Council, claims that the project's

beneficiaries have now solved the problem of carrying water over a long distance, and that training in vegetable farming in the screenhouses built on the edge of the wells, has greatly improved their understanding and awareness of/on vegetable farming and as a result improved

household income.

Funded by Global Environmental Facility (GEF), this project started in 2018/2019, and is expected to end in 2024. In implementing this project, the Vice President's Office collaborates with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).







## BUSINESS

## 'Stamico among the best public players'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

STATE Mining Corporation (Stamico) has garnered significant recognition at the recent Public Sector Chairs and Executives' Meeting. The corporation secured first place in the Public Institution category for its remarkable performance changes in the year 2023, solidifying its position as a Turn Around Company in Financial and Operational Performance.

Stamico was awarded second place in the Public Sector category for its Outstanding Dividend Payment into the Government General Fund.

This remarkable feat was celebrated in Arusha during the session's opening ceremony, in the presence of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Stamico Director General, Dr. Venance Mwase, and Stamico board chairman, Major General (retired) Michael Isamuhyo.

In her opening speech, President Samia acknowledged the exceptional performance of certain public institutions, particularly those who prioritize profitable productivity and maintain operational independence while paying dividends to the government.

She emphasized the crucial role these establishments play as pillars of national development and the economy. President Samia further highlighted the correlation between the quality output of such institutions and the overall success of the state, underscoring the need to reduce reliance on external support and foster independent growth.

Nehemiah Mchechu, the Treasury Registrar, extended sincere congratulations to Stamico, recognizing the corporation's journey from a stage of potential dissolution to becoming a significant contributor to the government's general-purpose fund.

Recently, the Minister for Minerals, Dotto Biteko, made the similar

sentiment, commending the Board of Directors and Management of Stamico for their commendable efforts in revitalizing the entity and securing partnerships with renowned mining companies, such as Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML), for the excavation of precious minerals.

Expressing gratitude upon receiving the prestigious awards, Dr. Mwase attributed their success to determination and decisive action. He highlighted the corporation's commitment to aligning their decisions with President Samia's vision for public institutions, which ultimately led to heightened productivity and the removal of Stamico from the dissolution list.

Dr. Mwase emphasized that Stamico has evolved into an exemplary organization, focused on delivering exceptional results for society.

When questioned about Stamico's external investments, Dr. Mwase revealed that President Samia's directive to expand investments beyond Tanzania had motivated the corporation to pursue opportunities in other countries.

By diversifying their investments, Stamico aims to generate additional revenue that will support the government in fulfilling its obligations. Dr. Mwase emphasized that these endeavors align with the primary responsibilities of state-owned enterprises.

Adding to their recent accolades, recently Stamico was also honored as the Africa Company of the Year Award (ACOYA) recipient for 2023 within the mining sector.

These achievements fortify the corporation's position as a leading force within the mining industry, further solidifying their prominence and accomplishments as they embark on the Public Sector Chairs and Executives' Meeting 2023.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan hands over an award to the Chairman of the Stamico board, Major General (Retired) Michael Isamuhyo (C) after the corporation winning two awards at a working session bringing together Board Chairpersons and CEOs of Public Institutions in Arusha. On the right is the Director General of the Stamico, Dr. Venance Mwase. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## High import bills widen Z'bar current account deficit, report

By Guardian Reporter

The Zanzibar's current account registered a deficit of US\$384 million during the year ending June 2023, compared with a deficit of US\$280.9 million in the corresponding period in 2022.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) monthly economic review for July says the widening of the current account deficit was largely explained by an increase in import bills that outweighed the growth in exports.

The import bill increased to US\$593.5 million in the year ending June 2023 from US\$459.9 million in the year ending June 2022, with both goods imports and services payments recording growth.

The increase in the goods import bill was mostly driven by refined white petroleum imports, and machinery and mechanical applied imports that largely reflect on-going construction activities.

The central bank report shows the value of fuel and lubricants imports increased by 81.5 percent to



US\$194.5 million during the year ended in June, compared to US\$107.2 million recorded during the year ended in June 2022.

The value of imported machinery and mechanical appliances more than doubled to US\$27.3 million during the year ending June 2023, compared with US\$12.2 million recorded

during the year ended in June 2022.

On a monthly basis, the import bill increased to US\$46.3 million in June 2023 from US\$ 43 million in June 2022.

During the year ending June 2023, exports of goods and services grew by 21.9 percent to US\$202.1 million, driven by service

receipts.

Services receipts recorded an annual growth of 75.3 percent to US\$137.3 million, largely driven by tourism-related activities following an increase in tourist arrivals.

Meanwhile, goods exports recorded a decline, largely explained by low clove exports, which de-

clined to US\$42.5 million from US\$ 62.8 million in the year to June 2022 due to the cyclical nature of the crop.

On a monthly basis, goods and services worth US\$12.7 million were exported in June 2023, compared with US\$6.3 million in June 2022.

## BoA dished out 73bn/- to SMEs by June 30, this year

By Guardian Reporter

BANK of Africa-Tanzania has dished out 73bn/- to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by June 30, this year as part of executing the three-year strategic plan worth 88bn/-.

Adam Mihayo, BoA managing director and CEO unveiled this in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when opening the workshop that involved a number of SMEs themed: "Let's grow together", which was meant to equip them with comprehensive financial education, the best way to store commercial records, detailed discussions on various tax topics, and strategies to increase the capacity of banking services to stimulate capital growth.

Mihayo said last year, the bank has released loans worth 57bn/- to SMEs.

"This indicates that this year we'll provide more loans than last year," he said.

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our clients of BoT for continuing to support us and I also appeal to Tanzanian entrepreneurs, that the bank is ready to ensure their success, as the responsibility of our workshop as our motto says "Let's Grow Together". The bank is determined to continue investing in this sector. This is clearly expressed in the three-year strategic plan of our bank, relying on investing 88bn/- for the year 2022-2024."

Mihayo noted: "The bank has also been able to have good results in non-performing loans (NPLs) and in the period up to



Head of the Retail & SME Banking Division of BoA Tanzania, Ninael Mndeme makes a presentation during the entrepreneurs' seminar organized by the bank to provide them with business education in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

percent of the national income and in every 10 businesses, 9 are SMEs, so it is very important to ensure that we empower them."

"Since we started these workshops in 2021, the bank has already reached 300 customers and the goal for this year is to reach 150 customers. The fruits of what we are doing are reflected in the good results we are witnessing, including the growth of loans by 14 percent, the growth of customer deposits by 22 percent. And

what gives us more motivation is the growth of the bank's profit by 88 percent, this is by comparing the results of June last year and June this year," said Mihayo.

Ninael Mndeme, Bank's SMEs department has assured the businessmen that credit services will be provided on time without delay in accordance with banking regulations in the country.

"For us, the customer can get banking services throughout our branches, but the bank has also invested in digital services

such as mobile banking services (B-Mobile), internet banking services (BOAWeb-Internet Banking) and we have recently launched the BoA agents' service and now we've more than 200 agents across the country," said Ninael.

Some of the businessmen who attended the workshop lauded the bank for the way it enabled them through loans and to raise their business where they have asked the bank to continue to improve its services to benefit more.

## Global coal demand to reach 8.39m tonnes

NEW DELHI

The global coal demand will reach 8.39 million tons this year, up slightly from last year's all-time high, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates.

Three out of every 4 tons of coal will be consumed in China, India, and Southeast Asia.

China alone is expected to account for 56 percent of global consumption.

"As Europe cuts down on its coal-fired power generation to be in line with its green energy transition, China and India have continued to add further capacity at levels that far exceed the current pace of power plant

retirements," said ship brokerage SSSY on Monday.

SSSY noted that 86 percent of Chinese coal plants are less than 20 years old, and 52 percent are 10-20 years old.

"Considering that the average lifetime of a coal power plant is 40 years, a full capacity phaseout like the one targeted by Europe is unlikely to be replicated," said SSSY.

On the supply front, the IEA expects global coal production to reach a new high this year, topping last year's record of 8.63 million tons, with China, India and Indonesia accounting for over 70 percent of the total.

According to BRS, rising domestic production in India reduced that country's coal imports by 7 percent year-on-year in January to July, to 134 million tons.

BRS said the drop mostly affected demand for Indonesian coal aboard Capesize bulkers (vessels with capacity of around 180,000 deadweight tons or DWT).

In contrast, this year's high Chinese domestic production is being complemented by higher imports, a plus for dry bulk shipping.

China imported 211.8 million tons of coal in the first seven months of 2023, a 77percent surge from the same period last year, said BRS. Indonesia has been China's biggest seaborne supplier, followed by Russia and Australia.

US exports higher share of production

The US was once the world's largest coal producer but

has fallen down the ranks. Current production is less than half the 2008 peak.

Even so, America's exports are now on the rise.

Weaker domestic demand (due to environmental regulations and cheap natural gas) leaves more production to sell overseas.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicts that the US will export 90 million tons of coal this year, up 16 percent versus 2022. Exports are projected to rise further, to 94 million tons, in 2024.

The EIA expects 22 percent of US production to be exported next year. In 2008, when US coal output peaked, only 7 percent of production was exported.



# Managing performance in hybrid working environment

By Francis Rugangila

The recent global pandemic accelerated the shift towards remote work for many organisations which has prompted business managers across sectors to deliberately think about how to measure performance in an environment where the employees are working either remotely with limited time of physical presence at the office, a self-choice between remote and office working, or on rotational basis between homes and office.

Several employee opinion surveys conducted in the past two years indicates that majority of the employees are reluctant to return to the office on a full-time arrangement. Many prefer a hybrid work model. With this model, employees have the freedom to choose where they get their best work done, whether that's in the office, at home or a combination of the two.

Some organisations have gone ahead with updating their policies and procedures to embed a hybrid workplace model. Other organisations have opted to establish pre-defined schedules coordinated by business unit managers, whereby there are specific days an employee is expected to work remotely, and days required to be physically present in the office. This change has necessitated a dialogue to rethink on how to fairly measure an employee's performance in a hybrid work model.

As organisations move to a hybrid work model, a higher degree of trust between managers and their teams is required with a change of performance monitoring. Some of the approaches for considerations for a hybrid work model includes:

- Set clear expectations: Employees and the managers need to have a precise and shared understanding of the exact

results expected to be achieved and expected timelines. Hence performance objectives need to be crystal clear. This clarity is mostly important for employees who have limited face to face interaction with their managers and team members, to foster strong alignment to each other and work being done together as a team, contrary it can leave them feeling detached from their managers and teams and the work they are doing together.

- Employee self-evaluations: An employee self-evaluation is essential for the manager to understand employees' strengths areas and opportunities for improvement that might not otherwise be known by management due to limited face to face interactions.

- Regular performance feedback: Employees working in a hybrid environment benefit from frequent updates on their performance, instead of waiting for mid-year and annual performance reviews. A consideration for a monthly feedback session will enable both the organisation and the employees to track performance improvements and identify areas that needs more attention and guidance. The notes from the monthly performance check in sessions can be used as reference points during the performance evaluations.

- Address systemic challenges: Remote working environment may be associated with various challenges that could impact performance in unpredictable ways. These challenges may vary from connectivity to resources availability. It is essential for the organisation to identify the common challenges from the engagement with the employees and provide



the necessary support so that work performance is not affected.

- Provide equal opportunities - 'As usually stated, 'out of sight- out of mind', managers may tend to forget the employees working remotely, especially in a scenario where there are multiple resources at the same job level. Managers should educate all team members in the organisation on best ways to collaborate with remote co-workers so that the hybrid teams become visible and practical by ensuring, that opportunities are provided to all employees depending on the nature of the organisation' business model.

- Appreciate where it is due. In hybrid workforce model, employees work-

ing remotely may sometimes loose credit for their hard work where it is due. For example, a remote worker may conduct research and prepare a presentation and another employee working in the office delivers it to the intended audience. It is more likely all praises for the good work will go to the presenter. It is the role of the leader to keep note of everyone's contribution so that a note of appreciation is provided to all team members based on their level of contributions.

- Deploy a 360-feedback approach. With limited interactions between employees and managers, a hybrid working model will benefit with 360 feedback approach, whereby the manager seeks and receive feedback from colleagues, juniors, other managers, and clients (where feasible) on the performance and conducts of the employee in relation to the work performed. Such feedback will enable the reviewer to have supplementary information during performance evaluation, which minimises bias of rating an employee, relying on the limited engagements during the performance year.

- Evaluate performance fairly. Lastly, it is important to avoid inequalities in the way performance reviews are conducted and delivered. Where possible, a leader should consider conducting a face-to-face appraisal to all employees, and if not feasible, a consideration for video call to each employee to be deployed.

#### The benefits:

When effectively deployed, a hybrid working model is essential in managing performance due to the convenience it promotes to both employees and organisations. Some

of the notable benefits includes flexibility and comfort, the choice for the employees to work where they are most comfortable and productive; and improves work-life balance. Other critical benefits for this model in view of performance is on setting a foundation for a dispersed workforce within an organisation, with a flexibility of hiring the best talents without the need to have them in a specific geographical location.

Furthermore, the model is essential in spearheading talent attraction and retention initiatives, most especially for the millennials and generation z, whom according to various employees opinion surveys conducted, suggest for a flex arrangement between remote working and being physically present in the office.

#### Considerations:

In a hybrid working model, hours worked by an employee should not carry weight in managing performance, as the focus is not about the time the employees spend at work, rather it's what they are doing with that time that matters most, in alignment with expected levels of productivity and results.

To effectively manage performance in a hybrid working model, organisations have to invest in systems to enable continuous flow of communication and accessibility of organisations information resources in remote working. Such investment should include automation of the performance management system for ease of tracking and documentation of performance progress, seeking feedback and appraisals.

**Francis Rugangila (pictured) is a Management Consultant-Organisation Change and Transformation, a Director for FnR Consulting Services. He can be reached through frugangila@fnrconsulting.co.tz**

## WHI to raise public awareness on investments

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

WATUMISHI Housing Investments (WHI) is stepping up efforts to provide investment education to enable prospective investors to invest in Faida fund and other similar funds meant to grow their wealth.

The program stands among other vital initiatives that the state-owned property developer plans to implement in the current fiscal year of 2023/24.

The WHI Head of Communications Unit, Maryjane Makawia expressed that Faida Fund was initiated early this year by the company, whereby the value of the unit has grown from 100/- to 106/- and the fund size is now from zero to at least 16bn/-

"Faida Fund targets institu-

tional and ordinary investors including bodaboda, food vendors, employees, peasants, livestock keepers, as well as savings groups," she said.

Together with that, the WHI Communications Chief Boss added that in this fiscal year the company has lined up a number of projects, focused to erect more affordable housing units for public servants and members of pension funds.

"Projects slated for this year include the Mikochei Address located at one of the most prime areas in the Dar es salaam suburb where 104 affordable homes will be constructed and sold to public servants and members of pension funds," she unveiled.

Makawia detailed that the houses will be sold at prices ranging from 45m/- to 190m/- in order to accommodate

buyers from all walks of life.

"Currently we are finalising preparation for the launch of the project in a few months," she said.

Another project, according to her entails completion of landed 205 affordable homes at Njedengwa Hilltop and construction of 60 apartments at Kisasa in Dodoma.

"Njedengwa area is one of the most prime areas in Dodoma City with provision of all basic infrastructure of water, tarmac roads and electricity," she informed, adding that so far, all 205 homes developed have been sold out.

Together with that, she said the other housing projects slated for 2023/2024 includes sale of 226 affordable plots at Usa River in Arusha City planned in a 112 acres land just 1.5km from Moshi Arusha Road.



Maryjane Makawia

## Bolt Tanzania records over 50 million rides

By Guardian Correspondent

Bolt Tanzania celebrates a record over 50 million rides taken on the app.

Bolt Tanzania has also seen a 8 times growth in rides since it launched its operation in the market ten years ago.

The company has so far provided a more accessible, affordable and efficient mode of transportation, creating expanded and more inclusive entrepreneurial opportunities that enable more people to earn a sustainable living.

Bolt has also positively impacted the country's transport sector by reducing traffic within the cities by encouraging more convenient and affordable mobility options.

Over the past decade, having begun as a groundbreaking startup, Bolt has transformed into a global mobility frontrunner.

Across the globe and within local markets, Bolt remains focused on providing an innovative technology platform that promotes safety, affordability, and sustainability.

Recently, Bolt announced that it has surpassed 150 million customers in over 45 countries and 500 cities.

These customers are spread across its suite of mobility products which include ride-hailing, micromobility (scooter and e-bike rental), food delivery, grocery delivery, Bolt Drive, a free-floating car-sharing service, and Bolt Business, a corporate mobility service.

Bolt also announced there are now over 3.5 million partners (drivers and couriers) using the app to earn a living, including over 1 million in Africa alone.

"We are excited to commemorate these significant milestones on both a global and local scale. These achievements are a testament to our team's unwavering commitment to providing an exceptional product for our valued riders and driver-partners. Our focus on offering reliable mobility solutions has been consistent as we offer services through traditional cars, motorbikes and bajajis. Our resolve to ensure quality, safety, and enhanced driver engagement serve as the cornerstones of our business", said Charles Matondane, Country Manager.

"As we continue to expand and evolve, we consistently enhance these three pillars. A key example, drivers can now directly engage with our local team through our Driver Engagement Centre in Dar es Salaam where they can have their issues and queries addressed."

He added that the company will continue to actively collaborate with regulatory bodies and stakeholders to cultivate an environment that fosters the growth of this dynamic sector.

## China set to cut lending rates as economic recovery drags

BEIJING

China is expected to make the biggest cuts this year to two of its core lending rates, as pressure mounts on policymakers and banks to reverse a trend of slowing momentum and revive flagging demand in the world's second-biggest economy.

The People's Bank of China is set to announce reductions to both one-year and five-year loan prime rates, which affect borrowing costs for businesses and households, at a monthly meeting on Monday, after making a surprise cut to its closely related medium-term financing rate last week.

Policymakers in Beijing have struggled to counter a host of challenges since lifting pandemic restrictions at the start of the year, including a property sector slowdown, weaker exports, record youth unemployment and price deflation as consumer confidence wanes.

The majority of economists polled by Bloomberg expect the one-year LPR, which underpins mortgage lending, to be cut by 15 basis points, the largest margin



People's Bank of China

since January 2022. A similar cut to the five-year rate would be the biggest in a year. The LPR rates are currently 3.55 and 4.2 per cent, respectively.

The polled economists were unanimous in anticipating a cut to the LPR, which typically fol-

lows a reduction in the medium-term lending facility. The MLF rate, which manages banking sector liquidity, is now 2.5 per cent, the lowest since it was launched in 2014 after last week's cut.

Beijing has stopped short of unleashing major stimulus despite

months of disappointing economic data, with consumer prices slipping into deflationary territory in July and growth of just 0.8 per cent in the second quarter against the previous three months.

But missed bond payments from real estate developer Country Garden and on savings products linked to investment conglomerate Zhongzhi this month have increased alarm among observers.

"We believe the risk of systemic concerns emerging in China remains low, though spread[s] will likely remain volatile until the macro volatility subsides," Goldman Sachs analysts wrote on Saturday. This, they added, "may require a more concerted easing effort by China policymakers".

On Friday evening, China's securities regulator announced a series of reforms designed to boost investment in its capital markets, including encouraging share buybacks to stabilise prices and cutting transaction fees for brokers, while the central bank has stepped up its defence of the renminbi

The LPR is partly determined by the lending rates of China's

biggest banks, which are set to release financial reports for the second quarter this month. The one-year LPR, which was cut in June by 10 basis points, is being closely watched because of its relationship to mortgage borrowing costs.

Analysts at Nomura projected further cuts to the one-year LPR to 2.35 per cent by the end of the year, while the MLF would be reduced by 15 basis points to 2.35 per cent.

"However, the real issue for the current growth downturn is low credit demand, rather than insufficient supply of loanable funds," they wrote. "At some point in time Beijing might be compelled to take more measures to stem the downward spiral."

China's real estate sector, which typically drives more than a quarter of economic activity, has been paralysed by a liquidity crisis over the past two years following the 2021 default of Evergrande, the world's most indebted property developer. Last week, Evergrande filed for bankruptcy protection in the US as part of a prolonged restructuring process.



# Transforming Ethiopia's agriculture through agronomy innovation

ADIS ABABA

In the heartland of Basona Werana District in Ethiopia, a remarkable agricultural transformation is taking place, thanks to a groundbreaking collaboration between the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of Ethiopia through the support of the Excellence in Agronomy (EIA) Initiative.

This collaboration has led to developing and implementing a game-changing approach - the Landscape Segmented Fertilizer Advisory (LSFA).

LSFA is a precision farming approach that tailors fertilizer recommendations to the unique needs of each landscape segment. The tool considers soil type, rainfall, topography, and crop variety factors. LSFA also uses digital tools to collect data and send advice to farmers, which helps to improve the accuracy of fertilizer recommendations.

Farmers are using a new approach called Landscape Segmented Fertilizer Advisory (LSFA) to increase their crop yields and improve their livelihoods. At its core, the Landscape Segmented Fertilizer Advisory is a testament to the power of partnerships.

By integrating the wisdom of farmers, the expertise of extension agents, and the insights of



agricultural researchers, this approach has ushered in a new era of precision farming tailored to the unique needs of each landscape segment. Through the magic of digital extension, this innovative strategy has optimized fertilizer usage and facilitated knowledge exchange and collaboration on an unprecedented scale.

Imagine the landscape as a canvas, each segment representing a distinct ecosystem with challenges and opportunities. This approach recognizes the significance of localized solutions in the complex mosaic of modern agriculture.

By integrating the knowledge

of farmers, cooperatives, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), and Community Groups (CGs), the Landscape Segmented Fertilizer Advisory guarantees the creation of practical agronomic solutions informed by grassroots feedback. This approach emphasizes incorporating farmer input rather than imposing solutions from external sources.

This dynamic partnership has given birth to a thriving community of practice where insights flow freely through social media channels. Lead farmers, extension agents, agricultural experts, and researchers unite in

a digital symphony of planning, implementation, monitoring, and feedback.

The result? Trust is nurtured, local capacity is enhanced, and evidence-based innovations find fertile ground to flourish.

The impact of the LSFA collaboration is undeniable. Farmers have witnessed a staggering 29% increase in sorghum yields, a remarkable 17% boost for teff, and a commendable 13% rise in wheat production by embracing landscape-specific fertilizer recommendations. LSFA has also helped farmers to reduce their fertilizer costs and improve their soil health.

But the benefits extend beyond the harvest. Economically optimized fertilizer application has empowered farmers to reduce costs on challenging hillslope soils while increasing nutrient investments on more promising lower slopes. This responsive strategy addresses rising fertilizer costs and underscores the vital importance of sustainable landscape management.

Front and centre in this agricultural revolution are extension agents like Almaz Mengistu. Almaz Mengistu is an extension agent in the Aba Mote kebele of Basona Werana District. She is one of the change agents that

are driving the LSFA revolution. Almaz has been instrumental in training farmers on LSFA and helping them to implement the approach. She has also been working with farmers to monitor the impact of LSFA and to make adjustments as needed.

In the Aba Mote kebele of Basona Werana District, Almaz embodies the essence of change agents driving this transformative journey. Armed with a new understanding of the landscape-segmented approach and armed with digital tools, Almaz embarked on a mission of empowerment.

Her journey began with identifying participant farmers, clustering adjacent holdings into groups, and enlisting the help of lead farmers. She imparted the wisdom of landscape-specific fertilizer advisory through tailored training sessions, leaving no stone unturned. With MPRO tools, Almaz meticulously measured and delineated each farmer's field, ensuring accuracy at every step. She communicated the required fertilizer quantities through SMS and printed memos, enabling farmers to make informed decisions.

But Almaz's role didn't end there. She conducted rigorous supervision, monitoring planting, weeding, urea top dressing, and pesticide application. Armed with quadrants, she collected agronomic data, sampled crops, measured biomass, and gauged yields - a symphony of meticulous care to nurture the land and its potential.

The impact of Almaz's efforts and those of countless other extension agents reverberates across several of the districts. It's a harmonious convergence of expertise, innovation, and determination, creating a harmonious landscape where agricultural prosperity blossoms.

The story of the Landscape Segmented Fertilizer Advisory is far from over. Its digital roots run deep, empowering farmers, extension agents, and researchers alike to join hands in sculpting a resilient agricultural future. As the landscape transforms, so does the narrative of modern farming - a tale of collaboration, innovation, and sustainable growth, with Almaz Mengistu and her fellow extension agents leading the way.

## BRICS sets to expand, internationalise RMB

By Jeremy Stevens & Simon Freemantle

The 15th BRICS summit will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 22 - 24 August 2023. As things stand, four of the five BRICS heads of state will attend the gathering.

The exception is Russian President Putin, who agreed not to attend in person because of the ICC arrest warrant issued against him; the South African government is legally obligated to comply with that warrant given its ratification in domestic law of the ICC's Rome Statute.

President Putin's non-attendance (at least physically) has reduced the intensity of the global focus on the summit, and certainly diminished some of its pressing risks for SA authorities.

That said, the summit still offers the potential for some substantive agreements, and the symbolic broadening of collaboration within the Global South that is a critical component of the multipolar environment that is gradually replacing US-led unipolarity in global affairs (we commented on this shift in some detail here).

In this note, we discuss the summit's geopolitical relevance, as well as what we expect to be its two apex themes - BRICS expansion, and the potential deepening of trade and investment in BRICS currencies, particularly the renminbi. Of these themes, we dwell extensively on China's ongoing push to internationalize the RMB, a pursuit that Beijing believes can be aided by the BRICS grouping.

A rise in relevance given broader geopolitical shifts. To be sure, the current geopolitical context, epitomized in the main by the war in Ukraine

and rising US-China tensions, imbues the BRICS as a group with greater potential relevance. Indeed, as argued here, the BRICS has the potential to evolve to become "a counterpart to the G7 in world affairs, resulting in a profound impact on international relations". As we emphasise in this note, for Beijing specifically the summit (and the BRICS grouping as a whole) holds clear meaning within the context of China's New Era (which we discussed here).

BRICS expansion. There is a spirited push, mostly by China, for the BRICS group to be expanded at the upcoming summit. In all, around 40 countries (including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Mexico, and Iran) have applied for, or expressed an interest, in joining the BRICS. Such expansion however faces resistance from some BRICS members, particularly India and Brazil, who fear the dilution of their influence and an increase in China's capacity to use an expanded BRICS to elevate its global clout. We expect the framework, or criteria, for BRICS expansion to be discussed, and potentially agreed on, at the upcoming summit - but not for new members to be officially welcomed into the group.

Expanding intra-BRICS local currency settlement. In our view, the conversation around the creation of a BRICS currency is a sidenote to the real topic, which is the expanded use of the Chinese RMB in BRICS commercial exchanges. As we discuss in detail in this report, China is keen to push for change in the international monetary system and eager to expand the geographical reach of the RMB. This objective is uncontested amongst the BRICS.



**MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM**

**ITV**

**ITV PGM SCHEDULE**

<b>SATURDAY 8 July</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Al Jazeera	13:00 Jungu Kuu	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Jungu kuu rpt	16:55 Music: The Base	17:00 DW: Afrimax	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Aya ya jami	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
<b>SUNDAY 9 July</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Al Jazeera	13:00 Jungu Kuu	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Jungu kuu rpt	16:55 Music: The Base	17:00 DW: Afrimax	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Aya ya jami	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
<b>MONDAY 10 July</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Al Jazeera	13:00 Jungu Kuu	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Jungu kuu rpt	16:55 Music: The Base	17:00 DW: Afrimax	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Aya ya jami	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
<b>TUESDAY 11 July</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Al Jazeera	13:00 Jungu Kuu	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Jungu kuu rpt	16:55 Music: The Base	17:00 DW: Afrimax	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Aya ya jami	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
<b>WEDNESDAY 12 July</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Al Jazeera	13:00 Jungu Kuu	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Jungu kuu rpt	16:55 Music: The Base	17:00 DW: Afrimax	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Aya ya jami	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
<b>THURSDAY 13 July</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Al Jazeera	13:00 Jungu Kuu	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Jungu kuu rpt	16:55 Music: The Base	17:00 DW: Afrimax	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Aya ya jami	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
<b>FRIDAY 14 July</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Al Jazeera	13:00 Jungu Kuu	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Jungu kuu rpt	16:55 Music: The Base	17:00 DW: Afrimax	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Aya ya jami	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
<b>SATURDAY 15 July</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Al Jazeera	13:00 Jungu Kuu	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Jungu kuu rpt	16:55 Music: The Base	17:00 DW: Afrimax	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Aya ya jami	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
<b>SUNDAY 16 July</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Al Jazeera	13:00 Jungu Kuu	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Jungu kuu rpt	16:55 Music: The Base	17:00 DW: Afrimax	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Aya ya jami	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	

**CAPITAL**

<b>Mon 10 July</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
<b>Tues 11 July</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
<b>Wed 12 July</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
<b>Thurs 13 July</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
<b>Fri 14 July</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
<b>Sat 15 July</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
<b>Sun 16 July</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt



## WORLD

## Summit set to bolster BRICS cooperation

BEIJING/NAIROBI

THE upcoming 15th BRICS Summit, to be hosted by South Africa, will present key opportunities to boost dialogue and cooperation between the five major emerging economies and other developing nations, and enhance solidarity between China and Africa, officials and analysts have said.

Their remarks came as the Foreign Ministry announced on Friday that President Xi Jinping will attend the Johannesburg Summit and pay a state visit to South Africa from Monday to Thursday, at the invitation of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Xi and Ramaphosa will also co-chair the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue in South Africa, said ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

The summit of the grouping, which also includes Brazil, India and Russia, has given rise to high expectations as it will be the first BRICS Summit to be hosted in person since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leaders from the five countries are expected to exchange views on prominent challenges in the international landscape, and enhance coordination

and cooperation in international affairs, as they seek to inject stability and positive energy into a world fraught with changes and chaos, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Friday.

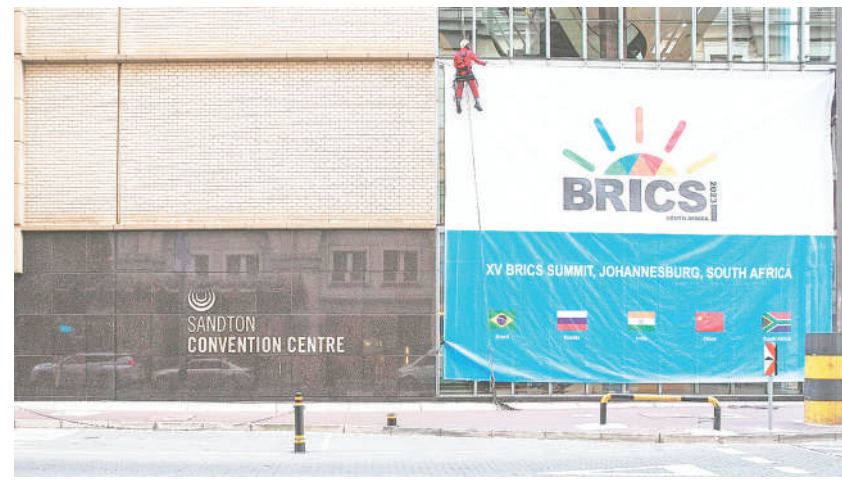
The leaders will convey clear-cut messages on upholding multilateralism and focusing on common development, he said.

Xi's visit to South Africa, his second in the past five years, comes as the two nations mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. The leaders of China and South Africa will jointly draw a blueprint for developing bilateral ties, Wang said.

The China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue will bring together the African co-chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the rotating chairperson of the African Union and representatives of African subregional organizations.

According to the ministry, China's new direct investment in Africa reached \$1.82 billion in the first half of this year, a year-on-year increase of 4.4 percent. There are now over 3,000 Chinese companies conducting business in Africa.

Li Wentao, executive director and researcher at the Institute of African Stud-



A worker puts up a poster for the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Aug 17, 2023. XINHUA

ies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said the in-person gathering of BRICS leaders will help boost the solidarity of the grouping and better drive cooperation among member countries.

"There are now increasingly high expectations for China to play a more important role in the global response to various crises, offering the world greater certainty," he said.

One of the most important issues to be discussed at the summit, Li said, will be the expansion of BRICS. According to South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor, 23 countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Indonesia, Egypt and Ethiopia, have had formally applied to become new BRICS members, as of Aug 7.

The expansion of the grouping will demonstrate the open and inclusive nature of BRICS cooperation, Li said.

"It would showcase that BRICS, instead of serving as a geopolitical tool, has become a key platform of shared growth and benefits for developing countries and the Global South," he said.

Li highlighted the role of BRICS in

leading the way for reforming global governance, championing the interests of the Global South and enabling greater voices for the developing world in the global economic order.

"Closer collaboration between Beijing and Pretoria will help South Africa address some of the most acute issues troubling its growth, such as power shortages and unemployment issues."

China has been the largest trading partner of South Africa for 13 consecutive years, and bilateral trade grew by 5 percent year-on-year to \$56.74 billion in 2022, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Dennis Munene, executive director of the China-Africa Center at the Africa Policy Institute, said Xi's attendance at the Johannesburg summit would demonstrate "Beijing's confidence and commitment in advancing Sino-African comprehensive and strategic cooperation".

"For more than seven decades, China has always valued Africa as a key partner in advancing strategic dialogue and cooperation with a broader vision of promoting South-South cooperation for common development and prosperity," he said. XINHUA

## W. African bloc: 'D-Day' set for possible Niger intervention

ACCRA

WEST Africa's main regional bloc on Friday said it had agreed an undisclosed "D-Day" for a possible military intervention to restore democracy in Niger if diplomatic efforts fail, stressing that it would not hold endless dialogue with the defiant junta.

The comments came at the end of a two-day meeting of West African army chiefs in Ghana's capital Accra, where they have been hashing out the logistics and strategy for a possible use of force in Niger. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has said such action would be a last resort.

"We are ready to go anytime the order is given," ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Abdel-Fatau Musah said during the closing ceremony. "The D-Day is also decided, which we are not going to disclose."

He said a peaceful resolution



Children sing in a Koranic school in Niamey, Niger, Aug 16, 2023.

remained the bloc's preferred option.

"As we speak we are still readying (a) mediation mission into the country, so we have not shut any door... (but) we are not going to engage in endless dialogue."

There was no immediate re-

sponse from the junta.

Military officers deposed Nigerien President Mohamed Bazoum on July 26 and have defied calls from the United Nations, ECOWAS and others to reinstate him, prompting the bloc to order a standby force to be assembled.

"We've already agreed and fine-tuned what will be required for the intervention," Musah said, declining to share how many troops would be deployed and other strategic details.

Most of its 15 member states are prepared to contribute to the joint force excepting those also under military rule - Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea - and Cape Verde, according to the bloc.

ECOWAS has taken a harder stance on the Niger coup, the wider region's seventh in three years, than it did on previous ones. The credibility of the bloc is at stake because it had said it would tolerate no further such overthrows.

"The decision is that the coup in Niger is one coup too many for the region, and we are putting a stop to it at this time, we are drawing the line in the sand," Musah said.

Any intervention would spell further turmoil for West

Africa's impoverished Sahel region, which is already battling a decade-old Islamist insurgency and a deepening hunger crisis.

Niger also has strategic importance beyond West Africa because of its uranium and oil reserves and role as a hub for foreign troops involved in the fight against the insurgents linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State.

Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts continue. The United Nations special envoy for West Africa and the Sahel, Leonardo Santos Simao, met with the junta's Prime Minister Ali Mahamane Lamine Zeine on Friday. Simao said in comments broadcast on Niger's state television that he wanted to listen to the junta's point of view "to study together a way for the country to return as quickly as possible to constitutional normality and legality too. We are convinced that it is always possible with dialogue."

Agencies

## Study reveals new pathway for HIV invasion of cell nucleus

DRESDEN

AS a result of the researchers' discovery of three proteins required for the virus to carry out its invasion, they have created compounds (possible medications) that can target one of the proteins, possibly opening the door to brand-new AIDS treatments.

"We have revealed a protein pathway that appears to have a direct impact on

diseases, which opens up a new area for potential drug development," says the study's senior author Aurelio Loricco, MD PhD, Professor of Pathology and interim Chief Research Officer at Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In order for the viral components to be integrated into the DNA of the healthy cell during HIV infection, the virus must enter the cell and obtain ac-

cess to the well guarded nucleus. But it's unclear how the viruses get past the barrier, and this is a hotly contested topic.

The newly identified pathway begins with HIV entering a cell wrapped inside a membrane package, called an endosome. The virus-containing endosome then pushes the protective nuclear membrane inward, forming an indentation known as a nuclear invagination.

The endosome then moves inside the invagination to its inner tip, where the virus then slips into the nucleus.

The study found that three proteins were critical to the invasion: One protein (Rab7) is located on the membrane of the endosome, the second (VAP-A) is on the nuclear membrane where the invagination occurs, and the third (ORP3) connects the first two proteins together.

ANI

## India hands over maritime surveillance aircraft Dornier to Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI

TO strengthen the relationship, India handed over a substitute Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft to Sri Lanka in a ceremonial event on Wednesday.

Dornier-228 maritime surveillance aircraft was handed over to be used by the Sri Lanka Air Force at an event held in Katunayake, reported Daily Mirror.

The aircraft was handed over by High Commissioner to the Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the President celebrating 77th Independence Day.

Taking to the social media account, X (formerly known as Twitter), Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka said, "#IN successor Dornier handed over by High Commissioner to Mr Sagala Ratnayaka, the Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the President in a solemn ceremonial event today, commemorating #IndiaAt77 and the strong relationship."

Last year, in a bid to strengthen the maritime security of the island nation, India gifted a Dornier Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft to Sri Lanka at a special event held in Sri Lanka Air Force Base, Katunayake.

Gift of Dornier aircraft underscores the cooperation between the two maritime neighbours in the defence and security spheres. Such cooperation is envisaged to add further capability and capacity to Sri Lanka and is in line with the vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

Wishing India on its 77th Independence Day, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry on Tuesday said, he is confident that bilateral ties will be "further strengthened" between the two nations.

"Warm Greetings, Foreign Minister @DrSjaishankar and the Government & people of #India on the occasion of your Independence Day. I am confident that in the years ahead our bilateral ties will be further strengthened between our two nations India and Sri Lanka," Sabry said on the social media account, X (formerly known as Twitter).

ANI

## Lavrov: West not willing to negotiate with Russia

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday that the West is not interested in negotiating with Moscow on the issue of Ukraine.

The West held multilateral meetings on Ukraine in Jeddah and Copenhagen without inviting Russia, hoping to persuade developing countries to back the Ukrainian president's peace plan, said Lavrov in an interview with the International Affairs magazine, adding that Moscow's vital interests were ignored.

Russia had always been ready for substantive dialogue and had tried for years to make Kiev implement the Minsk agreements, which were aimed at resolving the conflict in eastern Ukraine, he said.

Russia had responded to Ukraine's proposal to start negotiations from the first days of the Special Military Operation, but the talks were halted by Ukraine under Western pressure in 2022, he said.

Later that year, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky banned any negotiations with the Russian leadership by decree.

The top Russian diplomat said the West sponsors constantly pushed Ukraine to escalate the situation, and that there was no prospect for negotiations between Russia and the West on Ukraine at the moment.

Russia considered the Western calls for negotiations as a tactical trick to buy time and give a respite to the exhausted Ukrainian troops, said Lavrov. Agencies



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov delivers his speech at the International Military Forum Army 2023 in the Patriot Park near Moscow in Moscow, Russia, Aug 15, 2023. AP

## Russia appreciates India, Global South for promoting 'realistic' solutions to resolve Ukraine conflict

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov lauded India and other global south countries for promoting "fair and realistic" settlement solutions for the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

He said that the proposals by the developing world are based on the understanding of the true causes and nature of ongoing developments.

"We appreciate China, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt, India and other Global South countries' sincere interest in promoting the quest for fair and realistic settlement avenues," Lavrov said while

addressing the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security on Tuesday (local time).

"President Vladimir Putin and our country's leadership have repeatedly spoken about this," he said according to a statement released by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"It is critically important that the proposals coming from our friends in the developing world are based on a clear understanding of the true causes and nature of ongoing developments as fall-out from the West's efforts to undermine the principle of indivisibility and security," Lavrov said.

At the conference, Lavrov ac-

used the US of undermining the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT-Treaty) of Nuclear Weapons through its support of Ukrainian forces in its conflict with Russia.

"The United States has ditched a number of key arms control and non-proliferation agreements. It is also feared that now it is ready to impinge upon the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, one of the core elements of the global security architecture," he said.

The minister claimed that attempts to exclude the AUKUS military bloc from the Treaty on the NPT could jeopardize the agreement's existence, according to the

statement.

Lavrov stated that Western geopolitical engineers are directly provoking crises in various parts of the world.

"Building up their military presence near the Russian borders, the NATO members ignored for many years their promises to the Soviet leaders on the non-expansion of the alliance. They were crudely violating their commitments, assumed at the top level in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), to observe the principle of equal and indivisible security, not to enhance their own security at the expense of others and to prevent

the domination of any party or organisation in Europe. The OSCE signed these commitments in Istanbul in 1999 and in Astana in 2010," he said at the conference.

Lavrov also stated that the "collective West," allegedly to "save" the neo-Nazi Ukraine regime, has launched a hybrid aggression against Russia, one pursued in the military, political, legal, economic, and humanitarian spheres.

Citing numerous facts, he claimed that the Anglo-Saxons and their underlings spent years preparing the Ukraine regime for war by pouring weapons into the country and sabotaging the unanimously approved UN Security

Council resolution on a peaceful settlement that took into consideration the legitimate interests of the residents of Donbas.

"On the contrary, the West tacitly and even approvingly looked on as the putschist-founded Kyiv regime passed laws banning Russian in the fields of education and culture, media and everyday life," the minister added.

At the conference, Lavrov expressed his gratitude to participants attending the event and said that despite Western countries' efforts, many nations came to participate, as per the statement.

ANI



## Study discovers improved survival for incurable brain tumours

MICHIGAN

FOR the first time, researchers discovered a potential drug candidate that improved outcomes for patients suffering from a type of childhood brain tumour that has no effective treatment. When compared to previous patients, the compound, called ONC201, nearly doubled survival for patients with diffuse midline glioma (DMG) or diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG).

The findings are reported by an international team of researcher led by the University of Michigan Health Rogel Cancer Center and the Chad Carr Pediatric Brain Tumor Center.

In addition to reporting on the results of two early stage clinical trials, the paper reveals the underlying mechanisms behind the compound's success in these tumors. The paper is published in *Cancer Discovery*, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Diffuse midline gliomas including DIPG with a mutation called H3K27M are particularly aggressive, with an overall survival rate of 11-15 months. These tumors are most frequently found in children and young adults. The only available treatment is radiation, and even that is difficult as the tumors are located amid brain regions with critical functions.

"It's an incredibly difficult tumor to treat," said senior author Carl Koschmann, M.D., associate professor of pediatric neuro-oncology and clinical scientific director of the Chad Carr Pediatric Brain Tumor Center at Michigan Medicine. "Prior to this study, there have been more than 250 clinical trials that have not been able to improve outcomes. This is a major crack in the armor."

In two clinical trials testing ONC201 in a total of 71 patients with H3K27M-mutated diffuse midline gliomas, the median overall survival was nearly 22 months for tumors that had not recurred at the time of enrollment. Almost a third of the patients lived longer than two years.

ONC201 took an unusual path to a clinical trial. Initially designed to target dopamine receptors, which are upregulated in many different tumors, researchers saw that the drug passes the blood-brain barrier, one of the biggest challenges to designing drugs for brain tumors. Initial trials in glioblastoma were not successful, but a small number of patients with DMG that carried the H3K27M mutation had more promising results. Without understanding why it worked better in these patients, a phase I trial was started in children and young adults with H3K27M-mutated DMG.

Meanwhile, Koschmann and co-author Sriram Veneti, M.D., Ph.D., were trying to figure out what was happening in these tumor cells. Through the trial, they collected cerebrospinal fluid from patients. They used this fluid to analyze metabolic changes and found ONC201 got into the tumor cells and affected mitochondria. Patients who responded to the drug had an increase in a metabolite called L-2HG produced by tumor cells.

Koschmann called the finding "very much unexpected." The team found that increased L-2HG reversed tumor defining epigenetic signals causing tumor cells to differentiate more and divide less. The longer patients were on ONC201, the more tumors exhibited these epigenetic reversals. ANI

## PM: Sweden thwarts several terrorist attempts

STO CKHOLM

- SWEDISH Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said on Thursday that the government had thwarted several terrorist attacks.

"We know that planned acts of terrorism have been hindered," Kristersson said at a press conference, hours after the Swedish Secret Service's decision to raise the terrorist threat level from "elevated" to "high".

Addressing the same press conference, Minister for Justice Gunnar Strömmer said: "During spring, several people were arrested in Sweden and abroad suspected of having prepared attacks in Sweden."

Strömmer did not comment further on these arrests, but Swedish Television (SVT) reported that there were at least two known cases.

In April, five men were arrested in coordinated dawn raids in three Swedish cities. Four of them were later detained on suspicion of planning attacks triggered by the burning of the Quran, SVT reported.

Also in April, two men suspected of planning an attack on a church in Sweden were arrested by police in Germany, SVT reported.

In one of the locations raided by German police, chemicals and fertilizers that can be used for manufacturing explosives were found, SVT said, citing German newspaper *Die Welt*.

Sweden and Denmark have been in the spotlight in recent weeks after several extremists repeatedly burned or desecrated the Quran in the two countries' capitals, sparking criticism from Muslim countries across the world.



(From left) Sweden's Security Police Chief Charlotte von Essen, Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, Minister for Justice Gunnar Strömmer and National Police Commissioner Anders Thornberg attend a news conference in Stockholm, Sweden, Aug 17, 2023. AP

## Palestine rejects Israel's further settlement in West Bank

RAMALLAH

PALESTINIAN authorities on Friday rejected the Israeli government's plan to allocate \$190 million fund to deepen settlement construction in the West Bank by financing random outposts.

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said that the right-wing Israeli government "is racing against time to steal more land to accelerate the undeclared gradual annexation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem," in response to the plan raised by Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich.

"We live the echo of the expansionist colonial Israeli policy every day amid an escalation of violations and crimes of the occupation authorities and settlers, which is a practical translation of the Israeli government's decisions," the ministry said in a statement.

It held the Israeli government "fully and directly responsible for its settlement building and expansion decisions and their results on the conflict arena and on the entire region."

More than 600,000 Israeli settlers live in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, according to official Palestinian figures.

Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967 and has since established settlements there, which are considered violations of international law.

Agencies

## British nurse found guilty of murdering seven newborn babies

LONDON

A British nurse who described herself as a "horrible evil person" was found guilty on Friday of murdering seven newborn babies and trying to kill another six in the neonatal unit of a hospital in northwest England where she worked.

Lucy Letby, 33, was convicted of killing five baby boys and two baby girls at the Countess of Chester hospital and attacking other newborns, often while working night shifts, in 2015 and 2016.

The verdict, following a harrowing 10-month trial at Manchester Crown Court, makes Letby Britain's most prolific serial child killer in modern history, local media said.

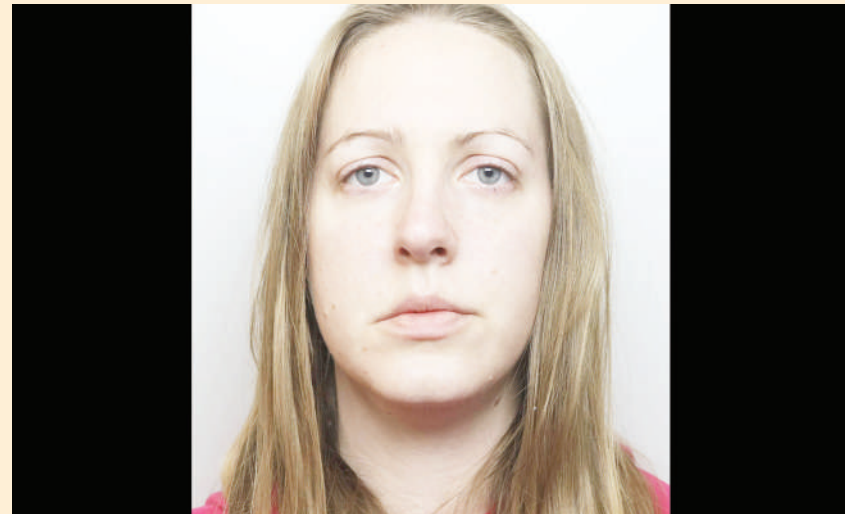
She was found not guilty of two attempted murders while the jury, who spent 110 hours deliberating, were unable to agree on six other suspected attacks.

"We are heartbroken, devastated, angry and feel numb, we may never truly know why this happened," the families of Letby's victims said in a statement.

Prosecutors told the jury Letby poisoned some of her infant victims by injecting them with insulin, while others were injected with air or force fed milk, sometimes involving multiple attacks before they died.

"I killed them on purpose because I'm not good enough to care for them," said a handwritten note found by police officers who searched her home after she was arrested. "I am a horrible evil person," she wrote. "I AM EVIL I DID THIS".

Some of those she attacked were twins - in one case she murdered both siblings, in two instances she killed one but failed in her attempts to murder



This undated handout issued by Cheshire Constabulary shows of nurse Lucy Letby, who has been found guilty of killing seven babies and trying to kill six others. (PHOTO / AP)

the other.

The youngest victim was just one-day old.

### 'Malevolent presence'

Letby will be sentenced on Monday and faces a lengthy prison term, possibly a rare full life sentence.

Her actions came to light when senior doctors became concerned at the number of unexplained deaths and collapses at the neonatal unit, where premature or sick babies are treated, over 18 months from January 2015.

With doctors unable to find a medical reason, police were called in. After a lengthy investigation, Letby, who had been involved in the care of the babies, was pinpointed as the "constant malevolent presence when things took a turn for the worse", said prosecutor Nick Johnson.

Pictures of Letby on social media portrayed a happy and smiling woman with a busy social life, and in one photo she was seen cradling a baby. But, during months of often distressing evidence, her trial heard she was a determined killer.

The jury was told how Letby had tried on four occasions to murder

one baby girl before she finally succeeded. When another of the victim's mothers walked in on her attacking twin babies, she said: "Trust me, I'm a nurse".

At her home after her arrest, detectives found paperwork and medical notes with references to the children involved in the case. She had also carried out social media searches for the parents and families of the murdered babies. Letby wept when she gave evidence over 14 days, saying she had never tried to hurt the babies and had only ever wanted to care for them, blaming unsafe staffing levels on the ward and its dirty conditions.

She also claimed four doctors had conspired to pin the blame on her for the unit's failings and had written the "I am evil" message because she had felt overwhelmed.

### Cruel Liar

But the prosecution said she was a cold, cruel, calculating liar who had repeatedly changed her account of events and her notes should be treated as a confession.

Detectives said they had found nothing unusual about Letby's life and could not determine any motive. "Unfortunately, I don't think we'll

ever know unless she just chooses to tell us," said Detective Superintendent Paul Hughes who led the investigation.

One senior doctor at the neonatal unit, Stephen Brearey, told the BBC that hospital bosses had failed to investigate allegations against Letby and failed to act on his and his colleagues' concerns.

"Our staff are devastated by what has happened, and we are committed to ensuring that lessons continue to be learned," said Nigel Scawn, medical director at Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

The government said it had ordered an independent inquiry which would include how concerns raised by clinicians were dealt with, while the father of twins who survived her attempts to kill them demanded answers from the hospital.

"They could have stopped it," said the father, who cannot be named for legal reasons.

Police are carrying out further investigations into all the time Letby had worked as a nurse at the hospital and at another one in Liverpool where she had trained, to identify if there were any more victims.

"There is a number of cases that are active investigations that parents have been informed of," Hughes said. Agencies

## How climate change drives heatwaves and wildfires in Europe

BRUSSELS

EUROPE is once again battling scorching temperatures this summer, with wildfires blazing across the continent from the Mediterranean to Spain. Here's how climate change drives these events.

### Hotter, more frequent heatwaves

Climate change makes heatwaves hotter and more frequent. This is the case for most land regions, and has been confirmed by the United Nations' global panel of climate scientists, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities have heated the planet by about 1.2 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times. That warmer baseline means higher temperatures can be reached during extreme heat events.

Every heatwave being experienced today has been hotter and more frequent due to climate change, said Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College London who co-leads the World Weather Attribution global research collaboration.

But other conditions affect heatwaves too. In Europe, atmospheric circulation is an important factor.

### Fingerprints of climate change

To find out exactly how much climate change affected a specific heatwave, scientists conduct "attribution studies". Since 2004, more than 400 such studies have been done for extreme weather events, including heat, floods and drought - calculating how much of a role climate change played in each.

This involves simulating the modern climate hundreds of times and comparing it to simulations of a climate without human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

For example, scientists with World Weather Attribution determined that a record-breaking heatwave in western Europe in June 2019 was 100 times more likely to occur now in France and the Netherlands than if humans had not changed the climate.

### Heatwaves will still get worse

The global average temperature is around 1.2 C warmer than in pre-industrial times. That is already driving extreme heat events.

On average on land, heat extremes that would have happened once every 10 years without human influence on the climate are now three times more frequent, according to ETH Zurich climate scientist Sonia Seneviratne.

Temperatures will only stop rising if humans stop adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Until then, heatwaves are set to worsen. A failure to tackle climate change would see heat extremes escalate even more dangerously.

Countries agreed under the global 2015 Paris Agreement to cut emissions fast enough to limit global warming to 2 C and aim for 1.5 C, to avoid its most dangerous impacts. Current policies would not cut emissions fast enough to meet either goal.

ALSO READ: WHO urges action as deaths from heat



Tourists cool off near a fan as they queue to enter Rome's Colosseum, in Italy, July 18, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

surge in Europe

A heatwave that occurred once per decade in the pre-industrial era would happen 4.1 times a decade at 1.5 C of warming, and 5.6 times at 2 C, the IPCC says.

Letting warming pass 1.5 C means that most years "will be affected by hot extremes in the future," Seneviratne said.

### Climate change drives wildfires

Climate change increases hot and dry conditions that help fires spread faster, burn longer and rage more intensely.

In the Mediterranean, that has contributed to the fire season starting earlier and burning more land. Fires burning since mid-July on the island of Rhodes forced the evacuation of some 20,000 people as an inferno reached resorts and coastal villages on the island's southeast.

Hotter weather also saps moisture from vegetation, turning it into dry fuel that helps fires spread.

Hotter, drier conditions make fires far more dangerous, according to Copernicus senior scientist Mark Parrington.

Without human-induced climate change, the extreme weather experienced across the world this summer would have been extremely rare, according to a study by World Weather Attribution. The study found that human-induced climate change played

an absolutely overwhelming role in the extreme heatwaves that swept across North America, Europe and China in July.

### Climate change isn't the only factor in fires

Forest management and ignition sources are also important factors. In Europe, more than nine out of 10 fires are ignited by human activities, like arson, disposable barbecues, electricity lines, or littered glass, according to European Union data.

Countries, including Spain, face the challenge of shrinking populations in rural areas, as people move to cities, leaving smaller workforces to clear vegetation and avoid fuel for forest fires building up.

Some actions can help to limit severe blazes, such as setting controlled fires that mimic the low-intensity fires in natural ecosystem cycles, or introducing gaps within forests to stop blazes rapidly spreading over large areas.

But scientists concur that without steep cuts to the greenhouse gases causing climate change, heatwaves, wildfires, flooding and drought will significantly worsen.

When people look back on the current fire season in one or two decades, it will probably seem mild by comparison, said Victor Resco de Dios, professor of forest engineering at Spain's Lleida University.

Agencies



## SPORT



Magereza boxing squad's Issa Athuman (R) connects a left punch on JKT boxing team's Boniface Mlingwa when they took on each other in a 2020 National Open Boxing Club Championship's bout that took place at the Tanganyika Packers ground in Dar es Salaam in August. Mlingwa won by points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Company highlights challenges facing Tanzania's boxers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

A leading international boxing management and promotional company, Kasi Sports Group, has said for the sector to grow and attract young talents in Tanzania, there is a need to invest in training facilities, development programs, promotional platforms and creation of a supportive environment.

The company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Charles Mdahwa, revealed in an interview that boxing is a sport that requires skills, determination, and discipline hence the need for good investment.

Mdahwa is a Tanzanian sports stakeholder and Kasi Sports Group is based in the United Kingdom (UK) and is behind England's top female professional boxer Natasha Jonas' two-week tour in Tanzania.

The group is also involved in promotional, contractual negotiations, sports marketing, training, and performance.

Mdahwa said boxing has, all over the world, seen numerous successful athletes, however, Tanzania's boxers face a number of challenges that hinder their efforts to rise to prominence on the global stage in the industry.

The official, however, admitted that local boxers have made notable contributions to the sport but their overall rise to prominence has been hindered by several factors including limited access to training resources and funding for their boxing programs. Mdahwa also noted the pugilists also lack exposure and opportunities.

"One of the primary factors hampering the rise of Tanzanian boxers is the limited access to resources, lack of adequate infrastructure, training facilities, and funding for boxing programs," the official noted.

"This scarcity hinders the development of talented individuals who might have the potential to become successful boxers," the official disclosed.

Kasi Sports Group's CEO added: "Without proper training facilities and equipment, it becomes difficult for boxers to compete at the same level as their counterparts from countries with better resources."

"They also often face a lack of exposure to high-quality opponents and international fights, this is due to limited funding and inadequate promotional platforms," he said.

He also mentioned insufficient financial support as the other challenge facing local boxers in efforts to fulfil their dreams of becoming top athletes.

The Kasi Sports Group CEO said boxing requires significant financial investment which necessitates the

boxers to train under top coaches and hire professional management firms, but many local boxers are not financially stable as they do not have sponsors and reliable endorsement deals.

The leader revealed: "Boxing requires significant financial investment, including training expenses, travel costs, and professional management."

Mdahwa disclosed: "Unfortunately, many Tanzanian boxers lack the financial support needed to pursue their careers full-time."

"The absence of sponsorships and endorsements makes it challenging for them to focus solely on training and improving their skills," the official noted.

"This financial burden often leads talented Tanzanian boxers to prioritize other means of income, limiting their ability to dedicate themselves fully to the sport," the Official highlighted.

The leader further said limited professional boxing structure, cultural and social factors are also other problems the local boxers are encountering in the country.

He said Tanzania, like many other African countries, face challenges in establishing a strong professional boxing structure, adding this is mainly due to the absence of well-organized and reputable boxing promotions, governing bodies, and management systems that makes it difficult for local boxers to navigate their careers effectively.

Mdahwa also said lack of clear pathways and opportunities for progression hampers Tanzania boxers' ability to compete at higher levels and gain recognition on the international stage.

The official revealed: "Cultural and social factors can also influence the development and success of boxers. Traditional societal expectations, which prioritize education and other career paths over professional sports, can discourage young talents from pursuing boxing as a viable option."

"Additionally, cultural stigmas attached to combat sports might deter potential boxers and limit the pool of talent willing to participate in the sport," he said.

He said Kasi Sports Group is management company and sub division of sports promotion focusing on elevating athletes career at professional level.

According to the official, athletes are at their best when surrounded and inspired by like-minded individuals, whenever they are either looking for next competition or advice they can be assured as it is coming from people that share their passion and drive with.

## Christina Mwagala and Haji Manara: Fan bringers now taking the back seat

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

**L**ISTENERS of radio stations' morning and later programs on hourly basis for following up on the local league and the England Premier League in particular, have had a change in atmosphere of what to expect on the daily routine.

In the past, there was Haji Manara as a soccer entertainer of the highest level, even if his disciplinary credentials are often unsettling, but for precisely that reason, that he can be daring in what he speaks, aroused crowds and cemented club loyalties. He has imitators.

The best up-and-coming imitator to Haji Manara was Christina Mwagala, who now appears to have been given other duties at Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, where it was not quite visible what the reasons were.

But when changes of that sort take place, what is important to look at is not some hidden inside story of this or that sort of misunderstanding but precisely the same public image that everybody is familiar with. Somebody is either best liked or disliked by proper public image, not others.

Those who have taken the positions of these two have tended to be technicians of communication, capable of managing the flow of information about the club and with the club, more as a channel of news and views rather than anchorman or woman in a vast club choir.

The fans were used to hearing someone who actually speaks for the club with a loud voice and a banging assertion of superiority, now there is hardly more than a



Former Kinondoni Municipal Council FC Information Officer, Christina Mwagala.

whimper in that direction. The bragging is all gone.

It is hard to say what makes the current communication picks ideal for the job, but it is easy to list a few aspects, some of which are not the best reasons to contemplate.

For instance, an audacious communications officer speaking his or her mind with clarity and unaccustomed confidence can take the club image from the proper leader to the crowd.

There is a place for such persons in literature or in various forms of tradition, tied with histrionics, a sort of évilage idioti who can say things the level headed will not touch. The fans' egos are boosted by those antics.

Everyone would know that the bragging is a bit far-fetched but as a matter of fact it places a burden on club officials to deliver.

When the fans cheer leader says that the club is invincible and then it loses, the place becomes altogether uncomfortable and club leaders or sponsors might feel somewhat out of place with their peers.

They are compelled to put

on an oversized garment each of them - in that they are leading invincible clubs, virtually against any opposition either in the league or outside.

So it is plainly understandable if at some point the bragging voice is replaced so that there is a modicum of peace, while at the psychological level it is the mark of a new period, where club needed are decidedly different.

At times it takes a while to realize this, and when the time comes for a replacement of the communications officer or émajor domoí as he or she would have been up to that point, everyone just seems to understand why that is relevant or needful.

They were feeling the burden of the bragging and the anguish of being proved wrong so many times.

Looking at the city archivals, Simba SC and Young Africans SC (Yanga), one can say they needed the services of someone like Haji Manara for different reasons in respective moments.

That does not mean that they either went out looking for such a fellow, or wished to advertise a

job for a communications officer with larger than life characteristics, creating a club image wholly out of his or her imagination, not at all. The point is, when one such fellow showed up, they saw the need for the voice.

In a way the moments that Simba SC needed his services and the period that this ran aground and the officer was picked up by their rivals was a shift in club mood, which has different contributing factors.

One is the need to build an aura where the level of self-confidence was still inadequate, and another is personal confidence of leading officials.

When they are relatively uncertain of themselves they may take comfort in the bragging as an added layer of confidence, but when they are decidedly more confident, the bragging starts to be a bother. They want a measured voice.

It follows that the discomfort earlier registered at Msimbazi Street outfit was at some point likely to be repeated at Jangwani Street club, despite that the club never eased out the official, but he was eased out for them.

It is a matter of conjecture how many are disappointed with the absence of the émajor domoí and how many are quietly satisfied they no longer have to do with his antics and controversies. They can only take comfort in that exit if the club is at cruising speed, sailing, no booster needed.

It is hard to say if the sort of services that the two larger than life communications officers were offering will be needed by either their former clubs or any others.

Either because no one is ready for the bragging, or it was a passing wind, it may not be repeated. One cannot swear to that as history has a way of being repeated, often.

## Uncertainty surrounds Tanzania's participation in next month's African Paralympic Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

**U**NCERTAINTY has surrounded Tanzania's athletes' participation in the African Paralympic Games scheduled for early next month in Ghana.

The African Paralympic Games will as well serve as qualifiers for 2024 Paris Paralympics.

This is the first time that Africa is hosting Paralympic Games and Tanzania was to be represented by athletes from six disciplines namely Paralympic athletics, power wheelchair, wheelchair basketball, amputee football, wheelchair tennis and sitting volleyball.

The Games are slated for September 3-13 and, on Thursday, Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC), through its Acting Secretary-General Vincent Kaduma announced that Paralympic athletics and Powerlifting events will not take place in Ghana given the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) officials who inspected the venues set to host the two disciplines deemed them not ready to host the Games.

Tanzania's Paralympic athletes and their officials are banking on the government's financial support to compete in the African Paralympic Games.

On Thursday, however, National Sports Council (NSC), through the council's Information Officer



Tanzania's Paralympic athletes, Sauda Njopeka (L) and Ignas Mtwewe are pictured engaging in discus training at at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue in Dar es Salaam to shape up for 2022 Commonwealth Games that took place in Birmingham, England in July the same year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Najaha Bakari, stated the government has not secured funds for the Paralympic athletes' trip to the Games, and she appealed for support from the corporate world and other stakeholders.

"To be honest I cannot say if our Paralympic athletes will travel to Ghana to compete in the African Paralympic Games, I have said so as currently we don't have funds, due to lack of funds, I can't say who will represent the country in the Games but, once the funds are available, we will see who will go to Ghana," she said.

Kaduma lamented that the African Paralympic Games are the best opportunity for domestic Para athletes to earn qualification for next year's Paris Paralympics and he described the failure to participate in

the continental showdown as a wasted opportunity.

He, however, said the suspension of Paralympic athletics and Powerlifting disciplines is a blessing in disguise, adding the government should now focus on looking for funds to necessitate the two disciplines' athletes to battle it out in 2024 Paris Paralympics' qualifying events slated to take place in November this year and January next year. Paralympic athletics' qualifiers will be held in Tunisia in January next year, whilst Egypt will host the Para Powerlifting qualifiers in November this year.

The TPC leader disclosed: "I'm reliably informed that the National Sports Council has no money to send our Paralympic athletes to the Af-

rican Paralympic Games that are to be used as qualifiers for Paris Paralympic Games."

"If there will be an intervention from the top, our athletes can travel to Ghana, we were hoping that even if there is no enough money in NSC's coffers, wheelchair tennis discipline, made up of four players, and Para Powerlifting - consisting of two athletes only - would have competed in the Games but, as it is, let us wait and see what the future holds," he said.

Paralympic Powerlifter, Yohana Mwila, confirmed the development and asked the government, stakeholders and well-wishers to help him so that he can compete in November's Para Powerlifting qualifiers in Egypt. Mwila was adamant he aims to represent the country in the

Paris Paralympics.

The Powerlifter pointed out: "I did well in the last Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, United Kingdom (UK) and one of the conditions for my participation in the next year's Paralympic Games in Paris is to compete in any international event which will be used as qualification for the 2024 Paralympics."

"I have already missed the Dubai Qualifiers that get underway tomorrow (Sunday), the only remaining (qualifiers) are those which will take place in Egypt, so, I'm appealing to the government, cooperate world and well-wishers to support me so that I can realize my dream of competing in the 2024 Paralympics," he said.

Moses Mubula, Tanzania Amputee Football Federation (TAFF) Secretary-General, said they planned to leave for Ghana on September 1 with 15 players and six officials but, as of Friday, there was no confirmation from the government.

"I'm trying to call National Sports Council officials to know if our national amputee football team 'Tembo Warriors' will travel to Ghana for the Games but no one is picking my calls, for now, I don't know whether the team will travel to Ghana or not," he said.



## Messi leads Miami to first trophy with Leagues Cup win

NASHVILLE, Tennessee

LIONEL Messi scored a screamer and won his first trophy in North American soccer as Inter Miami beat Nashville on penalties (10-9) after their final ended 1-1 in 90 minutes.

The Argentine World Cup winner had put Miami ahead in the 24th minute with a wonder strike into the top corner but Fafa Picault levelled for Nashville in the second half.

After Messi hit the post and Leonardo Campana missed a last second chance to win the game in regulation for Miami, the game went to a shoot-out which ended in a duel between the two keepers and Elliot Panicco's shot being saved by Miami's Drake Callender.

Messi and his team-mates rushed to celebrate with the American goalkeeper, who had made some key saves late in the game to keep his team alive.

Miami, in their third season of existence, were rock bottom of Major League Soccer when Messi joined them a month ago but Messi, along with Spanish pair Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba, has utterly transformed the team leading them on a seven game unbeaten run to the League Cup title.

Co-owner David Beckham, who created the club, said he was stunned by the way the former Barcelona trio had been able to bring about change so quickly.

"It is like a movie, you watch these players play and it is, emotionally, everything about their play is beautiful," he said.

Seven-times Ballon d'Or winner Messi has now scored 10 goals in seven games in the pink shirt of his new club and on Wednesday has the chance to reach another final when his team take on Cincinnati in the semi-final of the US Open Cup.

This was not the dominant, entertaining Miami that in the past month has lit up the tournament, featuring MLS and Mexican Liga MX clubs, but the win was sweet nonetheless.

"I am very happy to win our first title in just one month, the club's first. The team is growing by leaps and bounds and we are very happy," said midfielder Busquets.

- Leaps and bounds -

"We have infected the team with our spirit, our work, our character and experience. We are making a solid team ... And then we have Leo, who makes a difference because he's the best in the world."

Nashville set out with the clear intention to limit the impact of Busquets and by extension Messi and they were effective in forcing Miami to play a slower type of possession football, deeper in their own half.

Gary Smith's side sent an early warning that they could trouble Miami at set-pieces with Walker Zimmerman's header from a Lukas MacNaughton corner forcing Callender into a low save.

Miami were probing, with Messi dropping deeper and looking for gaps in the home defence.

But with Walker Zimmerman marshalling the back line well chances were hard to come by until Robert Taylor spun and turned and fired a fierce drive which Nashville keeper Elliot Panicco did well to keep out.

Three minutes later, Miami had the lead -- and the source of their breakthrough was no surprise.

Taylor's attempted pass inside was blocked and the ball fell to Messi who zipped past Zimmerman, opening enough space to his left to unleash an unstoppable drive from over 25 yards out which flew into the top corner past the helpless Panicco.

Miami looked in total control, playing with confidence bordering on swagger, but it was a different story after the interval.

From a corner Picault won a header at the back post which ricocheted in off the foot of Benjamin Cremaschi and Callender.

Suddenly Nashville had the belief and their German forward Hany Mukhtar came alive, testing Miami with his speedy runs and Callender with a blast from the right.

Messi went close to another Hollywood ending with a 71st minute shot from just outside the box which shaved the outside of the post.

But in the final seconds, his Ecuadorian team-mate Campana should have won the game for Miami, when he rounded Panicco but from a tight angle could only hit the post with the goal at his mercy.

Then came penalties and with all 10 outfield players having shot, with one miss for each side, it came down to the keepers and Callender kept his cool with his shot before denying Panicco and launching the celebrations.

While the players sprayed champagne in the locker-room, Argentine coach Gerardo 'Tata' Martino was in reflective mood.

"The most important thing we had to do is put together a team while we were playing a seven-game tournament, and that's very difficult to do," he said.

"We now have greater clarity about what the future may hold for us after winning this title in 30 days".

AFP

## Spain tame England to win Women's World Cup for first time

SYDNEY

SPAIN won the Women's World Cup for the first time in their history with skipper Olga Carmona sweeping in the only goal for a deserved 1-0 victory over England in yesterday's final.

In front of a crowd of nearly 76,000 at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Spain were the more accomplished side and had more chances, including missing a second-half penalty.

Spain's triumph is vindication for Jorge Vilda and the Spanish football federation, who stuck with the coach even after 15 players last year said they no longer wanted to represent their country under him.

England coach Sarina Wiegman, who has now suffered back-to-back defeats in the final, and her European champions can have few complaints.

Spain are the fifth team to lift the World Cup since the tournament



began in 1991, joining outgoing champions the United States, Germany, Norway and Japan.

In front of Spain's Queen Letizia, defender Carmona scored what turned out to be the winner, rampaging from left-back to thrash the ball in low and hard on 29 minutes.

Wiegman had resisted the temptation to recall Chelsea attacker Lauren James after her two-match ban and kept faith with the team that beat co-hosts Australia 3-1 in the semi-finals.

Playing in their blue

second kit, England had the first sniff of a chance in the fifth minute but Lauren Hemp shot weakly at goalkeeper Cata Coll.

There was little to choose between them in the opening exchanges before both teams had golden opportunities on the quarter-hour mark.

First, Manchester City forward Hemp struck the bar with a curler that had Coll well beaten.

Spain went up the other end and should have scored but Salma Paralluelo -- in for Alexia Putellas -- missed the ball in the six-yard box.

Then Alba Redondo hit a first-time strike straight at goalkeeper Mary Earps with the England goal gaping.

Hemp then had another tame effort saved, before the game was momentarily held up in the 24th minute when a spectator darted on to the pitch before being wrestled away by security.

Five minutes later Spain, who had never won a knockout game at the Women's World Cup until this tournament and had lost 4-0 to Japan in the group phase, were ahead.

Mariona Caldentey slid in an inch-perfect pass for Carmona, who came flying unmarked down the left before lashing the ball into the bottom corner.

Vilda, who recalled three of the 15 mutineers for the World Cup, did not even raise a smile on the sidelines.

England looked uncharacteristically rattled and the 19-year-old Barcelona attacker Paralluelo, who was a constant threat, shaved the post with the last kick of the half.

- Hermoso fails from spot -

Wiegman, who suffered agony in the final four years ago when her Netherlands team lost 2-0 to the United States, made a double change at the break.

James and Chloe Kelly replaced Rachel Daly and Alessia Russo as Wiegman switched from a back-five to a flat back-four.

But it was Spain who nearly doubled their lead almost straight after half-time, Caldentey

dinking inside and forcing Earps to turn the ball around the post.

Hemp was booked for clipping Laia Codina as England's frustration mounted.

Midfield schemer Aitana Bonmati, who has been one of the players of the tournament and was one of the three refuseniks recalled by Vilda, fired narrowly over Earps's bar.

With 20 minutes left, Spain were awarded a penalty when VAR was called into action and, after a long review, Keira Walsh was judged to have handled the ball in the box.

Jennifer Hermoso stepped up but her penalty was weak and Earps saved comfortably to keep England just about alive.

Officials indicated 13 minutes of injury time at the end, but if anything, it was Spain who looked the more likely to score as England's dreams of a first World Cup melted away.

AFP

## Spurs sink toothless Man Utd, Man City too good for Newcastle

LONDON

TOTTENHAM showed there is life after Harry Kane with a 2-0 win over Manchester United on Saturday as Manchester City beat potential Premier League title challengers Newcastle 1-0.

Spurs were playing for the first time at home since record goalscorer Kane departed for Bayern Munich.

But in Ange Postecoglou's first match at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, the home side showed promising signs of a new era as Pape Sarr's strike and Lisandro Martinez's own goal continued United's sluggish start to the season.

"Second half, certainly in spells, it kind of showed the team we want to be," said Postecoglou.

"I keep saying we're still a long way to go but I really liked the belief and resilience the guys have and the bravery they have to continue playing that way."

Erik ten Hag's men escaped with a 1-0 victory at home to Wolves on Monday despite being outplayed. This time United were punished as they faded after a bright start.

Bruno Fernandes should have headed the visitors in front midway through the first half.

Spurs ended the opening period in the ascendancy as Pedro Porro rattled the crossbar. And Postecoglou's men got their reward when Sarr smashed home his first goal for the club on 49 minutes.

A comedy of errors summed up United's day for the second goal as Ben Davies failed to connect with Ivan Perisic's cross and Martinez could only turn it beyond the flat-footed Andre Onana.

United's decision not to rival Bayern with a bid for Kane will now face more scrutiny as they looked toothless without

new striker Rasmus Hojlund due to injury.

"I am not concerned with our attacking play but I am by our scoring," said Ten Hag. "We know this, that is why we've signed a striker."

- City show their class - Many believed Newcastle would never get a better chance for their first league win away to City since 2000.

Pep Guardiola was unhappy the champions had been forced to play just three days after winning the UEFA Super Cup over Sevilla in baking conditions in Athens.

City were also without Kevin De Bruyne, Bernardo Silva and John Stones, but were still far too good for the Magpies.

It took one moment of magic for Guardiola's men to take all three points, though, when Julian Alvarez fired into the top corner on 31 minutes. Erling Haaland missed a hat-trick of chances to add to the lead, but City were rarely troubled defensively and made it two wins from two Premier League games.

"It is the second game of the season, but it is proof of the reason why we won a lot," said Guardiola. "Today the team showed to me and the Premier League we are ready to try to win it again."

Liverpool recovered from a terrible start and the controversial loss of Alexis Mac Allister to a red card early in the second half to beat Bournemouth 3-1.

Antoine Semenyo drilled the visitors in front after just three minutes on the ground where they lost 9-0 last season.

Luis Diaz's inventive flicked and overhead kick finish brought Liverpool level before Mohamed Salah made it 2-1 on the rebound after his penalty was saved.

Momentum could have swung back Bournemouth's way when Mac Allister was harshly

shown a straight red card for leading with his studs on Ryan Christie, despite minimal contact with the Scotland international.

But the 10 men added to their lead within four minutes when Diogo Jota pounced after Neto could only palm Dominik Szoboszlai's effort into his path.

- Seagulls soar - Brighton banked a British record transfer fee that could rise to £115 million (\$146 million) for Moises Caicedo on Monday.

But the Seagulls continue to soar under Roberto De Zerbi despite seeing their best players picked off by the Premier League's elite.

Kaoru Mitoma may be the next big-money departure and the Japanese international opened the scoring in stunning style at Molineux as he slalomed past four Wolves defenders before producing a classy finish.

Mitoma then teed up Pervis Estupinan to smash home for 2-0 before Solly March scored twice from Julio Enciso assists.

Brentford are also making light of the absence of the suspended Ivan Toney as they won 3-0 at Fulham.

Yoane Wissa opened the scoring before Bryan Mbeumo scored twice after Fulham captain Tim Ream was sent off for a second yellow card.

Meanwhile, Manchester City showed the mentality of champions, said Pep Guardiola after his team laid down an early-season marker in the Premier League title race by beating Newcastle 1-0 on Saturday.

Julian Alvarez's stunning strike secured a club record 17th consecutive home victory for the treble winners despite their exertions in lifting the UEFA Super Cup in midweek.

Guardiola was furious at the Premier League for scheduling the game just three days after his side were forced to penalties to beat Sevilla under baking heat in Athens.

City's squad has also been stretched early on in the campaign by the absence of Bernardo Silva and John Stones, while Kevin De Bruyne will be out for up to four months with a hamstring injury.

But on this evidence, Guardiola's men will still take some stopping in their quest to become the first side to ever win four consecutive English top-flight titles.

"It is the second game of the season, but it is proof of the reason why we won a lot," said Guardiola. "The mindset and mentality of this group of players amaze me every time."

Newcastle's 5-1 thrashing of Aston Villa last weekend had raised hopes on Tyneside they

could be the pick of the challengers to City's crown as English champions.

But dreams the Saudi-backed Magpies could pose a challenge for their first top-flight league title in 97 years were dampened by City's dominance before tiredness crept in late on.

"It's a reminder we've got work to do, but I was under no illusions that was the case," said Newcastle boss Eddie Howe. "I think we can play a lot better than that. There are always reasons, it's difficult to say (why). There are two teams and your team have to react to the conditions you are playing against."

Alvarez could be one of the benefactors of De Bruyne's lengthy lay-off. The Argentine scored 17 goals in his debut season in Manchester despite having to play largely second fiddle to Erling Haaland.

Guardiola may now be forced to pair Alvarez with the Norwegian more often and he showed what he is capable of with a superb finish into the top corner from Phil Foden's pass on 31 minutes.

- Haaland's off night -

Only a rare night off for Haaland in front of goal then prevented City's dominance showing in the scoreline.

Last season's Golden Boot winner dragged his first big chance wide when played in by an-

other Foden through ball. Newcastle's more attacking intent in the second half only succeeded in leaving City more space to exploit in behind.

Foden stepped up in the absence of De Bruyne and Silva to be the creative spark in the City midfield.

The England international's turn and pass picked out Haaland once more on his favoured left foot only for him to again fail to hit the target.

Haaland went for raw power with his next effort but was repelled by the legs of Nick Pope as City failed to get the second goal to kill the game off. The European champions were nearly made to pay when Rodri's slack pass presented Callum Wilson with a huge opportunity. But 90-million-euro (\$99 million) defender Josko Gvardiol showed his worth on his home debut to hold up Wilson and Harvey Barnes' shot was comfortably held by Ederson.

Despite his side's fatigue, Guardiola refused to make a single substitution and told one City fan to take his place on the bench when urged to make some changes.

But it all ended in smiles for the home side as City maintained their perfect start to the Premier League season to sit second behind Brighton at the top of the table. AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Spain tame England to win Women's World Cup for first time

PAGE 19

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE**

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE**

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Movie  
13:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
14:00 Movie  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
17:00 S5ELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kaili Za Wana  
18:30 Skonga  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Friday Night Live  
23:00 Kurasa (r)  
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs. Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

**eastafrika RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## Welcome back to bigger, bolder NBC Premier League show

By Correspondent Godwin Semuny

THE wait is finally over! The NBC Premier League has returned with an astonishing 32.56bn/- price tag, thanks to the freshly-inked five-year sponsorship extension deal between NBC Bank and the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

A sweeping transformation includes the competitive Championship League and U-20 Premier League, from top-tier to the exciting rising stars. Soccer lovers should buckle up, it is game time.

"Two years ago, we made a tough choice to invest in the league. Standing here, I proudly admit that this has been one of our most rewarding decisions," Theobald Sabi, NBC Bank's Managing Director, said.

The NBC Bank MD revealed: "Today, we are reaffirming our commitment and extending our partnership to five more years, spanning across the entire football spectrum football is more than a sport to us, it is a vehicle for economic and social empowerment."

Moving beyond the realm of football, the NBC Bank MD highlighted the substantial impact of the NBC Premier League on the country.

With over 7,000 direct jobs created by the Premier League and millions more across the value chain in mechanization, hospitality, media, and transportation, the top flight has helped to invigorate households and contribute to the tax basket.

The NBC Bank MD also emphasized the sense of pride in the league's comprehensive approach, encompassing insurance coverage for players, their families, technical staff, and credit extensions.

Wallace Karia, TFF president, expressed his appreciation to NBC Bank for the institution's strong commitment.

The TFF leader said: "NBC Bank's continued support is a testament to football potential and a belief in our dedicated administrators, aligning with our goal of creating a vibrant football ecosystem."

From the glistening shores of Kagera, where Kagera Sugar is located, to the cashew fields of Lindi, Namungo FC's base, a zigzag through the rainy valleys of Mbeya, Ihefu SC's base, a lot is expected in terms of competitiveness in the Premier League.

Tanzania's football supporters ought to enjoy the heated debates about the Premier League at either 'vibanda umiza' in the streets or wander across the sugarcane fields of Manungu, where my mother, Odilia, hails from.

Manungu, found on the outskirts of Morogoro, is an area where NBC Premier League's club, Mtibwa Sugar, is located.

Football lovers can make a stop at Mkwakwani where the coastal charm awaits, they should enjoy every moment given the NBC Premier League is back.

## Critical Pluijm 'frustrated' despite Singida Fountain Gate FC's big win



Mainland Tanzania's Singida Fountain Gate FC midfielder, Duke Abuya (2nd L), celebrates with his teammates when he scored a goal for the club in the first leg of a 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup First Preliminary round tie against JKU SC of Zanzibar at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Friday. Singida Fountain Gate FC defeated JKU SC 4-1. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SINGIDA FOUNTAIN GATE FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC had a comfortable four-goal lead until the half-hour mark when Saleh Abdullah scored JKU SC's consolation goal from the spot kick.

The home side's goals were scored by Maruf Tchakei that secured a brace, Morrice Chukwu, and Duke Abuya before JKU SC grabbed a consolation from a spot kick following a defensive mistake.

A penalty kick was awarded after an audacious attempt by Kenyan defender Joash Onyango to dribble past three JKU players ended with a handball by his teammate,

Biemes Carno.

Despite the 4-1 healthy first-leg advantage in the CAF Confederation Cup First Preliminary round game played at Azam Complex Stadium, Singida Fountain Gate FC head coach Hans van der Pluijm was

critical of his squad's performance in the second half and also criticized Onyango for a poor decision that led to conceding an easy goal.

The Dutch gaffer noted: "In the first half we played very well and in the first ten minutes of the second half,

then we forgot the discipline in the team."

"We conceded an easy goal from an experienced player who dribbled through a difficult situation," Pluijm pointed out.

The tactician said: "We have conceded a goal, 4-0 is

always better than 4-1. It is not that I am afraid of the return leg but if you start with the same determination and spirit that we started in the first half then we have to win the return leg and that is our aim."

"Football is a game of mistakes but this was a childish one. An experienced player is dribbling the ball just outside the box, takes on two players, and also wants to dribble the third player," he noted.

"I don't think that it is very intelligent. You can't make that kind of mistake at this level."

"If you win you are always happy but if you saw how we finished the last 25 minutes that doesn't make a coach happy."

"We had the game under control then we lost it, misplaced passes, gave away ball possession and we didn't create much more upfront. We made it difficult for ourselves," Pluijm stated.

Before locking horns with JKU SC in the rematch, Singida Fountain Gate FC will quickly shift focus to NBC Premier League with an opening game of the season against Tanzania Prisons tomorrow.

## Baseball gaining popularity in Tanzania

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Baseball and Softball Association (TaBSA) says the performance of clubs in the ongoing Baseball League (TNBL) that is taking place in Dar es Salaam has surpassed the expectations of many people.

Abubakary Nachiwa, TNBL Chief Executive Officer (CEO), said this is the first time that the country is hosting a baseball league but the competition among teams has been very good.

He said the league has two seasons, the first season takes place from June to August while the Second season begins in August and climaxes in November. The leader mentioned the participating clubs as Giants, Tigers, Dragons, and Fighters.

The official said all teams have played nine games each and at the end of the first season, the Tigers are leading the table with 21 points from seven wins and two losses, Fighters are occupying second place having won six games and lost three to collect 18 points.

Dragons, which has lost four games and won five, is positioned third with 15 points, whereas Giants, which has lost all matches, is languishing at the bottom of the log.

"This is the first time that a baseball league is taking place in Tanzania. We are delighted with the competition,



Japan-Africa Baseball and Softball Foundation (J-ABS) president, Shinya Tomonari. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

we hope this is the beginning of new and big things in baseball in the country," he said.

Nachiwa said the league is expected to come to an end in November and the champion will be determined in a match involving the winners of season One and season Two, adding there will be various awards to be handed

over to the competing teams.

The TNBL CEO issued his comments shortly before the kickoff of the second season of the league in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Speaking at the league's opening ceremony, Shinya Tomonari, the JapanAfrica Baseball, and Softball Foundation (J-ABS) president, said

his foundation is committed to developing baseball and softball in the country and the continent.

He also acknowledged that softball is a new sport in the country and there is a need of having many tournaments in Schools.

Tomanari said in the country like many African coun-

tries, softball is loved by women and they have plans of encouraging many females to play the game.

The J-ABS president noted: "It is very easy for ladies to play Softball and the game and baseball are very good for students and pupils as they help them nurture life skills."

"The Japanese style of baseball and softball also helps young people nurture sportsmanship qualities such as discipline, respect, and justice, the three are important values of building a country," he said.

The J-ABS is currently operating in Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Kenya, South Sudan, and Tanzania.

The foundation had, in June, sent 15 U-15 women's Softball teams to Japan to feature in this year's edition of the UTSUGIL Cup that was played in Takasaki, involving teams from the United States of America (USA), China, Mexico, Italy, Tanzania, and the host Japan.

Tanzania has 24 baseball and softball teams. Recently TaBSA Secretary-General Alpherio Nchimbi said baseball and softball are growing in the country.

The leader noted that, in the past, there was the Tanzania Koshein competition-an amateur showdown-but currently there is a professional league. He said this means that the sport is growing in the country.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

