



## INVASION



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DAWASA hands over 30 pupils desks



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# EAC admits Somalia, scans DRC peace

**“We need to remember that as a region we have a lot in common rather than where we differ. Therefore, we need not accommodate the challenges that divide us**

By Guardian Reporter



**PRESIDENT** Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses the 23rd Ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: State House

**S**OMALIA was formally admitted as the eighth member of the East African Community, at the 23rd ordinary summit of the EAC Heads of State at the regional bloc's headquarters in Arusha yesterday. The summit was otherwise dominated by talk on climate change and stalled peace in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Just over a year ago DRC was admitted into the bloc, while the latest meeting saw the leaders discuss a raft of issues affecting the region across many areas, notably climate change, DRC peace, economic strains and intensifying regional integration.

The summit approved a report on negotiations for admission of the Federal Republic of Somalia, whose current government has a better relationship with EAC member states than its predecessor.

A verification report was adopted by the summit at the 21st extra-ordinary session in Bujumbura on February 4, this year, officials said.

The leaders also peered into the progress report of the EAC-led Nairobi Process to restore peace in DRC, where Kenyan former president Uhuru Kenyatta had a vital role.

Issues relating to a sustainable financing mechanism of the EAC secretariat were raised, plus the tabling of a progress report on consultations on the draft constitution for an eventual EAC confederation.

The summit emphasized the need for collective efforts to accelerate regional integration and work to restore peace in the eastern

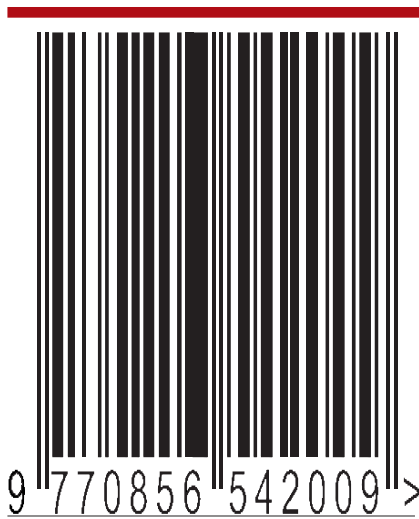
President Samia Suluhu Hassan led this expression of intent, where the EAC leaders resolved to heighten regional mechanisms to address challenges ranging from security, trade barriers to climate change.

“We need to remember that as a region we have a lot in common rather than where we differ. Therefore, we need not accommodate the challenges that divide us,” she said.

Kenyan president William Ruto said the meeting comes at a time when the global village faces challenges of climate change, insisting that EAC should seek out opportunities in tackling these challenges.

Taking Somalia into the bloc signals that the EAC market was increasing further as 15 million more people have now joined to it.

Outgoing EAC chairman, President Evariste Ndayishimiye said there is a need to fast track trade links in the region by allowing free movement of goods and people within the region.



## Anti-AIDS control now takes up STIs, hepatitis

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government yesterday launched the national AIDS, STI and Hepatitis control programme (NASHCOP) to improve stakeholder coordination and aim higher in combating the various diseases.

The new programme replaces the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) as it was launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Health minister Ummu Mwalimu.

She talked of plans to vaccinate health workers to control transmissions, underlining that at some

health facilities, the Hepatitis B vaccine will be mandatory for all health workers.

The government has so far reached 23,000 health workers with the Hepatitis B vaccine across

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## Govt invites Chinese energy sector capital

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has invited Chinese investors to the energy sector, hailing strong bilateral relations between the two countries, ahead of their 60 years anniversary next year.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister and Energy minister, extended that invitation in talks with Chinese ambassador Chen Mingjian in Dar es Salaam yesterday, where they covered investment opportu-

nities in the energy sector.

Felchesmi Mramba, the permanent secretary, was present in the talks where the senior minister stated that Tanzania values the bilateral ties between Tanzania and China.

Taking note of interest by a number of Chinese investors to invest in the energy sector, the DPM said the government is impressed with the interest by several Chinese companies in mining and minerals processing.

Dr Biteko gave an example saying

there are other Chinese companies which have invested in energy projects such as TBEA Co., constructing the KV 400 from Chalinze to Dodoma and the KV 400 line from Tanzania to Zambia.

The firm, previously known as Tebian Electric Apparatus, is a Chinese manufacturer of power transformers and other electrical equipment, online sources indicated.

He asked the envoy to help facilitate timely completion of the

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## Romania job chances: Firm seeks applicants

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Savannah Recruitment Business Co., a professional staff recruitment firm attached with government agencies in the United Kingdom, has started to recruit Tanzanians for jobs in the south-eastern European state of Romania.

The firm is connected in Dar es Salaam with the Savannah Group of Companies erstwhile headed by Sai Prasad as CEO, where an online entry says it is concerned with

recruitment of competent managers and staff, for various disciplines in the company.

It is involved in consultancy work on developing emolument guidelines, job descriptions and training, while the sources show it is registered in the United Kingdom as linked to government agencies.

UK Savannah Recruitment Ltd offers free company information sourced from Companies House including registered office address, filing history, accounts, annual returns, the sources indicated.

Company director Tudor Nistor said in an office launching event that as a member of the European Union, Romania, whose labour laws and regulations adhere to those of the EU, promises higher living standards to Tanzanians who will be working in Bucharest and other parts of the country.

He explained that many factories, companies and institutions are opening up in Romania, requiring an ample and diverse labour force, adding that there are ample

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# Anti-AIDS control now takes up STIs, hepatitis

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the country, while the target is all health workers billed at upwards of 100,000 individuals.

Making the Hepatitis B vaccine mandatory faces some challenges, including the readiness of some health workers to take the vaccine. Vaccinating health workers would help in reducing transmission from staff to patients, she stated. The new programme will increase efficiency of monitoring and controlling communicable diseases as resources will be channelled to the wider spread of diseases.

Hospital data shows from January to September this year upwards of 6,542 people were diagnosed with different types of sexually transmitted infections, she said.

The programme is designed to enhance government efforts towards controlling the overuse of antibiotics without medical prescription, she said, underlining that the habit leads to antimicrobial resistance to such diseases.

The 2016 Demographic Health Survey showed that the majority of pa-

tients found with STIs were also likely to be infected with HIV/Aids, the minister affirmed, noting that the new programme is taking up community awareness on STI prevention and HIV/Aids as they are on the increase.

At-risk groups such as herders, fishermen, artisanal miners and long route drivers will noticeably be targeted, she said, urging that stakeholders and development partners join hands with the government to ensure it achieves the set targets.

Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses, the World Health Organization (WHO) country representative, asked the government to look for opportunities to secure funds for implementation of the programme.

"Tanzania has all the ingredients to ensure it secures the funds," he stated, pointing out that Rwanda, through its integrated programme, tapped the Global Fund (managed by the World Bank) and for Hepatitis B, where it has screened seven million people, while South Africa has trained its health workers comprehensively, he added.



Orkun Group CEO Ilhan Karadeniz (R) pictured in Zanzibar yesterday taking Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi around the site where houses are being built as "compensation" for residents of Bumbwini in Unguja North Region who have been relocated. Left is Unguja North regional commissioner Hadidi Rashid Hadidi. Photo: Zanzibar State House.

## Romania job chances: Firm seeks applicants

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job opportunities in Romania, rich and diverse cultural and life experiences.

"But even better, Tanzanians will be gaining a global mindset," said Stanley Baskwony the North Rift regional director for the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and industry.

The remarks were made at the newly launched Arusha office of the Savannah Recruitment Business Company, located at Tengeru ward of Meru District, along the Moshi-Arusha highway.

The company is helping Tanzanians to seek out job opportunities overseas by localised recruitment and sent for em-

ployment to various public and private agencies in Romania.

They also get to come back with more skills, knowledge, improved future prospects and personal development, thus playing a better role in uplifting Tanzania's economy," he said.

People working there will be adding money from attractive salary scales and remit cash

home to support their families, he further noted, praising the learning of new technologies; expertise and benefiting from the work experience in Europe.

They will share these skills back home to create new industries or help them to blossom, he said, elaborating that Savannah recruitment offers free visas and work permits to

successful applicants from Tanzania and Kenya.

Participants were told that the recruitment initiative originates from a Romanian visitor who had a happy stay in Tanzania and sought to lend a helping hand to people in Tanzania, aware that there are opportunities to fly to Romania and work there.



Steven Wasira (2nd-L), Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dar es Salaam's Mwaimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, confers a Master's degree in Human Resources on Suleiman Salim at the institution's 18th graduation held in the commercial capital yesterday. Left is MNMA rector Prof Shadrack Mwakaila. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt invites Chinese energy sector capital

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projects as speedy finishing is essential to development projections at the moment, as the country still has electricity investment in various parameters.

Chinese investors are invited to invest in the sector, he said, also touching on the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project, underlining that Tanzania and Uganda values the way the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) is facilitating the project as a key shareholder.

Ambassador Chem said that ties between the two countries reached a new level with the visit back in 2013 when incoming Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Tanzania.

She promised to seek out Chinese companies for the energy sector, citing the Sinohydro Co., doing a good job implementing water projects.

Chroniclers say Tanzania and China have a special relationship dating back to the mid-1960s as

China was a shining example of socialist development from a poor non-industrial background.

The Zanzibar Revolution helped to propel the ties as Umma Party leader Abdulrahman Mohamed Babu was already friendly with the Chinese Communist Party leadership, working as a young cadre for the Swahili programme at Beijing Radio. He later joined the nationalist movement and teamed up with Sheikh Abeid Karume and Sheikh Thabit Kombo of the Afro-Shirazi Party, and after the union, helped bring together President Nyerere and Chairman Mao Zedong as well as Premier Zhou Enlai, where a profound understanding was struck.

Tanzania relies on several power generation sources, where about 45-percent of supply comes from hydropower sources. With poor rains in the past few years water shortages affect the turbines generating electricity, officials explain.

## Government to spend 1.33trn/- on construction of a four-lane highway from Mbeya to Songwe

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is planning to construct a 218 kilometres four-lane highway from Igawa in Mbeya Region to Tunduma in Songwe Region at a cost of 1.33trn/-.

Construction of the road will include a 48 kilometers ring road from Inyala - Uyole to Songwe.

Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Eng Godfrey Kasekenya made the remarks yesterday when

addressing residents at Ruanda village in Mbozi District, Songwe Region. Eng Kasekenya accompanied Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the meeting.

"We have a major road project to be constructed from Igawa to Tunduma, there will also be a huge keep-left to be connected with the road from Ruanda to neighbouring Malawi," he said.

He said the Ruanda - Nyimbili - Hasamba - Izilya - Itumba road project

measuring 79.62 kilometers is in early stages of implementation. He said some 21 kilometers of the road will be constructed by women contractors.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan had directed us to make sure women contractors are given construction tenders, hence the need for the ministry to consider them for the first 21 kilometers," he added, noting that Songwe is a new region with a few tarmac road networks.

Songwe Acting Manager, Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) Eng. Suleiman Bishanga said implementation of the project has already started whereas of the first 21 kilometers, 1.2 kilometers have been completed. He said the new road will have two bus stands and traffic lights.

Addressing the residents, the Premier who is in Songwe Region for a five days official tour, said the government is determined to improve

road infrastructures for residents in Ruanda and the region as a whole.

Majaliwa said that it is important to have standard accommodation facilities at Ruanda because travellers from Malawi would probably like to stay at the place as they wait to connect to other destinations.

Commenting on issues raised by Members of Parliament which includes construction of vocation training centres and delays in distribution of fertilizer, Majaliwa urged

the region's agriculture officer to allocate a special agent at Ruanda to facilitate distribution.

He said that currently farmers are required to travel to Vwawa and Mlowo areas to get commodities.

PM said the government continues to construct vocational training centres at each of the districts countrywide. He said they started with 28 districts and they have now constructed the centres at 48 districts.



# Elephants kill 23 people in Morogoro's Mangae village within ten years

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MORE than 23 people in Mangae village, Mvomero District in Morogoro Region have been killed by elephants in different incidents that occurred between 2013 and 2023.

Apart from the deaths, the big animals have also been mentioned to destroy people's properties including houses as well as invading farms, thus causing serious destruction of crops.

Speaking at a meeting that was attended by Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Adam Malim, Mangae Village Chairman, Belege Alex said the elephants are those coming from Mikumi National Park that borders the village.

"We are asking the regional authority to help us in finding solution to this challenge because the wild animals are still invading farms. A total of 23 people have already been killed by elephants coming from the park," he said.

He said that for a long period the village government has been presenting the issue to leaders at regional level and Mikumi National Park, but the challenge has not been resolved.

Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) Conservation Commissioner in the Eastern zone, Masana Mwishawa said they

are aware of the elephants invasion into farms and people's houses in Mangae and neighbouring villages.

Commissioner Mwishawa said they have already started to work on the problem whereas TANAPA is now allocating village game scouts (VGS) at borders between villages and parks.

He said the trained VGS works in collaboration with other wildlife officers to ensure the wild animals are taken back to the park before they cause damage to people's properties including farms.

"Some of the strategies taken to control elephant invasions includes training of young people from villages bordering the parks. Youth are trained on the various skills to prevent the animals whereas they work closely with our trained game wardens," he said, adding that TANAPA has so far trained 28 youth.

Addressing the villagers, Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Adam Malima directed TANAPA to make sure the animals are controlled. He also urged them to ensure good relationship with surrounding villages because villagers need to be part of conservation activities.

"TANAPA wildlife officers should be stand-by to be able to respond as soon as they are informed on the invasions," he said.



A motorcycle rider carries three students on his vessel at Goba Tegeta 'A' area in Ubungo Municipality Dar es Salaam recently an act that is dangerous for road safety. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# NGO in need of 600m/- to procure school kits for deprived students

By Guardian Reporter

A Non-Governmental Organization—Dido Mwanafunzi Initiatives (DMI) has organised a fund-raising dinner gala seeks to raise 600m/- to provide 10,000 essential school kits to underprivileged primary and secondary students in four regions of Tanzania.

The event is scheduled to take place today with a mission as a response to the commendable

efforts led by President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan to offer free education and improve the nation's education system.

"Despite these positive changes, many students still face the challenge of lacking basic supplies. DMI aims to bridge this gap, alleviate the financial burden on families, and promote education through collaborative efforts with local schools, communities, and the generous

support of sponsors and donors," reads a statement released by the NGO.

These kits encompass school uniforms, bags, socks, shoes, and other essentials. The gala promises an evening of giving, celebration, and making a profound impact, featuring a delectable dinner, live performances, and the auctioning of goods and services to raise funds for this noble cause.

The highlight of the evening will be graced by special seats MP for the Coast, Hawa Mchafu Chakoma, chosen for her commitment to education and advocacy for social causes makes her a beacon of inspiration.

The gala expects an audience of around 100 distinguished guests, including business owners and leaders from other NGOs, all sharing a dedication to social change.

# Wateraid donate hygiene tools to health facilities in Temeke District

By Guardian Correspondent

WATERAID Tanzania has supported two health-care facilities in Temeke District Council, Dar es Salaam Region with cleaning materials in order to promote hygiene and comfortability among users.

The support which is destined for Mkondogwa and Ghoroka health centres in the district is part of the organisation's commemoration of World Toilet Day (WTD).

Speaking soon after handing over the materials yesterday Christina Mhando, head of policy and advocacy at Water Aid Tanzania said the donated hygiene tools including soaps, disinfectants, boots, gloves, hard brooms, buckets to assist healthcare workers in performing cleanliness not only in the toilets but in the surrounding areas of the healthcare facilities with dignity.

"While we are making significant progress in terms of access to improved toilets at the household level according to the recent data, clean and decent toilets are also important in healthcare facilities. They give people dignity and help keep

people safe from diseases, especially in healthcare facilities where people seek medical attention. Every healthcare facility should have a decent toilet," she said.

She said the government and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) stakeholders in Tanzania need to continue to commit more money to the sanitation and hygiene, especially in the health-care facilities so everyone has access to decent toilets that are safe, reliable, and inclusive and that can withstand the effects of climate change, particularly during the severe weather events that destroy sanitation infrastructures.

Mhando noted that in Tanzania, 83 percent

of Health care facilities (HCFs) have access to adequate sanitation facilities for clients

"However another survey shows that 43.24 percent of dispensaries and 13.33 percent of health centres had latrines that were inaccessible to clients thus calling for more efforts to address the gap," she noted.

Acting district medical officer, Timothy Bende thanked WaterAid for the support as the tools are going to help improve hygiene and sanitation in the two centres.

He said organization has supported the two health centres with cartons of disinfectants, dustbins, buckets, soaps, brooms and mopers.

**While we are making significant progress in terms of access to improved toilets at the household level according to the recent data, clean and decent toilets are also important ...**

## Invitation for Quotations/Bids

**Vendor for Printing of Hygiene packages with its tools and Wall painting in 30 School's in Kisarawe**

**Background**  
WaterAid has had its operations in Tanzania since 1983 under the name "WaterAid Tanzania" which is registered as Non-Governmental Organization in The Republic of Tanzania (NO.SO.7557). WaterAid Tanzania operates as a Country Programme and functional office of WaterAid UK; within East African Region. The head office is in Dar es Salaam, Rufiji Street, Plot No. 1469, Masaki Area within Kinondoni District.

WaterAid is looking for a capable vendor for **Printing of Hygiene packages with its tools and Wall painting in 30 School's in Kisarawe**

**Bidder Instructions**  
You are hereby invited to submit your bids for the supply of printing and wall painting services where all **the document with bills of quantities can be found on the WaterAid Tanzania website: <https://www.wateraid.org/tz/work-with-us>**  
The place of delivery will be at WaterAid Country office Dar Es Salaam

Eligible interested bidders should send their bids to WaterAid Tanzania Office before **8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 10.00 hours** East Africa Time;

**Addressed to:** "Country Director – WaterAid Tanzania, P.O. Box 33759 Plot No.1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsular, Dar es Salaam: Tanzania." and clearly marked **"Bid for supply of printing and wall painting services)**. The Opening will be on **8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 10:30am** at WaterAid Country Office.

## Invitation for Quotations/Bids

**Local Contractor for the construction of Laghanaga and Bashang Water, Sanitation and Hygiene infrastructures Project in 2 Health care facilities and 1 Primary School in Hanang District Council**

**Background**  
WaterAid has had its operations in Tanzania since 1983 under the name "WaterAid Tanzania" which is registered as Non-Governmental Organization in The Republic of Tanzania (NO.SO.7557). WaterAid Tanzania operates as a Country Programme and functional office of WaterAid UK; within East African Region. The head office is in Dar es Salaam, Rufiji Street, Plot No. 1469, Masaki Area within Kinondoni District.

WAT with support from the **Church of Jesus Christ for Later Saints** is planning to improve WASH services through construction of water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructures at Bashang and Laghanaga villages in Hanang District, Manyara Region. The project is intending to construct latrines blocks, handwashing facilities, water supply at 2 healthcare facilities and 1 school in the rural level community to support the improvement of health and education services.

This project will benefit 20,048 people including women and girls in the stated locations. The constructed infrastructures will support community receiving services from the health care facilities and students from the project school to access safe and reliable water and improved sanitation services which will improve hygiene, health, and wellbeing of the targeted population.

WaterAid is therefore, looking for a Local Contactor for the construction of Laghanaga and Bashang Water, Sanitation and Hygiene infrastructures Project in 2 Health care facilities and 1 Primary School in Hanang District Council

**Bidders Instructions**

- The site will be Laghanaga Primary School, Langhanga Healthcare and Bashang Healthcare which are located at **Laghanaga and Bashang Villages in Hanang District Council.**
- The bidder will be required to carry a pre-site visit and understanding the actual project environment towards bidding.

**Quotation price:**

- Corrections, if any shall be made by crossing out, initialing, dating and rewriting.
- All duties, taxes and other levies payable by the Contractor under the contract shall be included in the total price.
- The rates quoted by the candidate shall be fixed for the duration of the contract and shall not be subject to adjustment on any account.
- The prices should be quoted in Tanzania Shillings. The applicant shall complete the quotation
- The quotation submission form must be completed without any alterations to its format and no substitute shall be accepted.
- The contract shall be for all quantities.

You are hereby invited to submit your bid for the construction of Laghanaga and Bashang Water, Sanitation and Hygiene infrastructures as per the details above where all the document with bills of quantities and drawings can be found at the WaterAid Tanzania website: <https://www.wateraid.org/tz/work-with-us>

Eligible interested bidders should send their bids to WaterAid Tanzania Office by **8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 10.00 hours** East Africa Time;

**Addressed to:** "Country Director – WaterAid Tanzania, P.O. Box 33759, Plot No.1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsular, Dar es Salaam: Tanzania." and clearly marked **"Bid for Construction of Laghanaga and Bashang Water, Sanitation and Hygiene infrastructures Project in 2 Health care facilities and 1 Primary School in Hanang District Council"** The Opening will be on **8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 10:30am** at WaterAid Country Office.

**PUBLIC AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT**

VICTORIA FINANCE PLC WISHES TO ANNOUNCE TO THE PUBLIC THAT WITH THE AUTHORIZATION IT GIVES TO THE APPOINTED AUCTIONEER INTENDS TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION THE SECURITY OF CHRONIC DEFAULTER AS DESCRIBED BELOW:

| S/N | CREATOR'S NAME      | SECURITY | TYPE AND PART OF THE GUARANTEE | AUCTIONEER       | DATE       |
|-----|---------------------|----------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1   | CHRISTOPHER RICHARD | HOUSE    | SALUS AGREEMENT                | MUNESSA RESPONDE | 09/12/2023 |

All auctions shall be held at the appropriate location on the time and day on which they shall be broadcast through brochures and advertising vehicles subject to permission from the relevant agencies of the Government.

**AUCTION TERMS:**

- 25% of the price will be paid on the day of the auction and the remaining 75% will be paid within a fortnight.
- Failing to do so will result in the auction being repeated and the money paid will not be returned.
- The costs of transferring the owner and changing ownership will be borne by the buyer.
- The guarantee will be sold as it is.



# Education ministry calls for entries of 2023 Mwalimu Nyerere Prize

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has urged novelists, poets and children story writers to continue submitting their works for the 2023 Mwalimu Nyerere Prize on Creative Writing.

The writers have until November 30, this year to send their writings before judges sit down to go through the works for four months before announcing the winners.

Speaking during the official announcement of the awards competition in Dar es Salaam yesterday,

Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Prof Adolf Mkenda said the prize is aimed at stimulating creative writing among Tanzania as well as publishers.

He urged Tanzanian writers to invest in writing children's books with good ethical content in order to ensure that children are fed with skills and knowledge that will help them grow well with patriotism.

"We have a role to promote creative writing meant to also promote Kiswahili language, our children have to be feeded with positive in-

formation that promotes patriotism, good morals and the nation's history," he said.

He said the government will continue providing support to book writers who invest their time bringing publications which help address various challenges in the community including children's development.

He said the 2021 Nobel Prize winner Abdulrazak Gurnah, a Zanzibar originally, will be the guest of honour at this coming awards.

He said in the awards, creative

writers from Tanzania will be able to win a prize worth as much as 10m/- for the first winner, 7m/- for the second and 5m/- for the third winner.

He said: "We have witnessed the addition of children's stories writing category in this year's competition, this is very important because we need to encourage reading to children at a very early age," he said.

Prof Mkenda said ten winners will be announced on April 13, 2024, to coincide with the birthday of Tanzania's founder Julius Nyerere who the

prize has been named after.

Chairperson of the Prize committee, Prof Penina Mlama said they decided to name the prize after Nyerere to honour his contribution to creative writing in the country.

Prof Mlama said the fourth to the tenth winner will be provided with certificates. "We have nine competent judges who will go through the submissions for four months before announcing the winners in April 13, 2024," she said.

She said a number of well renowned writers from inside and

outside the country will attend the event as well as speak to young writers on the best ways to put their stories in writing.

According to her, the country is facing a shortage of innovative books for children that are why the competition has considered the area to stimulate production of more books for children.

She also urged Tanzanians to inculcate a culture of reading books in order to fetch new skills and widen their understanding on various issues in the society.

## Minister urges Tanzanians to participate in minerals work

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

MINERALS minister, Anthony Mavunde has called upon citizens to take part in various minerals projects due to its critical contribution to the country's economic development.

Speaking yesterday during a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) 2023 student workshop organized by SGS Tanzania, Mavunde said that minerals play a role as bedrock for various industries and contribute significantly to the national economy.

He further added that the government's desire is to see all Tanzanians stop being spectators and become part of the participants in the mineral resources that God has given us.

He said minerals play a central role in energy production which is an essential factor in economic development, hence the need for citizens, especially students, to pay attention to the area to become professionals in the sector. "Previously we did not have enough professionals in this area, but you are now helping us by empowering, developing and making them master modern technologies," he noted.

He congratulated SGS Tanzania for assisting students as part of its CSR. He said the programme develops students' skills for them to become more knowledgeable.

SGS Tanzania Managing Director Hany Azam said: "We

passionately believe that fostering a strong connection between industry and academia is crucial for nurturing the next generation of professional who will be at the forefront of driving economic progress as we aim to shed light on the potential opportunities that await young professionals in the field of inspecting, testing and certification."

Azam said through the exposure of its infrastructure and activities it helps to broaden the knowledge of university students and empower them to pursue careers in the field such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

He noted that SGS Tanzania remains steadfast in its mission to deliver top tier services while supporting local growth and as a member of Tanzania chamber of mines SGS is proud to contribute to Tanzania's economic development, setting new standards in service delivery and driving innovation in the Tanzanian market.

Gloria Njau, a fourth year student at the University of Dar es Salaam pursuing Chemicals and Process engineering said that minerals are indispensable for economic development of any country because they form the backbone of construction, manufacturing, and energy production driving industrialization and creating a foundation for sustained economic growth.



Spectra Plast India Pvt Ltd CEO Ramkumar Servaraj (R) briefs visitors at the India pavilion at the AgriTech East Africa International exhibition in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The event is organised jointly by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India and the Indian government. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma.

## Uganda to vaccinate citizens against malaria starting early 2024

KAMPALA

PERMANENT Secretary in the Health Ministry, Dr Diana Atwine has said the government intends to start vaccinating children against malaria early next year to boost the fight against the disease.

"We are going to introduce a vaccine early next year. This vaccine targets the severity of the disease, particularly in children because they are the most hit by malaria, but as the vaccine becomes more available we shall as well increase the age group," she said.

She was speaking to journalists in Kampala during the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the Malaria Consortium, a non-profit organisation specialising in the prevention, control and treatment of malaria and other communicable diseases among vulnerable populations in Africa and Asia.

Dr Atwine said there has been a significant decline in malaria cases and deaths in the country.

"Impressively, Uganda has seen a substantial reduction in malaria prevalence, from

42 per cent in 2009 to 9.2 per cent. This achievement is a testament to the resilience and effectiveness of our joint efforts," she said.

Dr Atwine applauded the Consortium for its support to the country's malaria fight, saying the achievements were possible because of such efforts.

"For the past two decades, the Malaria Consortium has been a critical partner in Uganda's fight against malaria, collaborating with our government, health workers, communities, and various

stakeholders. Their innovative approaches, research endeavours, and direct interventions have been instrumental in diminishing the disease's impact across the nation," she noted.

Dr Jimmy Opigo, the head of the malaria control programme at the ministry, on the other hand, said around 15 people die daily due to malaria in the country.

Dr Godfrey Magumba, the East and Southern Africa Programmes Director for Malaria Consortium said Uganda has the capacity to further

reduce the prevalence and deaths due to malaria.

"20 years of relentless dedication have shown us that the fight against malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea is not just a battle against a disease, but a journey towards stronger communities, empowered by knowledge and innovation," he said.

He said that the malaria vaccine alongside ongoing strategies such as indoor residual spraying and mosquito net distribution continue to drive the Malaria Consortium's mission forward.

## Indonesia vows to support Tanzania in cassava processing

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE government of Indonesia has pledged to support Tanzania's initiatives towards reducing post-harvest losses in cassava crop.

The remarks were made in Dar es Salaam by Indonesian Ambassador to Tanzania, Triyogo Jatmiko during a panel discussion which was organized by embassies in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies of the University of Dar es Salaam.

The embassies that collaborated in organizing the event are Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA).

MIKTA is an informal consultation and coordination platform that was initiated by the Foreign Ministers of the MIKTA member countries on 25 September 2013 on the margins of the 68th UN General Assembly.

Ambassador Jatmiko said the capacity-building training that is scheduled for February 2024 in Indonesia will focus on post-harvest in cassava processing.

"This initiative will also involve ex-

pert speakers from MIKTA countries, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange with other Global South countries including Tanzania", he said.

Korean Ambassador to Tanzania, Kim Sun Pyo, said the panel discussion was a great example where MIKTA group are collaborating together outreaching to Tanzania to raise awareness and understanding of countries, which will simultaneously pave the way for deeper linkages and cooperation between MIKTA group's representatives in Dar es Salaam and Tanzania.

Turkey Ambassador to Tanzania, Mehmet Güllüoğlu highlighted the economic diplomacy path that the Tanzanian government follows is a great opportunity to increase cross-regional cooperation.

He said that Turkey is optimistic that bilateral ties between his country and Tanzania will continue to be strong under the current administration.

Speaking at the event, Vice Chancellor from the University of Dar

es Salaam, Prof William Anangisye reminded the hard work of the late President Julius Nyerere in fostering cooperation and partnership between Tanzania and the other Global South countries through the Non-Aligned Movement, which should be fostered and strengthened with shared commitments between Tanzania and MIKTA group.

The collaborative initiative by the Indonesian, Korean and Turkey embassies in Dar es Salaam and the University of Dar es Salaam aimed to share best practices among MIKTA groups and to promote collaborations between the group's representatives in Dar es Salaam.

He said the university will invite four panellists of Tanzanian renowned scholars to share their development studies perspective, political science and international science perspective, international trade and business perspective.

Initiated in 2013, MIKTA will celebrate its pivotal 10th-anniversary leaders' meeting at the Bali G20 Summit in November last year.



Bunda district commissioner Dr Naano Anney disembarks from a boat upon arrival on Buyanza Island in Mwiibara constituency on Thursday for an assessment tour of houses and crops damaged by the ongoing heavy rains. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.





African Organic Network (AfroNet) communication advisor Constantine Akitanda (standing) makes a presentation on the need to strengthen the movement, which advocating the Farmers Management Seed System in Tanzania. He was addressing agrobiodiversity stakeholders attending a seed management system project workshop in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Carlos Banda

## BEVAC establishes new conserved areas to improve the country's beekeeping sector

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Singida

THE Beekeeping Value Chain Support (BEVAC) project is currently working to establish new bee reserve areas in different regions across the country. The project is being implemented by Enabel—the Belgian Development Agency with funds from the European Union (EU). It operates under the coordination of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock in Zanzibar. The target is to ensure that a total of 53,527 hectares of forest land is conserved and officially recognized as a beekeeping reserve area. The plan is to conserve potential

lands for supporting professional beekeeping activities in at least eight villages in Kigoma Region, three villages in Katavi Region, two villages in Tabora Region as well as six villages in Singida Region. Speaking at a special meeting held in Choda village in Ikungi District, Singida Region, Ikungi Ward Councillor, Stephen Mtayana insisted on environmental conservation to allow smooth beekeeping activities. "It is important to take care of our environment to combat climate change and be able to grasp various opportunities associated with the establishment of bee reserves" he told the villagers. He said that apart from combating climate change, environmental conservation has multiple advantages,

including propelling beekeeping activities, the potential economic opportunity which will help to maximise their livelihoods. Choda is one among the 19 villages supported by Enabel through the European Union funded BEVAC project to establish new bee reserve areas. Most beekeeping activities in Tanzania are conducted in protected areas and forest reserves under villages, districts and ministry authorities including the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) and the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA). According to him, the establishment of bee reserves will ensure formal recognition of beekeepers and existence of their operations by respective authorities which will assure sustainable production of honey and other bee

products. Tanzania ranks 14th in the world for beekeeping and 2nd in Africa with most of the country's produced honey and beeswax often exported to Germany, France, Belgium and Netherlands, Oman, USA, Japan, Botswana, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Congo DRC, Somali and neighbouring Kenya. Moreover, relevant records depict that the country is currently producing over 138,000tons of honey and 9,200tons of beeswax per year. Tanzania holds at least 48.1million hectares of forests, equivalent to 54 percent of the county's area, whereby the government reserved forest area is 465 hectares, including 24 tree plantations, 23 natural environmental conservation areas, and 20 beekeeping reserves.

## Experts call for implementing land policies to address cross-border conflicts troubling Africa

ADDIS ABABA

EXPERTS have called for implementing regional and continental land policies and conventions to address unfolding cross-border conflicts involving dwindling pastoral resources in Africa.

The call was made on Thursday at the 2023 Conference on Land Policy in Africa at the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopian capital. The conference discussed the implementation of cross-border land policies and ways to address conflicts arising from the movement of pastoral communities across the continent.

Hubert Ouedraogo, one of the speakers and land policy experts in Burkina Faso, said the pastoral communities in Africa are under threat due to dwindling pastoral resources and widespread conflicts as they cross borders searching for pasture land and water bodies.

"The continental frameworks, regional protocols and conventions as well as cross-border legislations have been poorly or not implemented and failed to address problems faced by pastoral communities in Africa," Ouedraogo said.

According to figures released at the conference, the population of pastoral communities in Africa is 265 million.

Ouedraogo urged African governments and regional economic communities to promote the continental land agenda and work on the implementation of those frameworks and conventions or adopt new ones that will bring about lasting solutions.

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) expert and one of the speakers Esther Obaikol said pastoral communities in Africa are facing conflicts as they go deeper and deeper into neighbouring countries in search of water and pasture.

She said the conflicts are on the rise due to the impact of climate change and drought.

"Climate change has exacerbated conflict and that has led to a lot of instability in terms of resource sharing, and African governments and regional communities as well as civil society organizations should find common cross-border solutions to the movement of people and the movement of cattle across the continent," Obaikol said.

According to the expert, new protocols aimed at establishing cross-border land policies, finding alternative conflict solutions and sharing resources among the pastoral communities across borders are nearing ratification by AU and regional blocs.

## Southern African countries have the highest prevalence of sexual, physical violence in the world, says new report

By Guardian Reporter

SOUTHERN African countries have the highest prevalence of sexual, physical and emotional violence in the world, according to a new report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Across the region, an average of 17 per cent of girls and women experience forced sex in their lifetime and 80 per cent of children experience violent discipline at home in Southern Africa.

"Women are significantly more likely to report childhood experiences of sexual abuse (28 per cent) compared to men (18 per cent)," the report reads. The report compiled a statistical profile of the prevalence of violence against children and women in Southern Africa and found this violence to be pervasive and persistent, affecting millions of lives.

The mortality rate from homicide among children, adolescents, girls and women in the SADC region was nearly double the average for the rest of the world. Child marriage is also prevalent in

Southern Africa, with 30 per cent of young women married before the age of 18.

Among these young brides, nearly a third (31 per cent) have experienced some form of intimate partner violence in the past year and across the region.

In Tanzania, the most likely perpetrators of forced sex against girls and women are usually intimate partners (current husband/partner 42 per cent; former husband/partner 33 per cent; or current/former boyfriend 11 per cent) and friends (12 per cent).

This violence takes many forms, including physical, sexual and emotional violence along with neglect and exploitation.

Violence is often hidden, under-reported and perpetuated by harmful social norms, gender inequality, poverty, conflict and other structural factors, destroying not only individual lives but also threatening national economies, mental health and educational outcomes.

The report said one in three girls and women have experienced some form of violence by a partner in the past year.

More than half of girls and women who experienced violence never sought help.

In Tanzania, 38 per cent of girls and women have experienced some form of violence by a partner in the past year, and a third of those who experienced the violence never sought help, 11 per cent told someone but never sought help, and only 54 per cent sought help related to the experienced violence.

According to the report, 40 percent of adolescent students have experienced bullying, girls and boys are equally likely to be victimized across the region. Tanzania is below the regional average at 27 per cent with a similarly equal experience between girls and boys.

The risk of boys dying from homicide is over three times higher than that of girls. Alarmingly, more than half of the children and adolescents who died from homicide are between the ages of 15 and 19.

Across most countries, at least one in five children live with a mother who has experienced intimate partner violence in the past year. Children living in households af-

fect by intimate partner violence are significantly more likely to experience all types of violent discipline.

Not only is violence often intergenerational, it is also deeply embedded in the attitudes of women and men. In fact, girls and women in most countries are more likely to justify wife-beating than boys and men and there is a significant association between mothers' attitudes justifying wife beating and children's experience of violence discipline - and this finding is not influenced by other factors such as wealth.

UNICEF and SADC call on SADC Member States to strengthen legislation, policies, budgets, and accountability to protect women and children against this violence.

This includes updating and aligning laws with international and regional standards and ensuring core violence prevention and response interventions are costly and incorporated into national budgets.

"The root causes of violence against children and women are grounded in power imbalances. Abuse of power occurs along the dimensions of both



Pupils of Dar es Salaam's St Mary's (Mbezi) Primary School in jovial mood on Thursday shortly after their head teacher, Isaac Tamaro, informed them that all of pupils at the school who had sat this year's national Primary School Leaving Examination had performed excellently. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Zambia seeks UN help to deal with food shortages in region hit by climate change

ROME

EIGHT Southern African countries have been heavily impacted by external food demand as a result of climate change-induced pressures such as drought and famine has prompted Zambia to request assistance from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the agriculture sector in order to cope with the situation.

Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema told FAO Director General Qu Dongyu during a meeting in Rome, Italy's capital, that food scarcity in neighbouring countries has threatened his country's food

sufficiency.

"Zambia's food sufficiency is threatened by shortages in neighbouring countries. Therefore, we urged the FAO to leverage Zambia's central location and favourable hydrological and water conditions for two cycles of cereal crop production per year, enhancing per-acre yields," Hichilema said in a post on social media platform X following his talks with Dongyu.

Zambia is surrounded by eight Southern African neighbours and has been largely hit by external food demand due to climate change-induced pressures such as drought and famine that have hit the region.

Hichilema said his country is desirous of acquiring cutting-edge technology in water harvesting, precision irrigation, mechanization, and husbandry efforts, making FAO support emerging farmers through an agriculture credit window created by his administration to enhance productivity for both local and regional markets.

"Zambia and the FAO have maintained cordial relations since 1965 and our collaboration in food and nutrition security, natural resource management and climate change mitigation has strengthened over the years," he stated in a separate Facebook post on Wednesday.



# Tanzania, Comoros, Uganda gearing up for implementation of AfCFTA pacts

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organised a series of trainings in collaboration with the governments of Tanzania, Comoros and Uganda to strengthen the capacity of public and private sector stakeholders to implement the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement effectively.

Themed 'Maximizing the benefits of the AfCFTA for businesses: Strategies and tools for accessing the market' the training, which covered topics such as market access opportunities, rules of origin, tariff concessions, trade facilitation, non-tariff barriers, dispute settlement and digital trade.

Held in July, October and November 2023, these series of trainings involved more than 300 participants from government ministries, agencies, trade associations, chambers of commerce, academia and civil society.

Their objective was to equip the participants with relevant knowledge on modalities of liberalization of goods and services, implementation instruments, procedures and opportunities under the AfCFTA and to sensitize them on the opportunities, benefits and challenges of the agreement as well as how to leverage these benefits.

Said Abdou Salime, Secretary General at the Ministry of Economy and Trade of Comoros said: "The practical training, arrives at the right time, especially now that the Comoros holds the presidency of the AU in 2023 and intends to actively participate in the next

phase of the guided trade initiative."

Isaac Bonny, a Bank of Uganda official, said: "The AfCFTA training is relevant as the bank regulates the payments system and supports the AfCFTA negotiations, especially on payments and digital trade". He added that the private sector lacks awareness of the AfCFTA benefits and this workshop would help them seize the opportunities of the AfCFTA.

The AfCFTA is a historic achievement for Africa's economic integration and development. It aims to establish a single market of 1.3 billion consumers with a combined GDP of \$3.4 trillion, making it the biggest free trade area in the world by number of participating countries.

Ali Khamis Juma, principal secretary, the Ministry of Trade and Industrial Development in Tanzania, thanked ECA for its valuable support. He also emphasized the significance of such an initiative for Tanzania's industrial diversification and economic growth. Similar training was also held in Zanzibar and Pemba.

Mama Keita, Director of ECA's Office for Eastern Africa, argued that the AfCFTA is a catalyst for Africa's economic transformation and integration. She assured ECA's continued support to the countries.

These workshops are part of ECA's ongoing efforts to assist African countries in preparing for and implementing the AfCFTA, which became operational on 30 May 2019 and started trading on 1 January 2021.



Rithamary Lwabulinda (2nd-L), customer service director with the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa), symbolically donates a consignment of desks to Vikawe Primary School head teacher Jegama Selemani at the school's premises in Bagamoyo District yesterday. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## DAWASA hands over 30 desks to Vikawe Primary School effort to boost education

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

dapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has donated 30 desks to Vikawe Primary School in the Coastal Region as part of recognizing and contributing to the growth of education in the society.

Speaking during the handover which was held at the school located in Bagamoyo District yesterday, DAWASA Customer Service Director, Rithamary Lwabulinda, prom-

ised more cooperation for the school to ensure students study in a conducive environment.

"DAWASA, through its program of returning to the community, has led to the outsourcing of the 30 desks recognizing the great needs of this school to enable students to study in a friendly environment and raise their performance in exams," said Lwabulinda.

Lwabulinda added DAWASA is part of the people of Vikawe saying they will continue to work side by side in the provision of services.

The head teacher for Vikawe Primary School, Jegama Selemani, hailed DAWASA for the help and asking that it should not be the end of the good relationship between the school and the authority.

"In our school here, we had a big demand for desks, DAWASA has contributed 40 percent of the demand for desks, so 90 students will no longer study while standing," he said.

One of the parents, Maulid Hamduni, commended the authority

for the work it does in the provision of water services in the area.

"This support parents is a great relief, most of us have a low income and even when we try to reach money sometimes we don't reach our goals, these desks will help our in their studies " explained Hamduni.

Vikawe Primary School with a total of 900 students is one of the schools that benefit from DAWASA's program to return part of its profits to the community.



Hardware trader Habiba Issa (L) has a word with Muheza District Traffic Officer ASP Leonard Bandora (R) earlier this week on the damage heavy rains have inflicted on the strategic Amtico River bridge. Photo: Correspondent Steen William

## UNICEF and SADC demand improved legislation and budgets to address GBV

By Guardian Reporter

PREVALENCE of sexual, physical and emotional violence in Southern African countries is among the highest in the world, according to a new report by UNICEF and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Across the region, an average of 17 per cent of girls and women experience forced sex in their lifetime and 80 per cent of children experience violent discipline at home in Southern Africa.

This report compiles a statistical profile of the prevalence of violence against children and women in Southern Africa and found this violence to be pervasive and persistent, affecting millions of lives.

Etleva Kadilli, UNICEF Regional Director for East-

ern and Southern Africa, said the root causes of violence against children and women are grounded in power imbalances.

"Abuse of power occurs along the dimensions of both age and gender. Poverty, unemployment, weak legal frameworks, armed conflict, and humanitarian crises also exacerbate this high prevalence of violence throughout Southern African countries. Violence against women and children is often normalized, and in many cases becomes intergenerational. We must break this vicious cycle of violence," said Kadilli.

Elias Magosi, the Executive Secretary of SADC said it is unacceptable that millions of girls, boys and women are still being held back, injured or killed by violent perpetrators.

He said violence and abuse against children and women is harmful to society's development and for this reason we have prioritised prevention of gender-based violence as a key intervention in our SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan for 2022-2030.

"We are also intensifying our implementation of the SADC Regional Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing Gender-Based Violence Strategy to operationalise the GBV provisions in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development," said SADC Executive Secretary.

The mortality rate from homicide among children, adolescents, girls and women in the SADC region was nearly double the average for the rest of the world.

Child marriage is also prevalent in Southern Africa, with 30 per cent of young women married before the age of 18. Among these young brides, nearly a third (31 per cent) has experienced some form of intimate partner violence in the past year and across the region.

Violence takes many forms, including physical, sexual and emotional violence along with neglect and exploitation.

Violence is often hidden, under-reported and perpetuated by harmful social norms, gender inequality, poverty, conflict and other structural factors, destroying not only individual lives but also threatening national economies, mental health and educational outcomes.

## IWPG awards winners of the 5th international loving-peace art competition

By Guardian Reporter

THE International Women Peace Group (IWPG) has awarded winners to host of the 5th International Loving-Peace Art Competition aimed at spreading a culture of peace around the world by planting the mindset of peace in the hearts of children and youth.

This year, 10,255 children from 117 cities in 61 countries participated compared to last year, 9

new countries joined this year's competition.

IWPG collaborated with national arts associations to evaluate the drawings and finally selected 43 pieces including 1 Grand Prize, 1 Gold Prize, 1 Silver Prize, and 1 Bronze Prize for each of the 3 divisions (9 in total), 5 Awards of Recognition for each division (15 in total), and Participation Awards.

The Head Judge of the finals, Kani Alavi, President of East Side Gallery,

said, "Through this international convention, we must spread the news of peace to people around the world. I believe that if this peaceful cooperation continues, the time for peace will finally come."

Kanoknuch Klaha (Thailand, Sripruetta School, High School division), who had the honour of winning the Grand Prize, said, "With this picture, I want to communicate the unity of the people of each country in the

world. May everyone on this planet help to make peace grow."

The Gold Prize went to Jennifer Sharon (Indonesia, Elementary division), Yu Jeong Jun (Republic of Korea, Middle School division), and Clarissa Yoselin (Indonesia, High School division).

The Silver Prize went to Jinx Liaqat (Pakistan, Elementary division), Natalia Jay Xin Hu (Malaysia, Middle School division), and Hussam Salah (Pal-

estine, High School division). The Bronze Prize was awarded to Mikaela Allyna Sukma Saputro (Indonesia, Elementary division), Priyanka Chopra (Indonesia, Middle School division), Hyun Soo Lee (Republic of Korea, High School division).

The Award of Recognition went to Alcee Dahnya Zia M. Yarra (Philippines), Sheryl Aniket More (India), Yu Gyeong Choi (Republic of Korea), Natthan Chongkitwit-

sawakan (Thailand), Navanietaa A/P Jeevan (Malaysia), Mouhamad Yousef (Palestine), Chananya Thongthoi (Thailand), Maheen Gulzar (Pakistan), Purevdorj Itgelen (Mongolia), Shaikh Saima Md. Uusuf (India), Dania Aiesha Bt Zuhairie Ariffin (Malaysia), Khalzaa Enkhsaran (Mongolia), Daniel Suarez (U.S.A.), Jawaher Abdallah Al Ghoul (Lebanon), and Katerina Vrskova (Czech Republic).

Kaylee Lee Kennedy and

8 other drawing were also selected to receive the Participation Award.

The Grand Prize awardee will receive a scholarship of 1 million KRW, while awardees of the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Prize will receive 300,000 KRW, 200,000 KRW, and 100,000 KRW respectively. The Award of Recognition awardees will receive a certificate, and all the awarded pieces will be featured in the art brochure.

In her congratulatory remarks, IWPG Chairwoman Hyun Sook Yoon said, "I looked at everyone's drawings very closely, the world of peace that each child dreams of. I hope everyone remembers this spirit of peace and strives to become leaders that bring peace to the world."

IWPG plans to host the 6th International Loving-Peace Art Competition again next year.



# EAC and Germany mark 25 years of cooperation

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) and German Embassy in Dar es Salaam have jointly celebrated 25 years of partnership with a notable number of achievements.

During the occasion at the EAC headquarters in Arusha, EAC Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki and German Ambassador to Tanzania and EAC, Thomas Terstegen opened a photo exhibition titled '25 Years, 25 Faces, 25 Impacts'.

The photo exhibition showcased tangible impacts created for EAC citizens by the EAC-German partnership in recent years.

It presented 25 beneficiaries from across EAC partner states and all sectors of cooperation such as trade in goods and services, harmonisation of standards, pandemic preparedness and One Health, integrated water management, and digital skills development.

Among the beneficiaries are students benefiting from scholarships, techpreneurs developing their careers following graduation, and tour operators who have grown their business thanks to capacity development and joint regional marketing.

In addition, business leaders from sectors such as leather and pharma voice how they have been able to expand their markets due to the partner-

ship between EAC and German Development Cooperation.

Other beneficiaries represent the partner states' public sector and give testimony on how regional integration is having a positive impact on the development in their home countries - among them officials working on cross-border solutions for health and water.

One of the beneficiaries, Euphrosine Niyidukunda, a business founder and agro processor from Rwanda highlighted said: "My company has benefited a lot from the EAC regional integration through free trade. I have expanded my market to Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and I'm also looking for opportunities in South Sudan and Burundi."

Godfrey Pimundu, a laboratory scientist and coordinator for mobile laboratories at Uganda Central Public Health Laboratories, stressed the impact on the fight against COVID-19 and other diseases.

"In 2020, we received two laboratories from the German government. These labs came at the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, so we used them to detect COVID. The impact on fighting the spread of the disease was incredible," said Kimundu.

ICT Specialist, Thon Malek, from South Sudan noted: "During my studies at the Centre of Excellence for ICT in East

Africa, I gained new skills every day. The exchange with students from other EAC Partner States helped me to replicate solutions that have been implemented in other countries and make them fit for South Sudan."

Janice Benson Kimaro, the Regional Coordinator, East African Women in Business Platform said: "Our partnership with EAC and Germany has led to numerous women entrepreneurs acquiring key knowledge to penetrate EAC and AfCFTA markets. A large number of women cross-border traders are now able to utilise the EAC Simplified Trade Regime to access regional markets."

EAC Secretary General, Dr Mathuki hailed the two-and-half decades of cooperation between the Community and Germany, adding that it had yielded innumerable benefits for the bloc.

Since 1998, the German government has been a steadfast ally in our journey toward unity, progress, and prosperity.

The enduring partnership has manifested itself in technical expertise and financial contributions, demonstrating Germany's commitment to the ideals of collaboration and shared growth, he said.

Ambassador Thomas Terstegen said the concept of the exhibition '25 years, 25 faces, 25 impacts' reminds people not to forget the ultimate goal of cooperating.



Tanzania Air Traffic Controllers Association president Merkiory Ndayoya (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday explaining how it has been managing the conducting of upgrading courses for its members over the years. It was at its 43rd annual meeting, opened by Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority acting Director of Air Navigation Services Hamis Kisesa. Photo: Correspondent

## Hunger crisis threatens Chad as funding for food aid falters

GENEVA

THE UN's World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that food aid for 1.4 million people in Chad faces a "looming halt" because there is no money, even as the country is experiencing an influx of refugees from the fighting in Sudan's Darfur region.

Funding shortfalls and increasing humanitarian needs mean WFP will have to pause food for millions of displaced people and refugees in Nigeria, Central African Republic and Cameroon from December, the agency said.

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us to keep our journalism free for all. You'll always be able to control your own.

From January the suspension will be extended to Chad, a "brutal" decision that will affect "new arrivals from Sudan who will not receive food as they flee across the border", a WFP statement said.

Nearly half a million Sudanese have crossed into Chad since a power struggle between the two men leading Sudan's national army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April sent the country into war. More than 90 percent of these refugees already do not have enough to eat, according to a recent assessment.

Most have been escaping West Darfur, the site of ethnic-based

massacres, widespread rape and other human rights abuses. This month the RSF and allied Arab militias killed at least 1,000 people from the Masalit community in the West Darfur village of Ardamata, prompting warnings of a repeat of the genocide of the early 2000s.

"This forgotten crisis has metastasised as the world's eyes are on other emergencies," said Pierre Honnorat, WFP's country director for Chad. "It is staggering but more Darfuris have fled to Chad in the last six months than in the preceding 20 years. We cannot let the world stand by and allow our life-saving operations to grind to a halt."

Hundreds of thousands of Chad citizens are also going hungry because of the effects of the

climate crisis, inter-communal tensions and rising food and fuel prices. Honnorat warned that cutting food aid would undo years of work combating hunger and "paves the way for crises of nutrition, crises of instability, and crises of displacement".

WFP needs \$185m (£148m) to keep feeding people in Chad for another six months. The agency faces a worldwide funding crisis that has forced it to cut rations and scale back its operations in multiple countries.

Its funding is drying up as the calls on global aid increase. In 2022, the numbers needing humanitarian assistance climbed by almost a third, to 407 million people, a record high, according to Development Initiatives, a data consultancy.



PUBLIC HEALTH AT RISK: Danger lurks as garbage lies abandoned - reportedly for days, until this scene was captured yesterday - at the Mtoni kwa Azizi Ali city commuter bus stop in Temeke municipality, Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## WB: Stronger collaboration needed to tackle impact of climate change

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen health systems in countries of the Global South.

The goal is to support more efficient, effective, and sustainable financing to improve health outcomes in the face of climate change.

Current estimates show that more than half of the global population is not fully covered by essential health services and the climate crisis will only increase the demand for effective services, especially for the most vulnerable people.

World Bank President Ajay Banga said that countries cannot make adequate progress on public health while rising temperatures change the patterns of infectious diseases and breed pandemics.

"Our only option is to respond aggressively, simultaneously, and comprehensively. This partnership with the Global Fund is another step forward in our effort to recruit partners and build the coalition that is needed to deliver impact," he said.

Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund said to stand a chance at achieving the targets of ending AIDS, TB and malaria, countries must redouble efforts to fight the diseases.

"Countries should invest to build health systems that can withstand the effects of climate change. With malaria serving as an early tracer of the impact of climate on health, Governments need intensive interventions and strong partnerships to reverse the negative impact of climate change on health," added Sands.

Specifically, the two organizations will work together on climate and

health priorities to reduce the burden of malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis (TB) through stronger health systems, including better access to primary healthcare services for the most vulnerable populations.

The WB estimates that 132 million people may be forced into extreme poverty by 2030 due to climate change; one-third are the result of climate-related health risks disproportionately affecting the poorest and most vulnerable people.

The two organizations will also advocate for increased financing for health and building country capacity for more efficient and sustainable financing across health systems, including for HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria.

The goal is to make better use of scarce domestic and international health resources, including through better public finance management

in countries.

The two organizations will also use various financing modalities, including joint investments and blended finance, and collaborate on joint investments.

Another area of joint focus will be on strengthening the regional production and procurement of health supplies, including drugs and medical devices.

Access to essential health supplies is necessary to ensure preparedness and strong and resilient health systems. The organizations will help localize health supply chains by supporting sustainable manufacturing in Africa and low- and middle-income countries.

Since 2017, the World Bank and the Global Fund have supported many countries by investing with blended finance transactions. For example, a loan buy down in India helped increase financing for TB care and prevention.

## IRDP introduces 11 new courses to enhance academic performance

By Correspondent Valentine Ofori, Dodoma

THE Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) has introduced new 11 courses making a total of 37 programmes to be offered in the 2023/2024 academic year.

IRDP Rector, Prof Hozen Mayaya made the statement when speaking at the institutes' 16th convocation ceremony.

Prof Mayaya said that during the 2022/2023 academic year, the state-owned institute worked to review its short courses to make them more client-centred.

"The development had fetched diverse impacts, including increasing the number of the short courses from nine during 2021/2022 to 20 courses in the 2022/2023 academic year.

He said the number of participating institutions has also increased from 16 organisations in 2021/2022 to 92 in 2022/23, whereby there was a significant increase of revenue from 68,880,000/- in 2021/2022 to a total of 194,097,000 in 2022/23, Prof Mayaya noted.

Informing over other important milestones achieved by the country's reputable varsity, the IRDP's Rector expressed that there was an important increase in the number of research and publications.

"IRDP has always been encouraging its teaching staff to conduct research and publish their articles in the reputable journals to acquire international recognition. I am hereby delighted to inform the public that our efforts have yielded fruits as three of IRDP fellows were among the 47 Tanzanian academicians who were recently recognised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology following

their publication in highly reputable international science journals," he added.

Prof Mayaya said from research and consultancy, IRDP in collaboration with local and international development actors has been implementing several projects, and executing consultancy works in almost every part of the country.

"We have the Eco-Village project in the central zone, climate change in the northern zone, we have projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Lake zone, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) in the southern highland and Marketing Infrastructure, Value Addition and Rural Financing Programme (MIVARF) at Mbulu District," he informed.

He commended the government and the Ministry of Finance, as well as the development partners for continuing supporting the fast-growing university.

IRDP Vice Chairperson of the Governing Council, Dr Samwel Werema said that IRDP has managed to record recommendable infrastructure development, a move that has enabled the institute to have in place a more conducive teaching and learning environment.

"The Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project is going to contribute a lot to the improvement of teaching and learning at our institute, specifically in the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)," he briefed.

The colourful event saw at least 172 students (96 males and 76 females) receiving different prizes for their exceptional performance in academic and extracurricular activities.



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## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO,  
0716 500500

## Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

## Advertising

Mob 0782253676  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com,  
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## For JKCI operations to remain intact, govt will have to alter insurance plans

As various state agencies periodically inform the public on their operational achievements, successes and challenges, summations of what has lately been done offer a window to what can be expected in future.

The Dar es Salaam-based Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) has set out its achievements, pointing out that major operations it has conducted spared 500m/- that would have been spent had the cases been transferred to one of the cheapest alternative facilities abroad. It was referring to 11 patients whose nerves had burst on account of blood pressure.

So far, 16 patients have been lined up for such operations, where 11 have already had the surgery conducted, among whom are children and adults, whose operations would have cost upwards of 60m/- has they been sent outside for similar medical procedure.

The procedure was carried out in association with Open Heart International, an Australian medical charity, which posted 23 specialists to work alongside Tanzanian colleagues.

Similar instances were seen earlier for each stage of JKCI services, like heart, kidney operations or transplants, to ensure tip top accuracy.

This update on improvements in medical capacity at the country's leading treatment facility needs to be looked at in tandem with policy innovations whose expectations or reverberations are likely to be heard at that level as well.

Keen observers always believe that policy makers have mapped out all those ends before moving to request parliamentary approval for revamping medical costing

procedures all over the country, which implies JKCI will be part of the coverage modality that is envisaged.

That is precisely why it has to be hoped that procedures followed there are not disturbed in pursuing the overall formula publicised, of access with no cost issue.

The Australian charity has supported JKCI since 2015, when the former's operational upsurge was beginning to be noticed around the world, and which has often times enabled the hospital to receive patients when its administration is aware that they have colleagues of that sort for at least three months. Patients have also come from neighbouring countries, and even from Europe, as the costs will definitely be lower while the competence is comparable or simply identical.

All this requires a working format including cost administration that should not be disturbed later.

Local patients at JKCI, and when children are involved, are often billed at a much lower level for a delicate operation like partial nerve surgery for children. This is going by what is said by those who have received such services for family members.

This has continued even during this period where the hospital has patients from various countries and is in a position to claim a higher position than merely a "top-level referral hospital". Notably, it is not discriminating against local patients.

The hospital hasn't mutated to an expatriate treatment facility as long as these minimum quotations, sometimes as low as 200,000/- for operations on children, are not disturbed.

## Having opposition making assessment visits to development projects laudable

SOME opposition parties have initiated some sort of novelty, where they don't just meet to propagate their ideological or other views on big issues like electoral or constitutional reform but also on day to day issues as to how far government agencies are executing development projects.

There are opposition voices which will be heard dismissing this kind of politics as unreasonable, that it diminishes chances of removing the ruling party. But that attitude is unhelpful as it removes an aspect of choice that many people look for, as to who is really interested in their lot as constituents, and that is why roads, hospitals, etc., matter.

While sitting parliamentarians actually battle for this or that need in their respective constituencies, they are disposed to comprehend explanations by state officials as to what is happening.

There is no doubt that in most cases or at least in the majority of cases those explanations look plausible or valid, even then the situations they exhibit have to do with the pressure background they deal with.

Placing in peril a legislature dominated by the ruling party for delays in project implementation awakens them to the need for quicker action, and even handing down directives from ministries, etc.

For instance, there is the well-known insensitivity of local governments to criticisms on work performance.

This is chiefly they have inbuilt solidarity, since they form a single administrative authority and often a single political constituency.

That means the government

looks powerful on a day to day basis as to what they are doing and how satisfactory it is.

However, when it comes to election time, civic or general elections, it is to these local officials they fall back upon.

The electoral reform now tabled for discussion will prune their options in such periods, the extent to which the government actually relies on them, to a less prominent position.

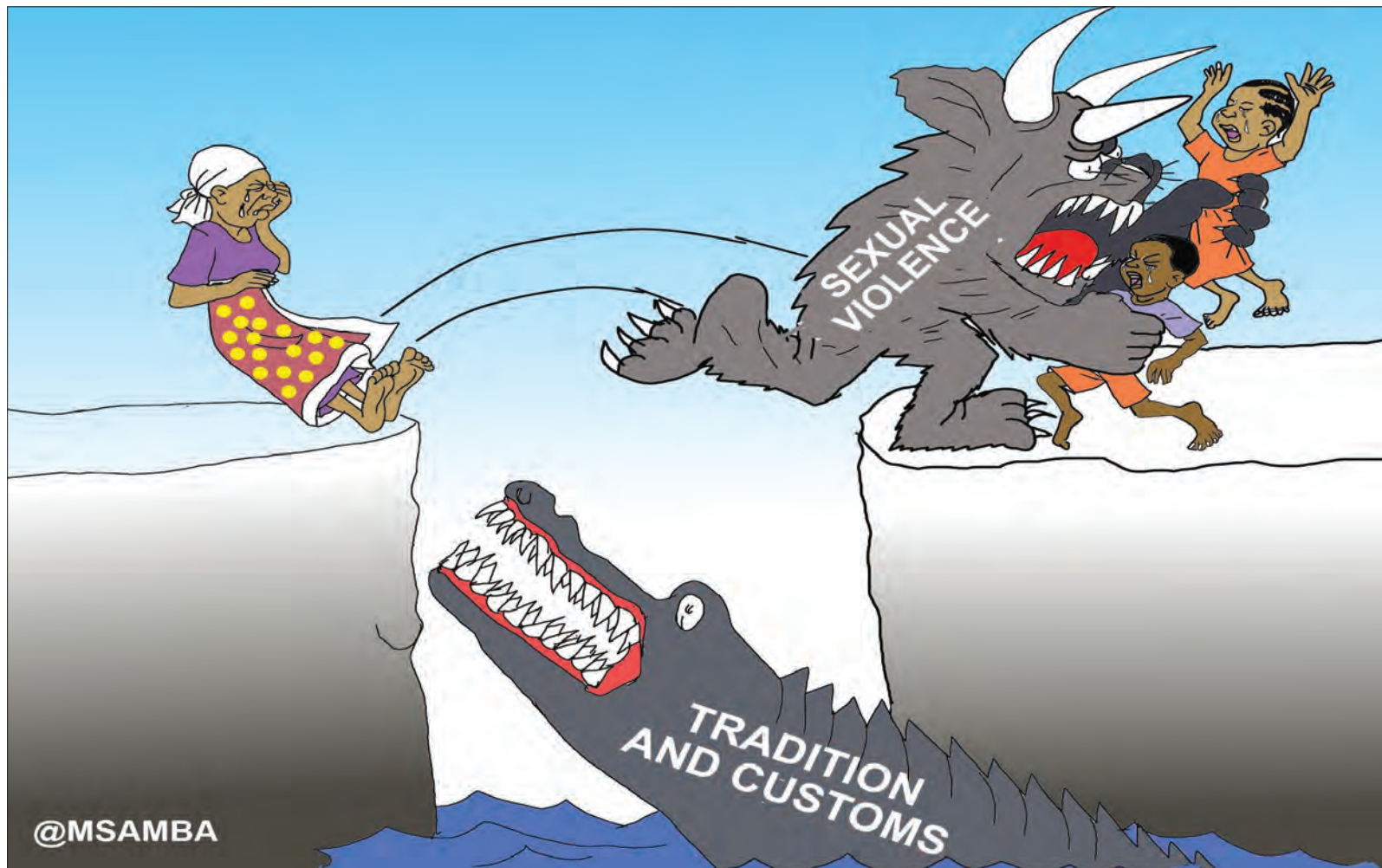
Moving into an area and explaining to the people how things could have been done in a better way stands to ease the way to the polls, both at the end of next year and in the following year.

The early involvement of the opposition in routine inspection of development work improves the degree to which the residents in each of those areas will be familiar not just with their arguments but even with those who work for this or that party.

The people would see it as a foot-print and, once the public is aware quite early that a particular party is indeed concerned with what is taking place, they will not look at their candidate(s) with curious bewilderment during the polls.

The idea here is that certain political parties need to wake up and abandon the 'winner take all' attitude, where it is the overall sentiment of that party on big issues that counts and not what is being done on the ground.

Experts have always seen parliamentary elections as grounded in local needs and perspectives, not just a result of what party has put up that candidate, whether the candidate has a hoe or a house for its official symbol.



## 'Let's reset' - top educator calls for a different type of journalism

By Lucinda Jordaan

Journalism today is mistrusted, maligned, unsafe and even deadly. What could the future possibly hold for aspiring reporters?

Dr Nico Drok, Deputy Chair of the World Journalism Education Council (WJEC), shares results from a global survey of educators - and offers advice for journalists and newsrooms.

Drok needs little introduction to industry academics and journalism educators, as he boasts a proud career of more than 40 years in journalism education in the Netherlands, and elsewhere.

Lead author of 'How Journalism Educators Around The Globe View The Future Of Journalism', he recently shared insights from the study and his views on journalism's challenges with WAN-IFRA and was emphatic that the current situation of journalism calls for a reset.

Despite myriad differences in journalism education across the globe, he said, there are three key current curricula trends: tech, specialism - and a return to basics.

### Tech-savvy teachings

Drok elaborates: "One of the common denominators is that practically all journalism schools are trying to deal with the perennial gale of technological innovations such as Artificial Intelligence, Datafication, and Virtual and Augmented Reality.

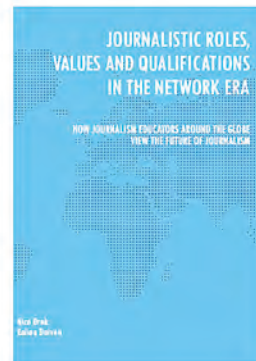
"As AI is not only a potential tool for journalism but also - or even more so - a subject with huge societal impact, UNESCO and WJEC have launched a Handbook for Journalism educators around the globe on Reporting on Artificial Intelligence."

### Specialist leanings

"Another, more or less global, tendency is the proliferation of new specialisms, says Drok, adding: "There is a fast-growing number of subjects that need attention, and it is simply impossible to teach everything to everyone. The most common way to tackle this, is to give students the choice to specialise in, for example, Crisis Reporting, Data Journalism, Digital Storytelling, Migration Reporting, Immersive Journalism, Climate Journalism, Drone Journalism - or in a classical beat, such as Political Journalism, Financial Journalism, Sports journalism, Investigative journalism, Science Journalism, Arts



Journalism and so on."



### Back to basics

Drok also notes that, at the same time, there is a tendency in various regions around the world to go back to basics; to stop chasing trends and gadgets and put more emphasis on what should be considered as the core of journalism training, leaving the many specialisations for later, when students are working in the field, supported by lifelong learning.

"The underlying idea is that the more uncertain and volatile the future is, and the faster specialisations come and go, the better it is to invest your limited time and money in a firm foundation that is relatively timeless," he notes.

"Apart from a huge body of knowledge about society, this timeless core should entail several groups of skills: Verification skills, Research skills, Social skills, Analytical skills, Language skills, Reflection skills," he adds.

### How educators see roles shifting

According to Drok's survey - the first large-scale study on the views of teachers on journalistic roles - educators around the globe agree on the direction in which professional journalism should evolve.

"Educators worldwide believe that the most important task for future journalists is providing in-depth background information, followed by related tasks in the field of verification, exposing abuse and providing analysis," he explains.

He adds: "As to the most important qualifications for their students, the educators see: be able to evaluate sources, followed by discovering newsworthy issues on the basis of in-depth research and be able to find multiple perspectives on an issue."



The outcomes largely support the idea that journalism should be more about getting the whole story and less about trying to be first.

Second is that there needs to be more focus on social responsibility, more on interacting with audiences, more on ordinary people instead of elites, more on long-term issues, and more on content instead of technology.

### What future for journalism?

Yes, journalism is in dire straits - and though, according to the report: "only half of the journalism educators believe that their students will be able to get a contracted job at an established news organisation," there is a future for journalism.

"Our society needs, and will not stop needing, professionals in the fields of information and communication," notes Drok.

He adds: "The view that journalism is in crisis is more common amongst Western educators. In general, most students find a job in the media sector within a year after graduation."

### Resetting for a reversal of fortunes

"The current situation of journalism calls for a reset," notes Drok, adding: "Journalism finds itself in the middle of a drastic transition from working in the context of a mass media model to working in the context of a network model. This network model has clearly different infrastructural characteristics, and it also requires a different type of journalism."

"The first task will stay: providing a truthful, comprehensive and intelligent account of the day's events in a context that gives them meaning, as the Hutchins committee advised 75 years ago. But next to providing news and context, new tasks

emerge."

Drok quotes a chapter - 'Connecting with audiences and the public' - from the European Broadcasting Union News Report, What's Next as a guide: "Content strategies should focus on providing solutions and ideas for audiences' problems, needs and struggles, and not primarily on politics and conflict."

"Several studies have confirmed the importance of giving the public perspectives, in two meanings of the word: providing different views on issues, as well as: providing stories about possible paths to solutions that inspire and give hope."

### Reset advice for educators - and newsrooms

Now, more than ever, this network society also needs professional journalism, says Drok, elaborating: "Not only to serve socio-economic elites, but for the whole of society. Trends such as growing disconnect, diminishing news interest, increasing news avoidance, and weakening trust, should and can be reversed."

He says it all requires public-oriented type of journalism, with a focus on: getting the facts right.

Quoting Alan Rusbridger, he notes: "A society that isn't sure about what is true cannot function."

Also cited as crucial is getting the connections right. This concerns the connections between journalism and its public, but also the connection between citizens and their community and society.

Additionally, there is the need to get the perspectives right. Giving perspective(s) does not only stimulate diversity and inclusiveness but also strengthens a sense of reliability, relevance and usefulness.

Drok continues: "I believe journalism should be renewed along these lines. In the discussion about renewing journalism, there should be less focus on the changing means of journalism, and more on the changing goals of journalism."

"In the Reuters Institute report on Sustainable Journalism Innovation, author Julie Posetti states: 'Journalism should stop relentlessly pursuing 'bright, shiny things' at the expense of core concepts such as content and audiences.'

"If we want to convince people of journalism's social value in an age of news avoidance and polarisation, this is the way to go."

\* A World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) dispatch.



# Reflections on judicial protection of our core democratic values

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at the offence of rape in relation to a victim of rape who related her story to me how she was traumatised when she was raped when she was still a girl and it still pains her even as she is an adult in her mid-40s. The rapist impregnated her. So, her first born daughter is now a grown up person and married and is blessed with two children. Her mother too has two children. Although her mother got married to another man and were blessed with one child, her husband died in an accident while he was working. But she says she feels she has not yet got the right person and for the very fact that she doesn't trust any man as she sees men as persons who want to use her.

When asked whether she told her daughter that her father was the person who raped her, she replied in the affirmative. You can ponder on what happened to this lady and also ask yourself whether her daughter after knowing that her father was the person who raped



her mother and that she is a product of rape and whether she also feels comfortable with her father like any other children or she feels bad to be born of a rapist. But this is a type of trauma we cause to other people and leave them helpless for the rest of their lives.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at Justice Barnabas Samatta's public lecture entitled "Judicial Protection of Democratic Values: The Judgment of the Court of Appeal on Independent Candidates".

Justice Samatta shares something he believes is crucial for the dispensation of justice and for maintaining public trust in the dispensation

of justice. He delivered his public lecture at Ruaha University College in Iringa on November 25, 2010. The lecture was his reflection on the judgment of the Court of Appeal of Tanzania delivered on June 17, 2010. In Justice Samatta's views, the judgment was "the most important constitutional case ever to have been brought before a court of law in this country."

In his lecture, which picks holes in the judgment of the Court of Appeal of Tanzania, he says "having given serious consideration to the possible grave consequences of that judgment on human rights, democracy and the rule of law in our country, I have decided, not without some

hesitation, to share with you my views on the judgment."

The judgment of the Court of Appeal of Tanzania was based on a petition filed by Rev Christopher Mtikila before the High Court of Tanzania in 1993, praying for a declaration that the amendments to Articles 39 and 67 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania to bar independent candidates from contesting elections were unconstitutional. Justice Lugakingira on October 24, 1994 delivered the judgment in favour of the petitioner. He, among other things, said: "The amendments made in Articles 39, 67 and 77 of the

Constitution, restricting the right to contest elections to political party candidates only, are capable of being abused to confine the right of governing to a few and render illusory the emergence of a truly democratic society. Notwithstanding those restrictions, it shall be lawful for private candidates to contest elections along with political party candidates."

Aggrieved by the decision, the Attorney General lodged a notice of appeal, but later abandoned it. Instead, the government tabled a Bill in Parliament, which became the Eleventh Constitutional Amendment Act, 1994, which was assented to by the President on January 17, 1995. Rev Mtikila challenged the constitutional amendments in the High Court of Tanzania and the High Court held that the amendments violated democratic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution and also violated the doctrine of basic features.

The Attorney General appealed against the High Court decision to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania, which held: "The issue of independent candidates has to be settled by Parliament



**"Judges must not hesitate to make decisions they consider just however unpopular those decisions are likely to be to Parliament, the Executive or political parties, including the ruling party, and regardless of their impact on the relations between the Judiciary and the other pillars of the State. Their destination must be justice."**

which has the jurisdiction to amend the Constitution and not the Courts, which, as we have found, do not have that jurisdiction. The decision on whether or not to introduce independent candidates depends on the social needs of each State based on its historical reality. Thus, the issue of independent candidates is political and not legal."

After that the Court of Appeal of Tanzania advised the Attorney General and Parliament, saying: "The right of persons to stand for election should not be limited unreasonably by requiring candidates to be members of parties or of specific parties." The Court of Appeal continued that, "Tanzania is known for our good record of human rights and particularly our militancy for the right to self-determination and hence our involvement in the liberation struggle. We should seriously ponder [over] that comment from a Committee of the United Nations, that is, the whole world."

In his considered opinion Justice Samatta, who might have been puzzled by the Court of Appeal of Tanzania's advice to the Attorney

General and Parliament, was of the view that the unyielding courage of judges was a priceless asset of any country and there was no substitute for it.

"Judges must not hesitate to make decisions they consider just however unpopular those decisions are likely to be to Parliament, the Executive or political parties, including the ruling party, and regardless of their impact on the relations between the Judiciary and the other pillars of the State. Their destination must be justice."

What we can gather from Justice Samatta's public lecture is the importance of the independence and the integrity of the Judiciary in its dispensation of justice. While the Judiciary is regarded as a refuge for people whose rights are violated and has time and time again granted judicial relief to people who seek it, there is a need to maintain public trust in its dispensation of justice.

Today's proverb: "What the eyes don't see the heart does not grieve for."

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

## What plunges countries into 'middle-income trap'



The 1944 Bretton Woods rules-based international monetary system ended in August 1971 when President Richard Nixon unilaterally repudiated US obligations after the US Treasury borrowed heavily from the rest of the world since 1960s.

By Jomo Kwame Sundaram

IN recent decades, failure to sustain economic progress has been blamed on a supposed middle-income country (MIC) trap. Such blaming obscures as much as it supposedly explains.

The 'middle-income trap' fable began as a World Bank story about why upper

MICs in Latin America failed to become high-income countries (HICs) after pursuing policies required or prescribed by the Bretton Woods institutions.

**Bretton Woods' Frankenstein**

The 1944 Bretton Woods rules-based international monetary system ended in

August 1971 when President Richard Nixon unilaterally repudiated US obligations. This happened after the US Treasury had borrowed heavily from the rest of the world from the 1960s.

The US government's 'exorbitant privilege' of 'spending well beyond its means' has continued despite the resulting international monetary

'non-system'. Continuing acceptance of the US dollar, or 'greenback', as the virtual world currency has enabled its Treasury to borrow internationally at low cost.

This has enabled the US to maintain massive trade and current account deficits, and a military presence in much of the world, despite its huge, but

still growing fiscal and trade deficits. The US exorbitant privilege seems to have been sustained by its 'soft power' and unassailable military superiority.

Facing 'stagflation' - economic stagnation with inflation - US Fed chair Paul Volcker raised interest rates sharply from 1980. This soon killed US inflation, but also Roosevelt's 'New Deal'

legacy from the 1930s.

With inflation high, real interest rates seemed low despite high nominal interest rates in the developing world. With growth high in the global South in the 1970s, borrowing to sustain investments, even from abroad, remained attractive.

But US interest rate hikes soon triggered fiscal and sovereign debt crises in many countries: Poland in 1981 was followed by various Latin American, African and other developing economies.

**Washington consensus**

Facing rising interest rates, many governments could no longer service accumulated debt, let alone borrow to invest more. Instead, they had to pursue contractionary monetary and fiscal policies domestically, causing economic stagnation.

With Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan demanding such macroeconomic policies, the Washington-based Bretton Woods institutions soon prescribed them, ending the post-Second World War Keynesian 'Golden Age'.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) demanded contractionary stabilisation policies to qualify for short-term credit facilities. World Bank structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) typically required economic liberalisation and privatisation for longer-term financing.

The Bank also advocated more export-orientation and foreign investment.

When paid by Japan's government, the Bank celebrated its post-war industrial boom as a 'miracle', a new model for emulation. But this soon ended with its demise due to the US-demanded overvalued yen and its ill-

advised financial 'Big Bang'.

**Latin American conundrum**

Latin American and other vulnerable economies lost over a decade from the 1980s while African economies lost a quarter century. Low-interest official Japanese credit initially mainly went to Southeast Asia, while South Asia took on less foreign debt.

Stabilisation and SAP conditionalities undermined Latin America's modest industrialisation, which also prevented the region from recovering strongly until the new century. But their economies had not been sufficiently liberalised for 'neoliberals' despite turning more to foreign trade and investment from the 1980s.

Prosperous economies became more protectionist, especially after the 2008 global financial crisis. But developing countries were told to open up even more despite shrinking export markets.

But with globalisation over, even East Asia can no longer rely on export growth. Also, it is difficult to turn away from export-oriented production, especially as earlier trade deal commitments cannot be unilaterally repudiated.

In many prosperous economies, workers captured some of their productivity gains. But the oft-heard claim that productivity increases lag behind wage rises usually serves employers. In most 'labour-surplus' developing countries, wages remain low.

As in South America early this century, progressive redistribution has often accelerated, rather than subverted growth. Common claims that such redistribution is bad for growth must be critically reconsidered. After all,

progressive redistribution sustained growth in post-war Europe.

**Breaking out of the trap**

The 'middle-income trap' argument claims MICs cannot sustain rapid economic progress. Supposed reasons vary with policy and ideological biases, as ostensible structural, cultural, political, behavioural or governance causes typically reflect such prejudices.

Recent narratives have proclaimed the need to 'graduate' from secondary to tertiary economic activities. Modern services growth is supposedly needed to sustain progress to become HICs.

Another popular argument has been that progressive redistribution has subverted growth. But it is now uncontroversial that progressive redistribution was crucial for sustaining growth in post-war Europe.

Discretionary state powers have undoubtedly been abused for political patronage and self-aggrandisement. Clientelism plagues many societies, undermining needed state interventions. But we should not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

History suggests the best way to overcome the 'middle income trap' would be to implement appropriate investment and technology policies. Selective policies are needed to promote growth, not only of manufacturing, but also of high-end services, as well as safe, nutritious and affordable food supplies.

But all this is not going to happen spontaneously. Reforms need to be deliberately elaborated and sequenced through various interventions as part of well-designed, coherent and sustained initiatives.

**IPS UN Bureau**



# A23a: The world's biggest iceberg on the move after 30 years

By Jonathan Amos

**T**HE world's biggest iceberg is on the move after more than 30 years being stuck to the ocean floor.

The iceberg, called A23a, split from the Antarctic coastline in 1986. But it swiftly grounded in the Weddell Sea, becoming, essentially, an ice island.

At almost 4,000 sq km (1,500 sq miles) in area, it's more than twice the size of Greater London.

The past year has seen it drifting at speed, and the berg is now about to spill beyond Antarctic waters.

A23a is a true colossus, and it's not just its width that impresses.

This slab of ice is some 400m (1,312 ft) thick. For comparison, the London Shard, the tallest skyscraper in Europe, is a mere 310m tall.

A23a was part of a mass outbreak of bergs from the White Continent's Filchner Ice Shelf.

At the time, it was hosting a Soviet research station, which just illustrates how long ago its calving occurred.

Moscow despatched an expedition to remove equipment from the Druzhnaya I base, fearing it would be lost. But the tabular berg didn't move far from the coast before its deep keel anchored it rigidly to the Weddell's bottom-



muds.

Iceberg A23a first began to stir from its long static slumber in 2020.

So, why, after almost 40 years, is A23a on the move now?

"I asked a couple of colleagues about this, wondering if there was any possible change in shelf water temperatures that might have provoked it, but the consensus is the

time had just come," said Dr Andrew Fleming, a remote sensing expert from the British Antarctic Survey.

"It was grounded since 1986 but eventually it was going to decrease (in size) sufficiently to lose grip and start moving. I spotted first movement back in 2020."

A23a has put on a spurt in recent months, driven by winds

and currents, and is now passing the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Like most icebergs from the Weddell sector, A23a will almost certainly be ejected into the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, which will throw it towards the South Atlantic on a path that has become known as "iceberg alley".

This is the same movement of water - and accompanying westerlies - that the famous explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton exploited in 1916 to make his escape from Antarctica following the loss of his ship, the Endurance, in crushing sea-ice.

Shackleton aimed his lifeboat for South Georgia, and it's at this island that you will frequently see the

big tabular bergs sitting offshore. The blocks' keels mean they have a tendency to get pinned on the British Overseas Territory's shallow continental shelf.

Eventually, all bergs, however big, are doomed to melt and wither away. Scientists will be following A23a's progress closely.

If it does ground at South Georgia, it might cause problems for the millions of seals, penguins and other seabirds that breed on the island. A23a's great bulk could disrupt the animals' normal foraging routes, preventing them from feeding their young properly.

But it would be wrong to think of icebergs as being just objects of danger - Titanic and all that. There's a growing recognition of their importance to the wider environment.

As these big bergs melt, they release the mineral dust that was incorporated into their ice when they were part of glaciers scraping along the rock bed of Antarctica. This dust is a source of nutrients for the organisms that form the base of ocean food chains.

"In many ways these icebergs are life-giving; they are the origin point for a lot of biological activity," said Dr Catherine Walker, from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, who was born in the same year as A23a. "I identify with it; it's always been there for me." **BBC**



Source: Copernicus Sentinel-3



## A23a among tracks of Antarctic icebergs



Source: Polar View



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**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



**CAPITAL RADIO**



# Over 400 adolescent girls, boys have benefited from US-funded programmes in Iringa Region

By Beatrice Philemon

A TOTAL of 439 adolescent girls and boys at Njiapanda primary school in Iringa Region have benefited from the Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) and Determined, Resilient, Empowered AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) programmes that are supported by the US government through the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Jacob Mwansasu, CBIM programme's trainer made the revelation recently when briefing journalists and USAID Mission Director who visited the school to see the impact of the programme as part of commemorating two decades of PEPFAR's impactful contribution to the global HIV/AIDS response and its commitment to HIV prevention and control.

He said the training has brought positive changes for both girls and boys at Njiapanda primary school as pupils can comfortably speak to their parents and teachers on the various challenges they face and transform the knowledge and skills they gained to their peers at school and home.

A teacher, Nicholas Ng'ingo, said that under the programme pupils were taught to have a good behaviour, collaborate with others, value and respect pupils with disabilities within and outside the school compound.

"We have seen a number of changes amongst students; school attendance



Craig Hart, USAID Mission Director Tanzania, in a group photo with pupils at Njiapanda Primary School.

has also increased from 87 percent to 96 percent," he added, noting the school has pupils with disabilities that includes those with vision impairment and autism.

"Before CBIM intervention, pupils with disabilities experienced violence from their peers, thanks to Deloitte Tanzania for introducing the USAID Kizazi Hodari Southern Zone Activity at our school, he said.

Theopista Msamba, DREAMS programme trainer said pupils are now more open to their parents and speak out once they get any challenge at school and home.

She lauded PEPFAR and USAID for their support because the number of dropouts has decreased for boys and girls, calling on USAID Kizazi Hodari Southern Activity to

scale-up the project to pupils aged nine years.

She said donating sanitary kits, trainings and introduction of sport in the school environment has attracted more pupils to attend school and keep girls in school during their menstrual period.

Sia Mongi, also a teacher at the school, said the offered training helped girls to have confidence, self-realization, understand what is violence, types of violence, where can report violence incidents, thus enabling them to achieve their life and educational dreams.

Dorothy Matoyo, USAID Kizazi Hodari Southern Activity said that DREAM and CBIM programmes were introduced to protect adolescent girls and boys in schools from

the risks they may face from violence and abuse to early pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV.

Data from the office of the Iringa Regional Medical Officer (RMO) indicates that 11 percent of HIV transmission is at 15-24 years.

Tanzania has made progress in improving the health and well-being of people living with HIV across the country, there remains a disparity in HIV outcomes among children and adolescents compared to adults. The USAID Kizazi Hodari Southern Activity aims to address the issue by providing structured services to 141,335 people living with HIV, which includes caregivers and children.

Among them, 10,248 girls and

5,708 boys aged 10-15 will receive specific prevention services DREAMS and CBIM.

Additionally, 97,502 children will receive HIV risk assessments to determine their status and receive tailored interventions using the national case management approach.

Currently, Deloitte through KHSZ Activity collaborates with Civil Society Organization (CSOs) and key stakeholders in eleven regions to strengthen linkages between health facilities and the community.

Iringa Municipal Social Welfare officer, Tiniel Mmbaga, lauded USAID and PEPFAR for supporting adolescent girls and boys, saying the programs have contributed to behavioural change as well as improved academic performance.

## East Africa expected to experience a torrent in El Nino-related malaria infections, experts warn

By Tony Malesi

THE on-going heavy El Niño rains and widespread flooding are likely to trigger an outbreak of new malaria infections across the Horn of Africa, according to experts.

With the extreme weather conditions predicted to last until early next year, authorities at key public health agencies, including the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), have cautioned the region to remain alert.

"Malaria cases are expected to spike in epidemic-prone areas in the Horn of Africa due to El Niño impacts while displacement, crowding and lack of access to vaccination are likely to increase the risk of diseases such as measles and meningitis," said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in an alert.

While acknowledging the El Niño conditions are likely to trigger an outbreak of multiple diseases, WHO has warned that malaria remains a major threat and a leading public health concern in East Africa. The region accounts for a quarter of global malaria cases, making it a critical area of focus in the fight against the deadly disease, according to WHO.

"East Africa is already facing one of the worst cholera outbreaks in years, one of the longest ever recorded in the region. Heavy rainfall and flooding, often leading to increased water contamination, will likely exacerbate and further prolong this outbreak. Flooding will also provide ideal conditions for mosquito multiplication and the emergence and/or exacerbation of malaria," read a WHO report on public health situation in the Horn of Africa.

Health experts involved with malaria control in the region, especially in countries like Kenya where the prevalence has significantly reduced but transmission rate can go as high as 30-50 per cent during the rainy season, have expressed concern.

The impending outbreak of new infections will likely wipe away the gains in malaria control, said Damaris Matoke-Muhia, the Principal Research Scientist at KEMRI.

"Any change in climatic conditions, like the ongoing rains and floods, impacts public health. The current wetter-than-normal conditions are a favourable environment for the multiplication of vectors like mosquitoes. This will definitely result in a surge in cases of vector-borne diseases like malaria, chikungunya, dengue fever, leishmaniasis and yellow fever," Matoke added.

Matoke, who is also a specialist in controlling vector-borne diseases, particularly malaria and leishmaniasis, is calling for a coordinated response to the impending threat.

"Concerned authorities should sensitise communities and individuals to cover all water containers and drain puddles of stagnant water to avoid mosquito breeding. There should also be campaigns on using malaria control tools such as nets and spraying houses with insecticides or repellents. Mechanisms for early diagnosis and treatment can also go a long way," said Matoke.

Kenya has reduced malaria prevalence by over 50 per cent in the last decade and the number of new cases has also significantly decreased, according to Matoke.

She said this is attributed to several ongoing programmes, including the regularly revised Kenya Malaria Strategy aimed at eradicating the disease burden not just in the country but across the globe by 2030.

In light of the ongoing heavy rains and widespread flooding, Kenya's Ministry of Health has developed a comprehensive contingency plan to respond to health-related emergencies or disease outbreaks effectively, with the Division of Malaria Control actively involved.

The El Niño conditions have triggered flooding in most parts of the region, including Somalia, Kenya, Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, leading to loss of lives and livelihoods and human displacement.

"By 15 November, more than 3,100,000 people were affected by the heavy rains and flooding, with at least 772,000 displaced in Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Burundi and Ethiopia. The most affected countries include Somalia (1.7 million people), Ethiopia (760,000 people), South Sudan (450,980 people), Kenya (122,075 people), and Sudan (89,200 people)," according to a report by OCHA.

An outbreak of new malaria cases in a region already grappling with outbreaks of cholera, with 55,400 cases reported as of late October, would be catastrophic, WHO noted.

Despite regional efforts to address cross-border malaria infections, such as the recent establishment of the Great Lakes Malaria Initiative (GLMI) by the East Africa Community (EAC) secretariat, specialists are calling for a ramping up of treatment and control measures. The interventions should go beyond East Africa and cover the whole of sub-Saharan Africa, said Matoke.

"We also have to be innovative and put country- or region-specific response mechanisms in place, targeting groups with special or dynamic needs such as nomads and pastoralists across Africa, lest the efforts in East Africa become meaningless in the fight against a disease that knows no borders," she added.

The uptake of malaria interventions at both community and household-levels across the Horn of Africa remains below target. Apart from insufficient interventions, various fresh threats in malaria control must be overcome. They include the emergence of new invasive mosquito species, growing resistance to some antimalarial drugs, malaria parasite mutations and reductions in funding amid increasing and competing needs.

"We are a voice to you; you have been a support to us. Together we build journalism that is independent, credible and fearless. You can further help us by making a donation. This will mean a lot for our ability to bring you news, perspectives and analysis from the ground so that we can make change together."

## Germany pledges £4 billion to Africa's green energy

By Guardian Reporter

The government of Germany has pledged to invest 4 billion euros in Africa's green energy until 2030.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz made the announcement at a press conference in Berlin after meeting African leaders and heads of international organisations including the President of the African Development Bank Group Dr Akinwumi Adesina, during the G20 Compact with Africa conference.

The Compact with Africa was initiated by Germany in 2017 during its presidency of the G20 to improve conditions for sustainable private sector investment and investment in infrastructure in Africa.

To date, 13 African countries have joined the initiative: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

Scholz said the conference with African leaders was "the starting signal for stronger, reliable cooperation between Africa and Europe to realise climate-friendly energy supply based on green hydrogen."

"Produce green hydrogen and you can rely on us as buyers," the German Chancellor told African leaders.

"Produce green hydrogen and you can rely on us as buyers," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (center) told African leaders at the Compact with Africa Conference.

Describing Africa as "the partner of our choice", Chancellor Scholz said African countries should benefit more strongly from their wealth of natural resources and explained that the first step of processing should take place locally, creating jobs and



prosperity.

During the Compact with Africa conference, African Development Bank Group President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina pushed for stronger partnerships and investment in Africa, the world's fastest-growing continent.

Chancellor Scholz said, "In light of the multiple global challenges, cooperation and joint work based on fair rules is more important than ever. The international organisations are key players when it comes to preserving and strengthening an international global rules-based order, in particular regarding the international economic and financial system. They can help us to foster smart globalisation in which all countries have a fair chance for sustainable development."

"I commend Chancellor Olaf Scholz for convening the Compact with Africa Conference," said African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina (left). Tackling climate change, Africa's infrastructure gap, and unlocking

industrial manufacturing capacities requires attracting private sector financing at scale, he added.

The African Development Bank President emphasised the importance of private sector development in Africa. Adesina said, "I commend Chancellor Olaf Scholz for convening the Compact with Africa Conference. The African Development Bank remains fully committed to the success of this initiative, especially through its focus on promoting private sector development in Africa."

The Bank President said, tackling climate change, Africa's infrastructure gap, and unlocking industrial manufacturing capacities requires attracting private sector financing at scale. To achieve this objective, he outlined several actions multilateral institutions must take.

"First, we must develop bankable projects and make them available to private investors."

"Second, private sector development strategies must be

aligned with the net-zero emission objective, with green investments prioritised."

"Third, we should mitigate global risks and pool resources to optimise investment strategies, including through a platform like the Africa Investment Forum. This is an initiative that the African Development Bank and seven partner organisations created five years ago. It brings together project promoters and private and public financiers to catalyse investments on transformative projects across Africa."

"I look forward to strengthening our strategic partnership with Germany in our drive to achieve faster economic growth and prosperity for Africa."

The G20 Compact with Africa conference held on Tuesday to discuss several issues around the theme: Strengthening multilateral cooperation and working on a rules-based, fair, international economic and financial system.

Discussions centred around the global economy, current challenges, including high







## BUSINESS

## East Africa Reinsurance licensed as a local reinsurer in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

East Africa Reinsurance Company Limited (EARE or the "Company") has expanded its operations in Tanzania opening its first subsidiary office the East Africa Reinsurance (Tanzania) Company Limited.

Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) has licensed it as a local reinsurance Company on the local market.

This significant milestone marks a strategic step in increasing the company's footprint in Africa and its commitment to offering exceptional service to clients.

The company has actively participated in the treaty and facultative programmes of leading insurers in the Tanzanian market. To date, Tanzania is the Company's second-largest market by premium.

Peter Maina, EARE chief executive officer, expressed his enthusiasm about this milestone, stating: "We are excited about this new chapter in our Company's history. Establishing our first subsidiary in Tanzania underscores our commitment to expanding our reach and strengthening our presence in the East African market," he said adding,

This development aligns with our mission of providing quality, innovative and customer-centric reinsurance solutions, excellent service and enhanced value to all stakeholders. We look forward to securing solid partnerships in Tanzania and to contributing to the country's growth and development."

The Commissioner of Insurance in Tanzania, Dr. Baghayo A. Saqware, welcomed the EARE and commended the establishment of EARE's subsidiary in Tanzania, stating,

"This expansion not only reflects the company's confidence in our market but also contributes to the growth and stability of our insurance industry. We look forward to a mutually beneficial partnership that will serve the interests of both EARE and the Tanzanian insurance sector," he said.

Tanzania stands out as one of Africa's rapidly expanding economies buoyed by favourable macroeconomic conditions. The country recorded an average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 6.3% between 2010 and 2019 and has since recovered steadily post the COVID-19 pandemic.

The forecasted GDP growth rate in 2024 is about 6.3%, presenting attractive prospects for EARE Tanzania.

EARE Tanzania will serve as a platform for the Company to leverage its extensive experience in reinsurance, risk management, and financial protection. This will enable the Company to provide tailored solutions that address the unique needs of the local market.

EARE's unwavering dedication to excellence, financial stability, and customer satisfaction will remain at the forefront.



**This development aligns with our mission of providing quality, innovative and customer-centric reinsurance solutions, excellent service and enhanced value to all stakeholders. We look forward to securing solid partnerships in Tanzania and to contributing to the country's growth and development."**

East Africa Reinsurance Company Limited (EARE) is a leading regional reinsurer headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. We offer both short-term and long-term reinsurance solutions across the property, casualty, group and individual life lines of business to over 200 cedants, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Company was incorporated in 1993 through a joint initiative of the insurance industry in Kenya and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. The Company commenced operations in January 1995.

We seek to add value to our clients' businesses by being a responsive partner, agile in decision making, and flexible in approach. We pride ourselves on exceptional service and a solid partnership premised on our committed, talented, and productive workforce.

EARE has a solid and stable financial profile, as evidenced by its balance sheet strength. Independent rating agencies assess our balance sheet to be very strong.



NMB Bank Tegeta Branch Manager, Peter Msaki (c), pressing computer button to search for the winners of the third draw of the NMB MastaBata Halipoi Campaign, which took place at the branch in Dar es Salaam city. Right is Sophia Mwamwitwa, Manager of NMB Card Center, and left is an official from the Gaming Board of Tanzania (GBT), Pendo Mfuru. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 100 customers win 10m/- in the 3rd draw of NMB's 'MastaBata Halipoi' campaign

By Guardian Reporter

**A**lmost 100 customers have won 10m/- in the 3rd draw of 'NMB MastaBata Halipoi' campaign

The third draw of the Fifth Season of the cashless transaction promotion campaign, known as 'NMB MastaBata Halipoi' conducted by NMB Bank, took place in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, November 23. In this draw, 100 winners were awarded a total of 10m/- (equivalent to 100,000/- each).

Launched on October 27 this year, MastaBata Halipoi is dedicated to NMB customers who use their Mastercard for payment at Point of Sale (POS) terminals, make use of the bank's MasterCard QR codes, and engage in e-commerce transactions. With the addition of these 100 winners, the total number of beneficiar-

ies has now reached 300, receiving a total of 30m/-.

The third draw event was held at NMB Tegeta Branch, where Peter Msaki, the branch manager, urged customers to maintain the habit of using card transactions in order to increase their chances of participating and winning prizes worth over 350m/-, which will be awarded to 1,492 winners.

"We are here to identify and announce the 100 winners of the third week of this campaign, each of whom will receive 100,000/- We have already awarded prizes to 200 winners in the first two weeks of the campaign, which will conclude three months after its launch on October 27," said Msaki.

"For the duration of these three months, we will give out a total of 120m/- to 1,200 customers - 100 winners each week. Additionally, 240

immediate winners, that is, 20 winners each week, will receive 1m/-, while 10 monthly draw winners (five customers each month) will enjoy an all-expenses-paid trip to Kendwa Rocks Zanzibar and receive pocket money of 200,000/- each."

"Moreover, MastaBata Halipoi will reward 30 winners (15 winners each month) with a total of 15m/-, which equals 500,000/- each. The grand finale at the end of the third month will witness 12 customers and their partners embarking on an all-inclusive five-day trip to South Africa, sponsored by NMB," Msaki added.

The branch manager encouraged customers to continue making their purchases through card transactions, as it is easy, cost-effective, and more secure, in order to win various prizes designated for this season, which coincides with the Christmas holiday (December 25), Boxing Day

(December 26), and the New Year on January 1, 2024.

The draw was conducted under the supervision of Pendo Mfuru from the Gaming Board of Tanzania (GBT), who assured NMB customers that the board, which has the legal authority to regulate and oversee gambling activities in the country, is satisfied with the bank's legal procedures in awarding winners.

"I am here on behalf of GBT, the board responsible for the regulation of these gaming activities. I congratulate NMB for adhering to the criteria and conditions in conducting their draws, and I assure their customers that there have been no violations of rules and regulations. Therefore, they can freely participate, and every lucky individual will receive their prize without any concerns," emphasized Pendo.

## Why Kenya's stock market has suffered sharp losses globally

NAIROBI

Stock market recently suffered steep losses, making it the worst performing globally. The weak performance has persisted: the Nairobi Securities Exchange 20-share index stood at about 1420 on 10 November 2023, having fallen from 1509 on 29 September 2023, a drop of 6% over the six-week period. In better days, the index has risen above the psychological 5000 mark: for example, it was 5491 on 23 February 2015.

The stock market matters for the Kenyan public for several reasons. First, up to 70 percent of the retirement savings of Kenyans may be invested in the stock market. So the market's weakness might inhibit retirement funds from meeting their pension obligations. Second, many Kenyan companies use the stock market to raise capital and weak market performance discourages them from doing so.

Given these benefits, it is important to understand reasons for stock market value fluctuations. Here, I discuss some possible reasons for the market's dismal performance and suggest possible ways to reverse the trend.

Stock prices move in response to new information that conveys signals about the risks faced by investors. The new information may be something that an investor has uncovered, or that is known by company insiders (although trading on that knowledge is usually illegal), or that is announced publicly by New information may be about something unique to the company,

or something that affects the entire market. New information about a company often affects the company's price without affecting the market index. However, in small markets such as Kenya's, where the market index may reflect the presence of a few large companies (such as Safaricom and KCB), changes in the price of one firm's stock may cause a noticeable change on the index value.

An important risk factor that affects the entire market is sovereign (country) risk. Sovereign risk may be responsible for the persistent selling off of shares by international investors at the Nairobi bourse in recent months.

When there are more investors selling shares than those willing to buy, share prices, and the market index, fall. This is because sellers must lower their prices to appeal to the few buyers. In 2022, Kenya's international investors sold about US\$158 million (KES 24 billion) worth of shares, slightly lower than the US\$191 million recorded during 2020.

The sell-off may indicate deep-seated political issues affecting Kenya's economy. These include fears of possible instability post-2022 presidential elections. The country has previously experienced election related violence.

The sell-off may also speak to economic factors. For instance, when US interest rates increase, as they have, international investors tend to pull their money out of developing markets and invest it in US debt markets, a phenomenon called flight to quality.



Nairobi Securities Exchange CEO Geoffrey Odundo

Indeed, anecdotal evidence suggests that emerging stock markets slumped to their lowest between March and September 2023 driven by expectations that US interest rates would remain high.

Third, the stock market jitters may be explained by the weakening Kenyan shilling. For international investors,

investing in a Kenyan stock means taking a risk on both the stock and the value of the Kenyan shilling. If the shilling falls in value relative to the investor's domestic currency (like the US dollar), it may wipe out all the gains on the stock and cause the investor to lose money.

The Kenya shilling lost 21% of its value between 13 September 2022 and 10

November 2023. This has been largely attributed to capital flight and reduced inflow of foreign currency due to the low value of exports.

Then there's Kenya's burgeoning public debt. It's the chicken-and-egg story: a falling shilling increases the burden of debt owed to outside lenders. And the rising cost of servicing debt in a foreign currency increases the supply of the shilling in the currency markets, weakening it further.

In an attempt to stem the slide in the shilling's value, keep domestic inflation in check, and respond to rising US interest rates, Central Bank of Kenya, like its counterparts globally, has chosen to restrict money supply.

Consequently, the central bank rate, a policy interest rate that guides domestic loan pricing, has increased from 7% in March 2022 to 10.5% in November 2023. When interest rates rise, returns (yields) on debt assets like bonds also rise, making them more attractive than stocks. This induces investors to move their money from stocks to bonds, causing a decline in stock prices.

An important recent development is the enactment of Kenya's Finance Act in June 2023. The Act imposes new taxes and tax increases. The World Bank has warned that higher taxation may discourage investment and increase unemployment.

So there's an expectation of weaker economic performance and, concomitantly, weaker company performance (due, for example, to lower product demand). The expectation of

weaker company performance causes investors to anticipate lower future cash flows (like dividends), which is reflected in lower company valuations today.

Expectations about public debt also matter for companies. Kenya is expected to borrow more, which will increase interest rates on government debt, making it more lucrative for banks to lend to the government than to the private sector. Reduced private sector lending discourages private investments and lowers company valuations.

There is no quick fix to a stock market collapse. Although stock market performance may be driven by sentiment in the short run, it is more beneficial to think long-term.

There's a close relationship between the broader economy and the stock market. So, as a finance scholar, I offer only one recommendation: diversify and grow the economy.

There is clear evidence of the long-term economic growth benefits of investing in human capital, boosting a country's entrepreneurial orientation and investing in infrastructure. To grow the economy, therefore, the government's policymakers should draw from such evidence.

Importantly, the need to strengthen the country's institutions has never been stronger. This will have the effect of improving governance and accountability as well as investor confidence. With such actions, the stock market needs no intervention.



# Equity CEO James Mwangi: Why our DRC unit will soon overtake Kenya

KINSHASA

Equity Group on Monday released its financial results for the nine months ended September, showing that its net profit had grown by 3.7 percent to Sh34.6 billion despite the earnings in Kenya dipping by a fifth.

The 3.7 percent growth is a softer pace compared with a similar period in 2022 when the net earnings grew by 26.62 percent. James Mwangi, the CEO, put the earnings into perspective in his address to investors, analysts and the press.

On the macro-economic turbulence and if the economy has seen the worst of inflation and interest rates yet

Our feeling is that global inflation has peaked and we don't expect it to be back to where it has been. We have seen it reach 5.6 percent in the US and is down to 2.9 percent, which is still far above the targeted rate.

We expect interest rates to start slowing but it will take time because there are no indications yet that the Federal Reserve will start cutting rates. It could happen mid next year or beyond.

On what Equity is noticing about its customers in light of the tough economic conditions

At the household level, we are still struggling with inflation and price of commodities, particularly food and energy, and this has caused a significant strain on consumers.

The macroeconomic environment has challenged a couple of borrowers and we have seen our non-performing loans (NPLs) ratio go up by 200 basis points, but this is the secured loan book.

The group has borrowed a lot from how it managed the global health pandemic to navigate through the very strong macroeconomic headwinds that have come with high inflation, high interest rates and the devaluation of currencies in emerging markets.

We used our balance sheet to han-



Equity Group CEO James Mwangi.

dle Covid-19 shocks but this time, we never know how long inflation, depreciation of the shilling and the new tax regime, especially those introduced in the Finance Act 2023, will be with us.

About interventions to avert mass loan defaults in the wake of elevated interest rates

While profit is good, it should never be at the expense of livelihoods or preserving small businesses. We have chosen to use the profit and loss (P&L) statement to support the customer by ensuring that we don't pass the full impact of price of high interest rates, inflation and depreciation of the Kenya currency to the customers.

So, interest expense is growing much faster than the interest income. The operating expenses are also growing much faster than the net interest income, showing the use of P&L to cushion customers.

We are maintaining customers at an average of 16.5 percent when the sovereign risk on bonds over a similar period is at 18 percent. It is a deliberate decision. We did not want to deal with mass defaults.

On the growing influence of subsidiaries in determining Equity Group performance

We see the impact of geographical expansion and we see how significant BCDC [DRC Congo subsidiary] has become. If you look at it relative to other subsidiaries and Kenya, DRC is 60 percent of Kenya [in terms of asset base].

When you look at the performance in terms of assets, again DRC stands tall compared to Kenya. When we look at performance in terms of profit, we see DRC now filling the gap. We also see Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda following that trend significantly.

On profit after tax, again, we see significant growth. We see the rivalry

between Kenya at Sh22.7 billion and Sh15.67 billion in DRC.

For those who remember, we have in the past gone through the question of why diversify capital from Kenya to markets with uncertainty.

On the potential of DRC unit overtaking Equity Bank Kenya and what that will mean for the group

As DRC becomes more efficient, it will hopefully this year beat Kenya in terms of return on equity and return on assets. So, essentially, what we had as the beautiful story in Kenya has been amplified by DRC.

All these subsidiaries were funded by Kenya and now the subsidiaries the Kenya business was funding are outperforming it.

If we thought the group is getting to maturity because Kenya is now close to maturity, the entire group has become a start-up all over again because of the momentum of DRC, Uganda,

Rwanda and the newfound energy that Tanzania is bringing on the table.

About the increasing loan defaults at Equity Group and the mitigating strategies

We have seen our NPLs jump to 12.2 percent [from nine percent]. We believe we have peaked. We are seeing all the signals of it now starting to climb down.

We see 86.4 percent of our NPLs has been provided for and 62 percent has been covered through provisions and we also have a credit guarantee component of 19 percent or Sh21.4 billion to mitigate the small loans that might not perform.

Absorbing the difference between the interest expense and interest income and taking up the cost of inflation through other operating expenses and staff costs has seen a significant growth in our cost-to-income ratio from 47 percent to 50 percent.

The cost of funds have moved from 2.5 percent to four percent but the yields have remained broadly constant because we didn't pass all these to the customer. Equity is a bank with a human face and soul. It is not all about profits. You can choose customers over profitability.

On taking another big bet on insurance sector

The insurance business seems to be taking ground and we want to prompt investors to this evolving story.

Our first 12 months have proved to be very important and we have benefited a lot from the trust that the Equity brand has enjoyed over the years.

Outlook for the remainder of the year

Outlook for the remainder of the year

The balance sheet is very solid and we have not changed our outlook in regards to how the future looks like in terms of growth. It is not the entire region that is being affected. What we may be losing in Kenya, that is being compensated by other subsidiaries.

## Telecom Egypt, ICANN activate Africa's second managed server

CAIRO

Telecom Egypt and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) inked an agreement and activated the second ICANN Managed Root Server (IMRS) installation in Africa, hosted in Cairo, Egypt, yesterday.

The new IMRS installation is housed in Telecom Egypt's Regional Data Hub (RDH), the company's largest international, Tier III data centre.

An IMRS cluster is a large installation of multiple servers that have a large service or processing capacity. They are usually commissioned with very high bandwidth to deal with heavy traffic or spikes in traffic.

In a statement Telecom Egypt said RDH is located within the Smart Village Business District in west Cairo and is connected to a fully meshed network that provides access to 14 submarine cables, with this number expected to expand to 18 by 2025.

According to Telecom Egypt, hosting the new IMRS installation in Cairo will benefit Egypt by increasing Internet user experience and lowering the danger of being taken offline as a result of a cyberattack.

"The installation of the IMRS in Egypt, in addition to the one in Kenya, will add critical capacity to support growth in Internet use across the African continent," it stated. "This, in turn, is projected to drive economic growth and generate opportunities for Africa's potential Internet users.

"Furthermore, with two separate IMRS cluster locations on the continent, as well as higher bandwidth and data processing capacity, the risk of the Internet going down because of a cyberattack will be significantly reduced."

Mohamed Nasr, managing director and CEO of Telecom Egypt, stated, "The new IMRS installation will ensure that Internet queries from Africa can be answered within the region, rather than relying on networks and servers in other parts of the world.

"The cluster will improve the user experience in Egypt and across the region by reducing latency and the time it takes for a page to load, particularly during high Internet traffic hours. This would provide immediate benefits to Internet users not only in Egypt, but throughout the African continent. The new IMRS installation will help mitigate the impact of a future cyberattack on the continent, as well as distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) cyberattacks.

Sally Costerton, interim president and CEO of ICANN, remarked, "The IMRS deployment in Cairo represents a significant advancement in upgrading Africa's technical infrastructure. Egypt's strategic role as a digital influencer in the area is critical.

"With this second IMRS installation in Africa, our commitment to the Coalition for Digital Africa project in Africa's digital transformation remains unwavering. This achievement enhances Internet infrastructure not only in Egypt, but throughout the region.

"Prior to the deployment of IMRS in Africa, the majority of African Root Zone DNS queries were handled by IMRS instances located outside the continent. Following the introduction of two IMRS installations, the distribution has shifted, with the majority of requests being serviced within Africa."

# Absa profit jumps 15 percent on lending

NAIROBI

Absa Bank Kenya reported a 14.8 percent growth in net profit in the nine months to September, driven by a growth in interest income from loans.

The lender's earnings in the period under review stood at Sh12.3 billion from Sh10.7 billion a year earlier.

Absa's total interest income rose 33.4 percent to Sh39.1 billion from Sh29.3 billion, largely due to income from loans and advances to customers.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed lender's loan book grew to Sh330.9 billion from Sh289.4 billion.

Lenders are benefiting from rising interest rates, a move that has seen them set higher base lending rates compared to last year. "The bank reported a 14.8 percent year-on-year growth in profit after tax to Sh12.3 billion, improving our return on equity to 25.2 percent," said Absa in a statement.

The lender's non-interest income grew marginally to Sh10.8 billion from Sh10.1 billion, contributing to the profit jump. Total operating income

increased 20 percent to Sh40.1 billion from Sh33.4 billion.

"The bank's transformation and diversification agenda has resulted in the resilience of operations and created a diversified revenue pool," said the bank.

"New business lines such as asset management, digital finance, bancassurance and stock brokerage delivered double-digit growth, positively contributing to the strong performance. As such, non-interest income grew by six percent year-on-year to Sh10.8 billion."

Absa's operating expenses grew 21.8 percent from Sh18.3 billion to Sh22.3 billion during the period.

This was attributed to higher loan loss provision from Sh5.03 billion to Sh6.76 billion and staff costs, which rose to Sh8.6 billion from Sh7.4 billion.

The listed lender significantly cut its holdings of government debt instruments, joining others like Standard Chartered Bank Kenya that have made similar moves in search of higher returns in lending to ordinary customers.

Absa reduced its holdings of government securities held for trading to Sh28.9 billion from Sh47.6 billion.

It also cut its portfolio of securities held to maturity from Sh92.1 billion to Sh76.6 billion.

The bank announced a Sh100 billion financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

"We have reaffirmed our commitment to the MSMEs through a Sh100 billion funding commitment to spur the sectors' development across various value chains over the next three years...we have introduced the Wezesha Stock digital platform to avail financing for retailers and distributors as we continue to provide our SME customers access to both financial and non-financial services," said Absa in the statement.

Wezesha Stock is an app-based solution by the lender that merges e-commerce and digital financing for SME clients to order new supplies via the platform as Absa pays the respective manufacturers and suppliers directly.

Last month the bank unveiled a new unsecured working capital loan platform for small and medium enter-

prises (SMEs) as it intensifies its lending to the sub-sector.

The platform dubbed Wezesha Stock allows distributors, wholesalers and retailers in the fast-moving consumer goods segment to access short-term funding for restocking at fixed interest rates.

Wezesha Stock is an app-based solution by the lender which works by merging e-commerce and digital financing, where SME clients are able to order for new supplies via the platform while payments are made directly by Absa to the respective manufacturers and suppliers.

Absa has on-boarded key suppliers to the platform among them, Kenya Breweries Limited and Vivo. The new platform is expected to anchor the business operations of the bank's corporate clients, whom it refers to as anchor clients, by providing financial support to enterprises in their value chain including distributors, wholesalers and stockists.

"The product is based on conversations we have had with various clients and it helps address working capital requirements for our customers effi-

ciently without collateral," noted Absa Business Banking Director Elizabeth Wasuna.

The platform is expected to provide SME clients with facilities with ticket sizes of between Sh100,000 and Sh10 million with borrowers' earnings higher credit limits based on repayments made to the platform and risk profile.

Absa says it targets to on-board an initial 2000 SMEs on the platform but has no limits on the number of corporate clients and borrowers it can on-board.

Tenures on credit extended via the platform start from seven days with interest rates charged being based on the respective business risk profile-risk-based pricing- but are fixed to minimize risks posed by a fluctuating interest rate environment.

"The interest rates right now are up to about 0.5 percent at a fixed rate. The fixed rate is because, in a changing world, you don't want a situation where the costs are high and you can't price your products," added Ms Wasuna.

# Workday plans certifications, skills development in SA

CAPETOWN

Financial and human resources enterprise cloud firm Workday intends to invest in certification and talent development programmes, notably in South Africa.

Workday co-president Doug Robinson disclosed the company's objectives for the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) in an interview with ITWeb Africa last week, on the sidelines of the company's annual conference, Workday Rising EMEA, in Barcelona.

Robinson discussed the necessity of

investing in Workday certifications and creating fresh talent in the EMEA region, as well as delivering non-affiliated Workday training for universities.

He said that plans for this are already in the works as the firm pursues its expansion strategy for growth regions, such as South Africa.

The focus in South Africa, he said, is on education and resource development, as well as helping existing customers and onboarding new ones.

"The strategy for the EMEA region is to invest in Workday certifications, skills, and resources," he said. "Work-

day is experimenting with non-affiliated Workday training in universities to broaden the community's skill set."

For Africa, Robinson said: "The most important thing we can do is continue to invest in Workday certifications, skills, and resources within the region. This is essential, especially for certain (segments) of our South African customers.

"We're doing something called non-affiliated Workday training. Traditionally, our training has always been for customers, existing customers, so you have to buy from us first to get training,

or you have to be a certified partner to get training on Workday. We're now partnering with universities, and we're doing experimentation with this in Japan and the US, where we're providing the curriculum. So, university students coming out will have basic Workday skills certification so they can go into the workforce."

Robinson added: "For Workday to be successful, particularly in the South African market, we'll have to do more of that type of investing. There has to be more of a community. Right now, it's still small, but it's growing. And so this

is probably the number one thing we could do to help grow internationally in these important markets and emerging markets, for us is increase the skill set in the community."

In addition, a Workday official stated that the most pressing goal for Workday in Africa is to onboard and train new partners, with plans to begin in February (the start of the company's financial year).

According to Robinson, the EMEA region is a substantial piece of our business and an important region for us to be present in."

He added that Workday is on a growth trajectory and has crossed a billion dollars in revenue, with EMEA being a vital element of this.

On the company's near-term ambitions for Africa, Robinson said: "We brought on a new partner to help support our existing customers there and to help us grow new customers.

"We are a direct selling and support business. That will continue to be the case in Africa, and South Africa. But we also have partners who do the deployments, so we're recruiting another partner, which we just onboarded."



# Nigeria tightens laws to tackle cyber-crime losses of \$500m

LAGOS

The Nigerian Senate has raised alarm over the country's annual loss of \$500 million due to cybercrime.

The Senate voiced concern that cyber-crime could erode the digital economy gains.

As a result, in order to prevent cybercriminals and anyone with malicious intent from exploiting Nigeria's digital space, the upper legislative house has begun reviewing and modifying the Cybercrime (Prohibition and Prevention) Act of 2015.

Godswill Akpabio, Senate president, expressed his concerns at the start of a public hearing on the Cybercrime (Prohibition and Prevention) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023, at the Senate Complex in Abuja.

According to the Nigerian Communications Commission, cyber-crime costs the country \$500 million per year, and includes hacking, identity theft, cyber terrorism, harassment, and internet fraud.

The Senate president, represented by Opeyemi Bamidele, Leader of the Senate, expressed regret that certain individuals with ill-intentions are abusing cyber-crime laws and degrading Nigeria's name.

He emphasised the importance of a comprehensive legal framework for deterring, investigating, prosecuting, and pursuing cyber criminals.

"In this day and age of rapid technological advancement and widespread internet use, cyber-crime has emerged as a serious threat to our society, economy, and personal security. It is necessary to reinforce existing laws prohibiting and preventing cyber-crime.



Individuals with ill-intentions have already abused our lax cybercrime laws, harming our country's name," Akpabio said.

"They are involved in a wide range of illegal activities, including hacking, identity theft, fraud, harassment, and cyber terrorism. These crimes not only caused our country substantial financial losses, but they also invaded our privacy, crippled essential infrastructure, and eroded trust in our digital systems," he continued.

The public hearing was initiated by Shuaib Salisu, chairman of the Senate Committee on ICT and Cyber Security, and Shehu Buba Umar, chairman of the Senate Committee on National Security and Intelligence.

Salisu underlined the national significance of revising the Cybercrime (Prohibition and Prevention) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in his opening remarks.

He stated that cyber security is a complicated and multifaceted challenge that necessitates collaboration among the government, industry, civil society, and academics.

Umar voiced great concern over the worrisome exploitation and growing prevalence of cyber security across all sectors, stating that the huge number of cybercrime cases has compelled the country to revise its laws.

Umar emphasised the importance of prioritising cyber security funding on a national scale.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission, the National Information Technology Development Agency, the Central Bank of Nigeria, and the Nigeria Police were all handicapped in carrying out their jobs, he added.

## Onix data centre connects to Angola cables network

LUANDA

The Angola Cables Global Data Centre Interconnect now includes the carrier-neutral, colocation Tier IV Onix Data Centre in Accra, Ghana.

This integration, announced by Tier IV Onix Data Centre, will improve international connectivity in Ghana and Senegal by providing access to 66 new data centres, eight OTTs/CDNs (Content Delivery Networks), and 21 IXPs (Internet exchange point).

It is stated that this is part of Onix's goal to create a dense ecosystem of partners.

"The 2,000 m2 data centre has been designed to cater to the growing demands of business in Ghana and the region," says Onix.

"The facility already serves primary banking and financial clients, and it was specifically designed to provide flexible services to the business and corporate sectors.

"Guaranteeing maximum uptime and reliability, the facility currently has 170, 3kW and 5kW racks and a pod of 50 racks available for individual clients wanting to share infrastructure and reduce costs."

According to Michael Nahon, CEO, Onix, the partnership with Angola Cables via its

West African subsidiary, TelCables, is a critical component in providing interconnected carrier and cloud-neutral services to a wide range of customers seeking to store and manage their digital assets and business-critical data.

"Our intent has been to develop a reliable facility that can accommodate and deliver secure services to hyperscalers and carriers supporting terrestrial networks as well as existing and new subsea cables planned for the region."

On the subject of green energy, Nahon says: "Currently, solar powered technology generates 67% of our energy requirements. We also have the capacity to increase this in the future as we grow."

According to Fernando Fernandes, CEO, TelCables Nigeria said West Africa, Ghana and Senegal are key and expanding economies in the Pan-African market.

"Partners like Onix are playing a vital role in developing the infrastructure necessary to expand digital services and provide the platform for ISPs, CDNs and other enterprises contributing to the explosive growth in data traffic, cloud services and content distribution across the African continent."

## Nissan accelerates UK electric car production

LAGOS

Japanese auto giant Nissan announced Friday it would invest up to £2 billion in UK electric car manufacturing, which the government touted as a sign of confidence in the sector.

Nissan said it will produce electric models of two best-selling cars, Juke and Qashqai, at its facility in Sunderland, north-east England, which is its biggest factory in Europe, building on UK net zero plans to switch away from dirty fossil-fuel vehicles.

The carmaker will plough £1.2 billion (\$1.4 billion) into its UK operations and wider supply chain for research and development and manufacturing of the two new models, it added in a statement.

That will also spark further investment in infrastructure projects and the supply chain, including another electric car battery factory, bringing total investment to as much as £2 billion (\$2.5 billion).

Nissan's investment will support its UK workforce of 7,000 employees – and 30,000 jobs in the nation's broader supply chain.

"Exciting, electric vehicles are at the heart of our plans to achieve carbon neutrality," said Nissan President and CEO Makoto Uchida.

"With electric versions of our core European models on the way, we are accelerating towards a new era for Nissan, for industry and for our customers."

Uchida declared in September that there was "no going back" on the group's electrification plans as it aims for 98 percent of European sales to be electric vehicles by 2027.

The news comes as Britain looks to take a leading role in the production of electric cars as companies and governments shift

away from high-polluting automobiles.

The UK government confirmed Friday that it has awarded £15 million of funding towards a collaborative R&D project for zero-emission vehicles led by Nissan.

"Nissan's investment is a massive vote of confidence in the UK's automotive industry, which already contributes a massive £71 billion a year to our economy," said British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who will attend a formal announcement at the site later on Friday.

"This venture will no doubt secure Sunderland's future as the UK's Silicon Valley for electric vehicle innovation and manufacturing.

"Making the UK the best place to do business is at the heart of our economic plan."

Finance minister Jeremy Hunt pledged Wednesday in his budget update to invest £4.5 billion in strategic sectors including the auto industry.

However, earlier this year Sunak softened policies aimed at reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050, delaying a ban on the sale of petrol and diesel cars by five years to 2035.

That still means however that the country's largely foreign-owned car manufacturing sector must switch to producing fully-electric vehicles.

Nissan had previously warned that a no-deal Brexit would threaten the Sunderland site, but committed to its future after the government agreed a trade deal.

Yet the nation's car industry has warned that automakers will soon face a damaging 10-percent hike in customs duties on electric cars crossing the Channel.

Britain left the European Union in 2021 after clinching a last-gasp free trade agreement which removed tariffs on cars.



| SATURDAY 18 Nov |                              | SUNDAY 19 Nov |                                      | MONDAY 20 Nov |                   |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 5:30            | Uwanja wa Mazoezi            | 5:30          | Uwanja wa Mazoezi                    | 5:00          | Soap rpt: Uzalo   |
| 6:00            | HABARI                       | 6:00          | HABARI                               | 5:30          | Uwanja wa Mazoezi |
| 6:40            | Kumekucha                    | 6:40          | Kumekucha                            | 6:00          | HABARI            |
| 7:00            | Habari                       | 7:00          | Habari                               | 6:40          | Kumekucha         |
| 8:00            | Al Jazeera                   | 8:00          | Al Jazeera                           | 7:00          | HABARI            |
| 9:00            | Watoto wetu                  | 9:00          | Watoto Wetu                          | 8:00          | Kumekucha Michezo |
| 10:05           | Shika Bamba 5                | 10:00         | Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt         | 8:55          | Habari za saa     |
| 10:35           | Mjue Zaidi rpt               | 11:45         | Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt             | 9:30          | Soap: Uzalo rpt   |
| 11:15           | Chetu ni chetu rpt           | 12:45         | Mjue zaidi                           | 23:15         | Al Jazeera        |
| 11:50           | Hawavumi lakini wamo         | 13:30         | Utsafiri wako                        |               |                   |
| 12:50           | Art and lifestyle            | 14:00         | Tamasha la Michezo                   |               |                   |
| 13:20           | Shamba lulu                  | 15:30         | Mwangaza                             |               |                   |
| 13:50           | Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 16:30         | ITV Top 10 rpt                       |               |                   |
| 15:45           | Igizo: Mizengwe              | 17:20         | Kipindi cha kikiristo                |               |                   |
| 16:10           | Igizo: Slay Queen            | 18:00         | Jiji Letu                            |               |                   |
| 17:00           | Shamsham za Pwani            | 18:15         | Mapishi                              |               |                   |
| 18:00           | Jiji Letu                    | 18:30         | Matukio ya wiki                      |               |                   |
| 18:15           | ITV Top 10 rpt               | 19:30         | Igizo: Slay Queen                    |               |                   |
| 19:00           | Jungu kuu                    | 21:05         | Kipindi maalum: Biko                 |               |                   |
| 19:30           | Shika Bamba                  | 21:10         | Igizo: Mizengwe                      |               |                   |
| 20:00           | Habari                       | 21:35         | Kipindi maalum: Michezo Supa Jackpot |               |                   |
| 21:05           | Igizo: Slay Queen            | 21:45         | Mjue Zaidi                           |               |                   |
| 21:40           | Art and Lifestyle            | 22:30         | Soap: Uzalo rpt                      |               |                   |
| 22:10           | ITV Top 10                   | 23:15         | Al Jazeera                           |               |                   |
| 22:50           | Hawavumi lakini wamo         |               |                                      |               |                   |
| 23:40           | Soap: Uzalo rpt              |               |                                      |               |                   |
| 00:30           | Al Jazeera                   |               |                                      |               |                   |

| TUESDAY 21 Nov |                                  | WEDNESDAY 22 Nov |                                  | THURSDAY 23 Nov |                              |
|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 5:00           | Soap rpt: Uzalo                  | 5:00             | Soap rpt: Uzalo                  | 5:00            | Soap rpt: Uzalo              |
| 5:30           | Uwanja wa Mazoezi                | 5:30             | Uwanja wa Mazoezi                | 5:30            | Uwanja wa Mazoezi            |
| 6:00           | HABARI                           | 6:00             | HABARI                           | 6:00            | HABARI                       |
| 6:40           | Kumekucha                        | 6:40             | Kumekucha                        | 6:40            | Kumekucha                    |
| 7:30           | HABARI                           | 7:30             | HABARI                           | 7:30            | HABARI                       |
| 8:00           | Kumekucha Michezo                | 8:00             | Kumekucha Michezo                | 8:00            | Kumekucha Michezo            |
| 8:55           | Habari za saa                    | 8:55             | Habari za saa                    | 8:55            | Habari za saa                |
| 9:00           | Kumekucha Kishindo               | 9:00             | Kumekucha Kishindo               | 9:00            | Kumekucha Kishindo           |
| 9:30           | Soap: In Love with Ramon         | 9:30             | Soap: In Love with Ramon         | 9:30            | Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon |
| 9:55           | Habari za saa                    | 9:55             | Habari za saa                    | 9:55            | Habari za saa                |
| 10:00          | Watoto wetu                      | 10:00            | Watoto wetu                      | 10:00           | Watoto wetu                  |
| 10:25          | Jagina                           | 10:25            | Jagina                           | 10:30           | Shamba lulu                  |
| 10:55          | Habari za saa                    | 11:00            | Chetu ni chetu                   | 10:55           | Habari za saa                |
| 11:40          | Igizo: Mizengwe                  | 11:40            | Igizo: Mizengwe                  | 11:00           | Ripoti maalum rpt            |
| 11:55          | Habari za saa                    | 11:55            | Habari za saa                    | 11:55           | Habari za saa                |
| 12:00          | Al Jazeera                       | 12:00            | Al Jazeera                       | 12:00           | Al Jazeera                   |
| 12:30          | Shamsham za Pwani rpt            | 12:30            | Shamsham za Pwani rpt            | 12:30           | Shamsham za Pwani rpt        |
| 13:00          | Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama | 13:00            | Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama | 13:00           | Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT      |
| 13:30          | Soap: In Love with Ramon         | 13:30            | Soap: In Love with Ramon         | 13:30           | Art and Lifestyle            |
| 14:00          | Habari                           | 14:00            | Habari                           | 13:55           | Habari za saa                |
| 14:30          | Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba | 14:30            | Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba | 14:00           | Shamsham za Pwani rpt        |
| 15:00          | Chetu ni chetu                   | 15:00            | Chetu ni chetu                   | 14:55           | Habari za saa                |
| 15:35          | Habari za saa                    | 15:35            | Habari za saa                    | 15:00           | Meza huru                    |
| 16:00          | Meza Huru                        | 16:00            | Meza Huru                        | 16:30           | Watoto wetu                  |
| 16:30          | Watoto wetu                      | 16:30            | Watoto wetu                      |                 |                              |
| 17:00          | Music: The Base                  | 17:00            | Music: The Base                  |                 |                              |
| 18:00          | Jiji Letu                        | 18:00            | Jiji Letu                        |                 |                              |
| 18:15          | Igizo: Mizengwe                  | 18:15            | Igizo: Mizengwe                  |                 |                              |
| 18:30          | Jarida la wanawake               | 18:30            | Jarida la wanawake               |                 |                              |
| 19:00          | Kipindi maalum: BOT              | 19:00            | Kipindi maalum: BOT              |                 |                              |
| 19:30          | Soap: In Love with Ramon         | 19:30            | Soap: In Love with Ramon         |                 |                              |
| 20:00          | Habari                           | 20:00            | Habari                           |                 |                              |
| 21:05          | Aibu Yako                        | 21:05            | Aibu Yako                        |                 |                              |
| 21:35          | Ripoti maalum: Tanesco           | 21:35            | Ripoti maalum: Tanesco           |                 |                              |
| 22:30          | Soap: Uzalo                      | 22:30            | Soap: Uzalo                      |                 |                              |
| 23:00          | Habari                           | 23:00            | Habari                           |                 |                              |
| 23:30          | Music: The Base                  | 23:30            | Music: The Base                  |                 |                              |
| 00:30          | Al Jazeera                       | 00:30            | Al Jazeera                       |                 |                              |

| FRIDAY 24 Nov |                                       | SAT 25 Nov |                                       | SUN 26 Nov |                    |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 5:00          | Soap rpt: Uzalo                       | 08:00      | Al Jazeera                            | 08:00      | Al Jazeera         |
| 5:30          | Uwanja wa Mazoezi                     | 09:00      | Rev rpt                               | 09:00      | In good shape      |
| 6:00          | HABARI                                | 09:30      | Jagina rpt                            | 10:00      | Capchat rpt        |
| 6:40          | Kumekucha                             | 10:00      | Culinary delight rpt                  | 11:00      | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 7:30          | HABARI                                | 10:30      | Innovation rpt                        | 12:00      | Ripoti Maalum      |
| 8:00          | Kumekucha Michezo                     | 11:00      | Our Earth rpt                         | 20:30      | Tomorrow Today     |
| 8:55          | Habari za saa                         | 11:30      | Sports Gazette rpt                    | 21:00      | Out n' About       |
| 9:00          | Kumekucha Kishindo                    | 12:00      | Shamba Lulu rpt                       | 21:30      | Capchat Rpt        |
| 9:30          | Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon          | 13:00      | Business edition rpt                  | 23:00      | Al Jazeera         |
| 9:55          | Habari za saa                         | 13:30      | Al Jazeera                            | 01:00      | Al Jazeera         |
| 10:00         | Watoto wetu                           | 14:30      | Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana |            |                    |
| 10:30         | Utsafiri wako                         | 17:15      | Eco@Africa                            |            |                    |
| 10:55         | Habari za saa                         | 17:45      | Bundesliga kick off                   |            |                    |
| 11:00         | Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi housing | 18:15      | Capchat rpt                           |            |                    |
| 11:20         | Jagina                                | 19:15      | Mizengwe                              |            |                    |
| 11:55         | Habari za saa                         | 19:30      | The Decor                             |            |                    |
| 12:00         | Al Jazeera                            | 20:00      | Ripoti Maalum                         |            |                    |
| 12:30         | Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco           | 20:30      | Tomorrow Today                        |            |                    |
| 12:55         | Habari za saa                         | 21:00      | Out n' About                          |            |                    |
| 13:00         | Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt  | 21:30      | Capchat Rpt                           |            |                    |
| 13:30         | Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama      | 23:00      | Al Jazeera                            |            |                    |
| 13:55         | Habari za saa                         |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 14:00         | Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama      |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 14:30         | DW: Afrimax rpt                       |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 14:55         | Habari za saa                         |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 15:00         | Meza huru                             |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 16:30         | Watoto Wetu                           |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 17:00         | The Base (DJ Show)                    |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 17:30         | Kiliani                               |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 18:00         | Jiji Letu                             |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 18:15         | Our Earth                             |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 18:45         | Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet              |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 19:00         | Shamba lulu                           |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 19:30         | Soap: In Love with Ramon              |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 20:00         | Habari                                |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 21:05         | Kipima Joto                           |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 23:00         | Habari                                |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 23:30         | The Base                              |            |                                       |            |                    |
| 00:30         | Al Jazeera                            |            |                                       |            |                    |



## WORLD

## UN chief wants return of two-state solution after Gaza crisis

TEHRAN/AMMAN/MOSCOW/UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres foresees that a strengthened Palestinian Authority would assume responsibilities in Gaza after the current crisis and international players would work toward a two-state solution.

Asked about his vision "for the day after" in Gaza, Guterres said it is important to be able to transform this tragedy into an opportunity for a long-term settlement.

"And for that to be possible, it is essential that after the war we move in a determined and irreversible way to a two-state solution," he said.

"I believe it will be important to have a strengthened Palestinian Authority assuming responsibilities in Gaza. I understand that the international community needs to move into a transition period," he said. "I do not think that a UN protectorate in Gaza is a solution. I think we need a multi-stakeholder approach in which different countries, different entities, will cooperate."

For Israel, the United States is the main guarantor of its security. For Palestinians, the neighboring and Arab countries of the region are essential. So everybody needs to come together to make the conditions for a transition, allowing for a strengthened Palestinian Authority to assume responsibilities in

Gaza and then, based on that, to finally move in a determined and irreversible way to a two-state solution based on the principles that have been largely established by the international community, said Guterres.

He emphasized that for the short term, there must be a humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza.

"To have an after, we must have a before. And the before obviously conditions the after. And that is why I have been insisting on the need for a humanitarian cease-fire, on unrestricted access for humanitarian aid, on the liberation of hostages and on the need to end the violations of international humanitarian law and the (need for) protection of civilians," he said.

Separately, Iranian and Qatari foreign ministers called on the international community to take immediate measures to pressure Israel into stopping its "flagrant violations of international law" in Gaza.

The appeal was made in a phone call between Iran's Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and Qatar's Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, in which they discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the ongoing Israeli attacks on the coastal enclave, according to a statement released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Monday.

The two ministers held Israel accountable for "the present situation



in the occupied territories," calling for efforts by Muslim and Arab states to immediately send aid to the "defenseless" Palestinians.

The two sides also exchanged views on the latest political initiatives aimed at stopping the Israeli "war crimes" against Gaza.

Meanwhile, King Abdullah II of Jordan on Monday discussed the situation in Gaza with the EU foreign policy chief, with both sides stressing protecting civilians and adopting the two-state solution.

At a meeting in the Jordanian capital Amman with Josep Borrell, high representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the king urged intensive efforts to stop the conflict in Gaza, end the siege, and ensure the delivery of food, medicine, water, and fuel to the Strip, according to a statement by Jordan's Royal Hashemite Court.

The Jordanian leader also warned of the disastrous repercussions of the ongoing conflict, whose victims are innocent civilians.

He also warned of the continued escalations and settler violence against the Palestinians in the West Bank, reiterating that the only way to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is the two-state solution.

Borrell, for his part, also stressed the need to protect civilians in the Gaza Strip, and applauded Jordan's crucial role in working towards creating a political horizon for the Palestinian issue, the statement said.

Also on Monday, Russia has delivered another 27 tons of humanitarian aid to civilians in the Gaza Strip, the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations said in a statement.

It said that an Il-76 plane carrying the aid had already arrived at the airport in El-Arish, which is the nearest Egyptian airport to the Gaza Strip.

The humanitarian aid, including generators, clothes, bandage materials, and food, will further be handed over to representatives from the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, who will deliver it to the Gaza Strip.

The Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations said Saturday that it had delivered a total of 190 tons of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza.

Israel has been carrying out attacks on Gaza over the past weeks in retaliation for the Hamas attacks on southern Israel on Oct 7. The conflict has so far led to the deaths of over 13,000 Palestinians in Gaza, while on the Israeli side, about 1,200 people have lost their lives, the majority of whom were killed in the Hamas attacks.

## COP28 Presidency urges visitors to use Dubai Metro for faster, greener trips

DUBAI

THE COP28 Presidency strongly encourages all attendees to use the Dubai Metro throughout the two-week conference, running from November 30 - December 12, for faster and more sustainable travel.

The Dubai Metro's Red Line conveniently connects Dubai International Airport, major hotels, and prominent tourist attractions in the city, extending from the heart of Dubai to the Expo City Dubai entrance, where COP28 will welcome the world.

Dubai Metro's operational hours are from 05:00 until 01:00 the next day. The first train arrives at Expo Metro Station at 05:19 every day. The last train from Expo Metro Station departs at 00:00 every day. Plan your journey: <https://www.rta.ae/wps/portal/rta/ae/public-transport/timetable#DubaiMetro>

Metro stations are equipped with tactile paving for the visually impaired. Wheelchair accessibility is facilitated through step-free routes or lifts at all stations, while dedicated seating and wheelchair spaces are available on all carriages for passengers requiring assistance.

For the first three days of COP28, certain roads near Expo City Dubai will be closed due to heightened security protocols. Visitors may also experience last-minute changes or closures during the event, which is why everyone is encouraged to use the Dubai Metro.

For those unable to take public transport, parking is available for delegates and guest of both the Blue and Green Zone. Standard parking shuttles will operate from all car parks ensuring a short walk from your vehicle to the gate. Shuttles will operate on a high-frequency basis while the parking zones are open.

More information about travel for the Blue and Green Zones can be found below:

## -Blue Zone

Blue Zone delegates will have direct access from the metro station to the Blue Zone.

Blue Zone delegates living in Dubai during the conference can take advantage of an overnight shuttle service that will operate after metro hours. The shuttle will run every 20 minutes from midnight to 5 am and will drop-off delegates at key hotel locations in the city, including Premier Inn Dubai Ibn Battuta, Sofitel Dubai Jumeirah Beach, Media Rotana, Premier Inn Barsha Heights, Courtyard by Marriott Al Barsha, and Sheraton Mall of the Emirates.

Due to the limited car parking spaces in the Blue Zone, delegates are encouraged to use Dubai Metro and the Metro Park Ride, located in Dubai's Metro Stations: Centrepoint, Etisalat and Jabal Ali. COP28 UAE will provide free of charge public transport throughout COP28 UAE for Blue Zone delegates.

Blue Zone Delegates coming from and staying in Abu Dhabi can use complimentary shuttle buses to and from the COP28 site. They will be able to board the bus after presenting their Blue Zone Badge or UN Official Invitation letter for the initial trip. The shuttle service will be operational from 21 November to 13 December.

From 21 to 29 November, the shuttle will operate from Abu Dhabi International Airport to COP28 venue from 6 am to 10 am every 30 minutes and from 10 am to 8 pm every 60 minutes.

During the conference days, from 30 November to 13 December, the buses will run from Abu Dhabi International Airport to COP28 venue from 6 am to 10 am every 30 minutes, and then from 10 am to 11 pm every 60 minutes. From COP28 venue to Abu Dhabi International Airport, the buses will run from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm every 60 minutes, from 4:30 pm to 9:30 pm every 30 minutes, and then from 9:30 pm to 1:30 am every 60 minutes.

From COP28 venue to Abu Dhabi International Airport, the shuttle will operate from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm every 60 minutes and from 4:30 pm to 10 pm every 30 minutes.

## -Green Zone

The Green Zone will be open to visitors from 3 to 12 December and the Blue Zone will welcome accredited delegates from 30 November to 12 December. There will be free buses to transport delegates from the Expo Metro Station to Green Zones Gates, running from 8am until midnight. **ANI**



**Blue Zone Delegates coming from and staying in Abu Dhabi can use complimentary shuttle buses to and from the COP28 site. They will be able to board the bus after presenting their Blue Zone Badge or UN Official Invitation letter for the initial trip**

## Putin calls for joint global efforts to end Israeli-Palestinian conflict

MOSCOW

THE international community should join forces to find a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"Russia's position is consistent and does not change with the situation. We urge the international community to join forces in order to ease tensions, ensure a ceasefire and find a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," he noted, addressing an extraordinary summit of the BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa).

According to Putin, "BRICS nations and the countries of the region could play a key role in this work."

"This is why the participation of our colleagues from the Middle East in today's meeting, who were invited to join BRICS as full members earlier in the year, is particularly important," the Russian leader noted.

"I would like to use this opportunity to respectfully commend their efforts to improve the situation, particularly by holding the Peace Summit in Egypt and the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit in Saudi Arabia," Putin said.



## Humanitarian pauses and ceasefire

The Russian president highlighted the fact that "all BRICS countries share similar positions on the need to make joint efforts to find a long-term and sustain-

able solution to the prolonged Israeli-Palestinian issue." In his view, "this became evident in the UN General Assembly's vote on a draft resolution on a humanitarian ceasefire, as well as in discussions of a UN Security Council resolution on the Middle East

settlement, which was adopted for the first time in seven years."

"Even though the resolution only calls for humanitarian pauses and not for a ceasefire, we see its adoption as a step in the right direction," the Russian president pointed out. He stressed that

"while a full ceasefire would be better, such humanitarian pauses are required for efforts to release hostages and evacuate civilians and foreign nationals from the Gaza Strip."

The UN Security Council earlier passed a Malta-drafted humanitarian resolution aimed at assisting children in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict zone. The seven-point document particularly calls for long humanitarian pauses and the immediate release of all hostages, especially children.

Putin also thanked his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah El-Sisi for facilitating the evacuation of Russian nationals from Gaza.

## Risk of conflict expansion

The Russian leader emphasized the need to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East and prevent the conflict from expanding. "By and large, ensuring a long-term and sustainable ceasefire is certainly the most pressing goal," Putin noted.

"It is important to stop other countries from being dragged into the war in the Middle East and prevent the conflict from expanding, as well as to preserve the fragile interfaith peace," he added. **Agencies**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping delivered a written speech at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in San Francisco on Nov. 16, local time. He reviewed the remarkable journey of Asia-Pacific cooperation, summarized the historical experience of Asia-Pacific development, and answered a new question of the times where will Asia-Pacific cooperation be headed in the next 30 years.

Xi's remarks mirrored China's firm confidence in promoting high-quality economic development and bringing new impetus and opportunities to the world with China's new development, charting the course and injecting momentum for the Asia Pacific region to rise up to the challenges of the times and write new chapters of cooperation.

## To draw wisdom from history for new chapters of cooperation

APEC's birth and growth followed the trend toward peace and development. Three decades ago, where humanity should be headed in the post-Cold War era was the question of the world, of history and of the times in front of Asia-Pacific leaders. In response, they convened the inaugural APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

They agreed unanimously to rise above the outdated mentality of bloc confrontation and zero-sum game, deepen economic cooperation and integration in the region, and build a dynamic, harmonious and prosperous Asia-Pacific community.

This major decision enabled Asia-Pacific development and

economic globalization to embark on a fast track of growth, turning the region into a powerhouse for world economic growth, an anchor of stability for global development, and a pacesetter for international cooperation.

The world has entered a new period of turbulence and change. The momentum of world economic growth is sluggish. Destabilizing, uncertain and unpredictable factors are increasing.

To find the direction of future Asia-Pacific cooperation, regional countries need to draw wisdom from history, stay true to their original aspiration, seize the opportunities, and ride the momentum.

With a deep understanding of the development trend in the Asia-Pacific region and the progress of the times, Xi summarized the profound insights brought by the remarkable journey of Asia-Pacific cooperation.

He stressed that openness and inclusiveness are the defining feature of Asia-Pacific cooperation, development for all is the overarching goal of Asia-Pacific cooperation, and seeking common ground while shelving differences is the best practice of Asia-Pacific cooperation.

Development in the Asia-Pacific region has been achieved not through provoking antagonism and confrontation, pursuing a beggar-thy-neighbor

policy, or erecting high fences around a small yard, but by staying open and inclusive and drawing on each other's strengths.

Development is an eternal pursuit of the region. Regional countries have stayed focused on development and continually deepened economic and technical cooperation, thus strengthening the ability of developing members to achieve self-development.

Over the past three decades, per capita income in the Asia-Pacific has more than quadrupled, and one billion people have been lifted out of poverty. This is an important contribution to human progress and

global sustainable development.

Economies in the region have different histories and cultures and are in different stages of development.

Forcing uniformity will not advance cooperation in the region; seeking common ground while shelving differences is the right way forward. This can enable regional countries to turn diversity in membership into momentum for cooperation and make collective progress through tapping into complementarity.

At present, the Asia-Pacific region is seeing both new opportunities for development as well as new challenges and risks.

Xi pointed out that regional countries should stay committed to APEC's founding mission, never forget their mission bestowed by history, and move to relaunch Asia-Pacific cooperation.

Peace is an important prerequisite for development. The Asia-Pacific region cannot and should not be an arena for geopolitical rivalry, still less should it be plunged into a new cold war or camp-based confrontation. This is a common aspiration of all parties in the region.

The story of Asia-Pacific prosperity and development shows that development is only possible with cooperation, absence of cooperation is the biggest risk, and that decoupling and supply-chain disruption are not in anyone's interests. **People's Daily**



# Global agencies urge urgent action to address antimicrobial resistance in Africa

HARARE

GLOBAL agencies on Monday stressed the growing urgency for Africa to scale up efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), amid its significant implications for global health and food security.

Being the hardest hit by AMR, Africa needs political will across the continent to marshal resources towards an AMR fight that would leave no part of the continent behind, a senior UN official said.

"As we observe World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) 2023, the United Nations, in collaboration with the African Union and the Republic of Zimbabwe, calls for enhanced political advocacy to highlight the severity of the growing AMR threat across the continent," said UN Resident Coordinator in Zimbabwe, Edward Kallon, in a speech read on his behalf at an event commemorating the WAAW that runs on Nov. 18-24 in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has already identified AMR as one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity, and the theme for this year's event: "Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together" underscores the need for urgent multi-sectoral action under the One Health Approach to safeguard the effectiveness of antimicrobial medicines, he said.

Unregulated and inappropriate use of antimicrobials across various sectors, including human, animal, and plant use, as well as inadequate access to clean water, lack of sanitation, and insufficient infection prevention and control measures are major drivers in the development of drug-resistant pathogens in Africa, Kallon said.

"These factors not only jeopardize health but also endanger several key sustainable development goals related to health, agriculture, animals, the environment, and food security," he said.

In Africa, AMR has become a silent pandemic and already been documented to be a bigger problem than HIV, Malaria and TB combined. By 2050, millions of people could be affected, said Director General of Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Jean Kaseya.

"We therefore require a very strong, coordinated, multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach to tackle this growing problem," he said. African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU IBAR) director, Huyam Salih, called for collaborative efforts and equitable financing to tackle AMR on the African continent.

"It is imperative that we prioritize equitable financing for AMR-related activities to ensure that no country is left behind. The fight against AMR should be a collective effort with resources allocated equitably. We should redouble our efforts that emphasize preventive measures and the importance of practices aimed at reducing reliance on antimicrobials," she said.

Lindiwe Makubalo, the assistant regional director at WHO, said compared to other regions, Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest AMR-associated deaths at 99 deaths per 100,000 people, with drug resistance to commonly used HIV medicines



Lindiwe Makubalo, the assistant regional director at WHO, attends a World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week event in Harare, Zimbabwe, on Nov. 20, 2023. Global agencies on Monday stressed the growing urgency for Africa to scale up efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), amid its significant implications for global health and food security. (Xinhua/Tafara Mugwara)

also being detected in almost 60 percent of cases on the continent.

The WHO Regional Office for Africa was making steady progress to capacitate member countries to fight AMR, including assisting 46 member states to develop AMR national action plans and surveillance capacity building, among other initiatives, Makubalo said.

She added that the fight against AMR was being hampered by several challenges, including weak one-health governance and multi-sectoral coordination in member countries, weak health care systems, unavailability of AMR representative data in over 40 percent of African countries and a lack of sustainable domestic financing for AMR national action plans implementation.

Disjointed systems for supply and distribution of medicines and poor enforcement of regulatory frameworks related to the use and sale of antimicrobial medicines were the other challenges. She said despite the

challenges, the continent must maintain its resolve to fight AMR through enhanced collaborations, development of alternatives to antimicrobial use including the use of vaccines for infectious vaccine-preventable diseases and reinforcing surveillance systems to monitor resistance patterns, enhance regulatory frameworks, and promote education and awareness campaigns to empower individuals with the knowledge needed to take action.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Abebe Haile-Gabriel, said the FAO was supporting national and regional initiatives in Africa to address AMR, focusing on its vision to reduce AMR levels and slow the emergence and spread of resistance across food production and value chains and for all food and agriculture sectors.

The World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) regional representative for Africa,

Karim Tounkara, said Africa needs to take urgent action against AMR as it may soon become one of the biggest causes of mortality in humans and animals. Zimbabwe's Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Rural Resettlement, Anxious Masuka said Zimbabwe has been actively engaged in fighting AMR since 2017 and will continue promoting responsible antibiotic use in agriculture, strengthen surveillance systems to monitor AMR in animals, and encourage the adoption of sustainable farming practices that reduce the need for antibiotics.

"Together with our partners in the health and environmental sectors, we will strive to create a future where antibiotics remain effective tools in treating diseases, both in humans and animals," Masuka said.

Zimbabwe's Health and Child Care Minister, Douglas Mombeshora, called for united efforts to address the problem. "We must not forget that the antimicrobial resistance response requires a whole of society approach, hence all of us are called upon to play our part in the prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance," he said.

Xinhua

Hungary won't abandon energy cooperation with Russia because of Ukraine – MFA

BUDAPEST

HUNGARY is not going to abandon energy cooperation with Russia because of the conflict in Ukraine and will continue such interaction, guided by practical rather than political considerations, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Economic Relations of Hungary, Peter Szijjarto, reiterated at a press conference.

"I would like to underscore that we do not want to get rid of any sources that currently ensure Hungary's energy security. At the same time, we would like to attract additional sources, preferably carbon-neutral energy sources," the Foreign Minister said responding to a relevant question.

Speaking after a meeting in Budapest with the ministers of energy of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Romania, Szijjarto said that "Hungary views energy purchases as a matter of physical reality rather than political preference and will not allow anyone to pressure it into abandoning any energy source."

Previously, Szijjarto has repeatedly noted that they are trying to push Hungary to stop supplies of Russian oil and gas.

The minister recalled that the government of the country remains committed to diversification, but this should not lead to the abandonment of reliable sources and delivery routes.

"Diversification does not mean replacing an existing energy source with another. Diversification means attracting even more sources for your energy supply," the minister said.

Russia remains the main energy exporter to Hungary. This year, it supplied 4.8 billion cubic meters of gas to Hungary, mainly through the TurkStream pipeline and its branches through Bulgaria and Serbia.

Hungary also received more than 3.5 million tons of oil through the southern branch of the Druzhba oil pipeline, passing through the territory of Ukraine, and it is expected that by the end of the year this volume will increase to approximately 4.8-5 million tons. In addition, the Paks nuclear power plant operates on Russian nuclear fuel.

Agencies

## China-U.S. cooperation contributes to rapid development of Port of Los Angeles

Along the west coast of the U.S., the Port of Los Angeles is a hive of activity, with massive container ships constantly coming and going.

Mark Wheeler, 70, retired 4 years ago from his position as vice president of the West Basin Container Terminal (WBCT) at the Port of Los Angeles. Although he now lives in South Carolina, Mark still cares deeply about the port where he worked for decades. Whenever he talks about his career, one exciting scene always comes to mind – a visit to the port by Xi Jinping, who serves as the Chinese President today.

It was on Feb. 16, 2012, Xi, then vice president of China, had a tour to a terminal of China's shipping giant COSCO at the Port of Los Angeles. According to Wheeler, he was serving as the terminal operations manager back then and witnessed a story of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation between the U.S. and China.

Wheeler said he never thought that a leader of a major country could be so approachable, adding that Xi shook hands with everyone and waved enthusiastically to crew members on cargo ships. It was like meeting an old friend, he noted.

The Port of Los Angeles is the largest container port in the United States and serves as the first stop for Chinese goods entering the United States across the Pacific Ocean.

In 2001, a COSCO subsidiary became a shareholder of the port, holding partial equity stakes in the WBCT at the Port of Los Angeles and the Pacific Container Terminal at the Port of Long Beach. This marked the beginning of rapid development for the Port of Los Angeles.

By 2012, the WBCT's annual



A cargo ship of China COSCO SHIPPING docks at the West Basin Container Terminal at the Port of Los Angeles. (Photo from COSCO SHIPPING (North America))

terminal throughput reached 1.5 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), accounting for 10 percent of the total at the Port of Los Angeles and contributing \$100 million in direct tax revenue to the federal and local governments.

Since 2012, COSCO has always adhered to the principles of practical cooperation and mutual benefit in serving the trade sector, and continuously expanded its shipping routes, capital investment, and technological input in the entire Los Angeles.

For many years, the Port of Los Angeles has played an important role in U.S.-China trade, said Wheeler, attributing the development of ports in the Los Angeles area to mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

So far, COSCO has directly created about 2,400 jobs in the United States. Through partnerships with trucking companies, railways, tugboat services and other suppliers, COSCO's terminals have generated around 15,000 additional jobs in the country.

"COSCO actively promotes local economic and social development at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, striving to meet customers' transportation needs. Especially when supply chains get tight, we strive to

tackle problems like insufficient capacity and port congestion," said Gu Quanlin, vice president of COSCO SHIPPING (North America).

According to Gu, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, COSCO terminals in the country utilized multimodal transportation to swiftly deliver essential medical supplies to customers in the Midwest through the Port of Long Beach. This made a significant contribution to the local population's response to the pandemic.

Additionally, COSCO Shipping has strengthened management around ship speed reduction, shore power usage, near-shore emissions, and equipment emissions. This aligns fully with the Californian government's long-standing promotion of green principles.

Among all the terminals at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, COSCO terminals have always been at the forefront of protecting the ocean environment and marine life, said Paul Nazzaro, executive vice president of COSCO SHIPPING (North America).

The 130-km long Santa Barbara Channel by the Port of Long Beach is a major shipping lane, as well as one of the world's most

important destinations for migrating blue whales. It is visited by many blue whales, humpback whales and fin whales from July to November each year. Excessive ship speeds would severely impact the whales.

Since 2018, COSCO has actively implemented the project of Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies. So far, it has carried out relevant eco-friendly operations on 111 voyages, making effective safety nets for marine life and lowering greenhouse gas and suspended particulate emissions.

From 2020 to 2022, COSCO won the top award of the "Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies" project, the "Sapphire Prize," given by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for three consecutive years.

Brian Peck, Chair of the Los Angeles Regional Export Council, stated that China is California's largest trading partner, and one-third of U.S.-China trade passes through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. California attracts more Chinese investment than any other U.S. state and is home to the largest population of Chinese students and visitors. The close ties between California and China reflect the intertwined interests of the United States and China and demonstrate the mutually beneficial essence of U.S.-China economic and trade cooperation.

Wheeler told People's Daily that he sincerely hopes that the two largest economies, the United States and China, can find more common ground and write more stories of cooperation and win-win outcomes through exchanges and dialogues.

People's Daily

## Gazans confirm terrorists hide in hospitals, dress up as medical personnel

Tel Aviv

GAZANS in Israeli custody confirmed to interrogators that terror groups actively operated in Gaza hospitals and even deeply embedded themselves in the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in videos released by the Israel Defence Forces.

So far, 500 Palestinians have been interrogated by Arabic-speaking members of the IDF's Military Intelligence Directorate's Unit 504 at a detention facility in southern Israel, the IDF said.

In videos released by the military, three Palestinians explained to interrogators how terrorists from Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other groups would hide in the Shifa and Rantisi hospitals. Two of the three Palestinians were identified by name in the videos.

The first Palestinian, identified only as having been apprehended inside Gaza on Nov. 12, told interrogators that these terrorists—dressed in civilian clothes—would use the hospitals as a base for attacks. They would also disguise themselves as medical staff while hiding in the hospital.

"The doctors were furious because Hamas operatives and operatives of the other terror organisations were inside the hospital," he said.

Asked how many terrorists he saw, the Palestinian answered, "I saw a lot of them—about 80, 90, 100. It reached 100 people."

He added, "They dressed as nursing staff, but they were not nurses or doctors." Hamuda Riad Asad Shamalah, an internet application engineer at Gaza's Hamas-run Health Ministry said that the terror groups also embedded themselves with the Red Crescent Organisation, which has a 10-story complex. He said he went there with his wife and three daughters "because I thought it was a safe and protected place."

Shamalah said he wanted to find refuge, but then "the terrorists came and threatened us."

He told his interrogator, "When the Hamas operatives remained in the compound, they continued to operate and hid the rockets and guns inside the mattresses. This was on a daily basis; no one can refuse them; if you dare to confront Hamas, they will kill you."

According to Shamalah, the sheer number of people at the Red Crescent head-

quarters was what made the complex appealing to Hamas.

"We will become human shields because the IDF will not attack a place with 40,000 people inside. If you want to fight, use a battlefield. If one of the rockets had exploded, it could have killed 50 of us," Shamalah said.

Abdelrahman Ala Ibrahim Samour described to interrogators what he saw at the UNRWA-run Al Saweidi (Swedish) Clinic in the Shati refugee camp and also at the Rantisi Hospital.

"When I went to the Rantisi Hospital, I saw Hamas operatives who took control of the hospital." There were around 100 of them, and they stayed in groups of four or five and they would sometimes leave to carry out attacks.

At the Swedish clinic, Samour said he saw seven Hamas operatives inside. They were dressed in civilian clothes, but when asked how he knew they were Hamas, he replied, "They were armed. And I know one of them was from Hamas."

He said they came and went and that they appeared to feel safe inside the clinic, preparing for attacks inside the clinic and then returning "because it was secure, no one could locate them there."

Samour said the terrorists did the same things at Rantisi "on a larger scale."

"There were so many of them, it was actually really scary. I was there for about five days and I was terrified."

Shifa Hospital, located in the North Rimal neighbourhood and boasting 570 beds, is Gaza's largest medical centre, serving the medical needs of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. It was originally built by the British authorities in 1946. In the 1980s, Israel renovated and expanded Shifa as part of an initiative to improve Gaza living conditions.

As far back as 2009, the Israeli Security Agency (Shin Bet) reported during the Gaza war of that year that Hamas operatives were hiding in the hospital and that the basement had become Hamas's headquarters.

As the Tazpit Press Service reported, in addition to being used to hide Hamas leaders and hostages, the terror group is known to have launched rockets, tortured suspected collaborators and hoarded a half-million liters of fuel in the hospital compound.

ANI



# The Guardian

# SPORT

## 2023's Ngorongoro Race postponed to next month

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

THIS year's edition of the Ngorongoro Race, which was scheduled for this weekend in Karatu District, Arusha has been pushed back to next month.

Meta Petro, the Director of Meta Sports Promotions that is coordinating the race, said they decided to postpone the race to December 10 to give a chance to athletes to engage in various races which are scheduled for this weekend.

He said this weekend has a lot of races, some of which are Ladies First which gets underway today and ends tomorrow in Dar es Salaam, Sunday's Arusha Night Run, and Asma Mwinyi Foundation (AMF) Stop Gender Based Violence (GBV) Half Marathon to be held in Zanzibar tomorrow.

"This year's Ngorongoro Race has been pushed back to December 10 at the same venue and nothing regarding the race has changed, the date is the only change," Petro revealed.

The Meta Sports Promotions Director disclosed: "We decided to postpone it to next month so that we can give a chance to athletes to compete in various events to be held this weekend."

"We aim to have many top athletes taking part in Ngorongoro Race, so, it would have been very difficult to have them this weekend," he said.

Initially, the annual race was scheduled for April, thereafter shifted to last August, later on moved to September and then to this month, and has now been slated for next month. However, Petro assured the race's followers that next year it will be held in April.

During the previous interview, Petro said they expect more than 1000 professional and social athletes will take part in the showdown which has three categories half marathon, 10km, and 5km races.

He said the showdown will be flagged off at Loduare Gate station, which is the main entrance of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Serengeti National Park, to Rhotia Hill hamlet before turning back and finishing the race at Mazingira Bora grounds in Karatu.

Petro said money raised in the race will be channeled to SOS Villages which have partnered with his institution, adding the theme of this year's race is 'No Child Should Be Left Alone' and it focuses on assisting young children and youths.

He said the showdown will be flagged off at Louare Gate Station, which is the main entrance of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Serengeti National Park.

## Pablo Franco not interested in returning to Simba SC

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI & AGENCIES

FORMER Simba SC head coach Pablo Franco Martin, now with South African outfit AmaZulu FC, has responded to the rumours that intensified suggesting that Simba SC is interested in bringing him back to the club.

The Tanzanian football powerhouse, Simba SC, parted ways with Brazilian tactician Roberto Oliveira earlier this month following the squad's 5-1 defeat to Yanga.

The recent reports coming out of the country have indicated that Simba SC is looking to reunite with Martin who joined Amazulu FC, popularly known as 'Usuthu', at the start of the season.

The former Real Madrid assistant coach was with the Dar es Salaam-based outfit for six months between November 2021 and May 2022.

Martin, popularly known as 'Cijimpi' in South Africa, disclosed he is not surprised by the rumours since he had good memories with the Msimbazi Street outfit. However, he insisted he is committed to the AmaZulu project.

"It's normal when you have a CV and good history in some countries, good memories of you and now we're lucky to improve and perform well (at AmaZulu), it's normal that some teams call and show interest in you to join them," Martin said.

The Spanish gaffer revealed: "For me as a coach, I need to be proud of that because I'm being respected and especially for us to have opportunities to work because it's not easy."

Martin noted: "But I'm committed to this project. And this is what I can share with the people who are supporting the club, our fans, and people in South Africa, in Tanzania, in Africa, or Europe."

"Right now, I'm really happy here at Ama-

Petro further disclosed that all the participants of the race will be awarded medals while the top three winners in the half marathon and 10km race will receive cash prizes.

He said 1m/- will be handed over to the half marathon's champion, the runner-up will take home 700,000/- and the third-placed athlete will walk away with 500,000/-.

A cash prize of 500,000/- awaits the winner of the 10km race, 300,000/- will be presented to the runner-up and 100,000/- awaits the third-placed finisher.

SOS Tanzania says the country has an estimated 1,300,000 children who are orphans due to HIV. They have lost either one or both of their parents because of the disease.

Due to AIDS, the number of child-headed households in Tanzania has increased significantly in recent years.

Growing up either without a family or in a dysfunctional family environment often has serious implications on a child's mental and physical development.

Many orphaned children experience neglect and discrimination. Children who grow up without parental care often do not attend school.

The organization further said school enrolment ratio in Tanzania has slightly improved over recent years.

However, government funding for primary and secondary education is relatively low when compared to many other countries in the region.

As education is often seen as the key element for the economic self-sufficiency of a child in the future, raising school enrolment and attendance figures has now become the Tanzanian government's priority.

School drop-out rates are often high due to financial constraints. Many children have to work besides school to increase their family's household income.

Currently, SOS has four children villages, they also have youth programs, kindergartens, Hermann Gmeiner Schools, Social Centers, and two medical centers.

SOS, in cooperation with local agencies, runs family-strengthening programs that allow families to effectively care for their children.

The organization provides support according to the local needs which include food packages, basic vocational training, income-generating projects, and legal advice and assistance.

Once a child can no longer stay with either his or her family, the organization provides care to mothers in one of the SOS families.

Zulu. I came here for a long project, and my family is also happy here which is an important part of my decision-making when choosing where to go and what club I want to work for," Martin pointed out.

"I'm excited for the future that is waiting for us in AmaZulu. So, from there, any speculation is over."

The coach noted: "I hope in the upcoming months I keep receiving some phone calls because that would mean we are doing a great job but my 100% focus is just with AmaZulu because I'm happy here."

Simba SC leadership has delayed the introduction of the new head coach, who is set to be revealed next week.

The Msimbazi Street squad will, this afternoon, confront ASEC Mimosas in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B fixture at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Radhi Jaidi is favourite to get the Simba SC job as the Tunisian gaffer leads the race for the vacant head coach post.



Former Simba SC head coach, Pablo Franco Martin.



Various leaders including the Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro and NCBA Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Claver Serumaga, in a group photo after launching this season's NCBA Bank Tanzania Golf Open tournament in Arusha recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Dar golfers battle for silverware in 2023 NCBA Bank Tanzania Golf Open

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

TANZANIA'S professional and amateur golfers are determined to steal the show as the 2023 NCBA Bank Tanzania Golf Open tournament teed off at Kili Golf Course in Arusha two days ago.

Over 200 professional and amateur players from Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Rwanda, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and hosts Tanzania are competing for the glory in the Open event.

Nuru Mollel, Fadhil Nkya, Isaac Wanyache, Abdallah Yusuf, and Frank Mwinuka are among Tanzania's profes-

sional golfers who are taking part in the event.

The local amateur golfers participating in the competition include Ally Isanzu, Isihaka Daudi, George Sembi, and Michael Masawe.

"We are grilled for a tough assignment and ready to battle it out for the national glory," Isaac Mollel revealed.

"We are honoured to have this maiden event backed up by NCBA Bank and ready to swing for points," Frank Mwinuka pointed out.

Other local golfers also expressed the same feeling and enthusiasm as foreign players have also shown determina-

tion to win and return home with trophies.

The showdown's official opening was attended by the Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports, Damas Ndumbaro, who is also an ardent golf player. He expressed his joy for the hosting of the event and welcomed other prominent foreign golf players to Arusha, one of the tourist destinations in the country.

He was flanked by the Managing Director and CEO of NCBA Bank Tanzania Claver Serumaga, who expressed the bank's enthusiasm for this prestigious event.

The golfers in Division A

(amateurs with handicaps 10 and below) and professionals will play 72 holes spanning four rounds.

The amateur golfers with a maximum of handicap 18 will battle it out in 36 holes (November 25-26, 2023).

The paid ranks cluster (professionals) will play for a total kitty of 25,000,000/-. The cut will be determined after 36 holes of action (round two).

The title sponsor for the championship is NCBA Bank. Other partners include Tanzania Golf Union, Vodacom as well as the global golf governing body, Royal and Ancient (R&A).



Dar es Salaam youths are pictured playing soccer at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## All set for Stop Gender-Based Violence Half Marathon 2023

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

THE Zanzibar Athletics Association (ZAA) says all preparations for tomorrow's Asma Mwinyi Foundation (AMF) Stop Gender-Based (GBV) Half Marathon are in place.

ZAA Secretary-General Muhidin Yassin said all preparations for the half marathon are complete and expressed his happiness that many people have registered for the inaugural event.

He said AMF is aimed at restoring the hope of the deserted single mother with her disabled child/children.

The official noted the half marathon will also mark the

International Day of 16 days of activism that aims at ending violence against women and girls advocating GBV awareness in the country and will combine sports and tourism.

He said President Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to grace the half marathon which will also see other prominent personalities in the society including President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Hussein Mwinyi, in attendance.

Yassin said there will be a half marathon, 10km, and 5km races, adding Tanzania gemstone worth 4.5m/- awaits half marathon champion while second-placed

athlete and third finisher will get Tanzanite gemstones worth 3.5m/- and 3m/- respectively.

The fourth athlete in the half marathon category will be presented with a cash prize of 2m/- while athletes ending sixth to 10th will each take home a cash prize of 100,000/-.

In the 10 km race, the champion will pocket 2.5m/-, the second athlete walks away with 1.5m/-, and the third-placed athlete gets 800,000/-. Athletes ending sixth to 10th will each pocket 50,000/-.

Yassin noted: "For now, almost 90 percent of preparations for the Asma Mwinyi Foundation (AMF) Stop Gen-

der-Based Violence (GBV) Half Marathon is complete."

"The race will start and finish at Forodhani, many elite and social athletes have registered to compete in this maiden half marathon, during the event priority will be given to GBV awareness, teamwork, mental and physical health, and also entertainment," he said.

The AMF was established in April 2019, to assist and provide support to the poor, underprivileged communities by developing strategic plans on how best to improve their standard of living in economic empowerment, education, and health services.



## Hurting Barca face Rayo after Gavi injury

BARCELONA

CHAMPIONS Barcelona visit Rayo Vallecano in La Liga today reeling after midfielder Gavi's devastating cruciate ligament injury, which is set to rule him out for the rest of the season.

Coach Xavi Hernandez has called the 19-year-old the "soul" of the team on multiple occasions and his tenacity will be badly missed with the Catalans already struggling for form.

The trip to Rayo's Vallecas stadium starts a tough run of fixtures for third-placed Barca, four points behind leaders Girona at the top of La Liga.

Barca host Porto on Tuesday looking to claim Champions League last 16 qualification, before welcoming Atletico Madrid and then Girona in key domestic clashes.

"It's an unfortunate injury, the important thing is he recovers because Gavi has a big present and an even bigger future," Barca president Joan Laporta said on Thursday. "The club is by his side for whatever is necessary."

Sporting director Deco said Barcelona could not find a substitute for the midfielder in the winter transfer window.

"We're really sad about Gavi's injury, I've said ... that I think that Gavi is irreplaceable," he explained. "We won't find any player like him and so that's why it's not so easy."

Barcelona have been ravaged by injuries in recent weeks but Gavi's issue is the most severe and a big absence for the club to manage in terms of intensity and pressing.

Gavi was suspended for Barca's last match before the international break, a fortunate 2-1 home win over Alaves, and the team badly missed him, turning offering an insipid display.

Frenkie de Jong returned to training this week and may be ready to play after an ankle sprain has kept him out since mid-September, but goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen is a doubt.

Barcelona will need the Dutchman, summer arrival from Manchester City Ilkay Gundogan and Pedri, freshly back from an injury layoff himself to step up and muster up at least some of the energy Gavi offers.

Francisco's Rayo Vallecano can be a tough nut to crack, as Real Madrid found in a frustrating 0-0 draw against their city rivals earlier in November.

Rayo also came close to taking points off surprise package Girona but fell to a 2-1 defeat by Michel's shock leaders.

Girona host Athletic Bilbao on Monday, looking to at least preserve their two-point lead on second-place Real Madrid.

Carlo Ancelotti's side, also beset by injuries, visit Cadiz on Sunday.

Real Madrid were dealt bad blows by Eduardo Camavinga's own knee ligament tear while with France, joining long-term absentees Thibaut Courtois and Eder Militao, and Vinicius Junior's hamstring injury.

With Spain's top two suffering, Girona and Atletico Madrid, fourth, will look to pile on the pressure.

AFP

## Inter and Juve in top spot tussle as Mazzarri begins Napoli reign

MILAN

INTER Milan and Juventus face off on Sunday in a clash between Serie A's two title favourites and historic rivals, as Walter Mazzarri begins his second reign at troubled Napoli.

Two points ahead of Juve after 12 matches, leaders Inter have had a dream season so far as they look comfortably Italy's best team and have ensured passage to the Champions League knockouts with two matches to spare.

Now they begin a brutal run of fixtures against a Juve team which has become the distillation of Massimiliano Allegri's hyper-pragmatic style of football - hard on the eyes and even harder to break down.

With Milan and champions Napoli both faltering Juve are Inter's closest challengers and have the benefit, thanks to last season's accounting controversies, of having no European football clogging up their calendar.

Inter meanwhile take on Juve in Turin before travelling to Portugal to face Benfica and then move on to Naples, admittedly a less intimidating prospect than last season, with Udinese, Real Sociedad and then Lazio all also coming up in the next three weeks.

Simone Inzaghi's team have the league's best attack with 29 goals, led by Lautaro Martinez's incredible tally of 12 in 12, and the best defence with just six conceded.

And with Juve's top scorers - Dusan Vlahovic and Federico Chiesa - both stuck on four goals since September their opposition appear to lack the firepower with which to damage an Inter team that Roma boss Jose Mourinho said "should win the league by 20 points".

Inter's CEO Giuseppe Marotta meanwhile has tried to shift the focus onto Juve given their continental commitments, trying to dampen expectations after their last two title challenges fell flat.

AFP

*"We've got a good team, a good manager and solid owners, we've got everything to challenge for trophies. That's what we did last year, let's do the same this season."*

## Man City now face Liverpool summit meeting as Everton fight for survival

LONDON

LIVERPOOL will become the latest team to attempt to storm Manchester City's Etihad fortress this weekend as Everton focus on Premier League survival following a punishing points deduction for breaching financial rules.

Arsenal have a chance to top the table depending on results elsewhere, while Tottenham host high-flying Aston Villa.

AFP Sport picks out three talking points ahead of the action as the English top flight returns following the international break.

\*Liverpool seek to end Man City run

Liverpool have been the only team to consistently challenge Manchester City in recent years, winning 10 out of 23 matches in all competitions under the reign of Jurgen Klopp.

The two sides had epic battles in the 2018/19 and 2021/22 seasons, when City piped their rivals by just a single point on both occasions, while the Reds clinched their first league title in 30 years in 2020.

But Liverpool, revitalised after a below-par campaign last season, have not won a league game at the Etihad



Jurgen Klopp v Pep Guardiola

since their 4-1 demolition of City in November 2015.

The reigning champions, by contrast, have won 23 matches in a row at home in all competitions.

Erling Haaland is one goal away from obliterating the Premier League record for the quickest player to 50 goals - the Norwegian scored twice in City's frantic 4-4 draw at Chelsea earlier this month to take his tally to 49 goals in just 47 appearances.

Former Newcastle and Manchester United forward Andrew Cole is the current record holder, reaching the landmark in 65 games.

\*Will 10-point penalty fire up Everton?

Sean Dyche's Everton had turned the corner in recent weeks, winning three of their past five games to pull well clear of the relegation zone.

But last week's 10-point deduction

for breaching Premier League profitability and sustainability rules means they go into their match against Manchester United level on four points with bottom club Burnley.

Everton director of football Kevin Thelwell said the team would now have added motivation, fuelled by a burning sense of injustice at the "wholly disproportionate ruling".

Despite the sanction, the nine-time English champions are just two points from safety, thanks to the poor form of the newly promoted teams.

United have climbed to sixth in the table after winning four of their past five league games but they are blunt in attack and remain unconvincing at the back.

\*Spurs seek to stop rot against in-form Villa

Tottenham boss Ange Postecoglou made the best start to a season by a

new manager in Premier League history after 10 games but the team has dropped off top spot due to consecutive defeats.

Spurs were beaten 4-1 by Chelsea after being reduced to nine men and then lost 2-1 at Wolves in a game in which they were leading going into stoppage time.

One headache Postecoglou must deal with is the absence of playmaker James Maddison, who has made such an impact since arriving in June but has been ruled out until the New Year with an ankle injury.

Postecoglou will be wary of Aston Villa, who have continued their rapid progress under Unai Emery and are just a point behind fourth-placed Spurs and three points off the top.

The Birmingham club's 3-1 win against Fulham earlier this month was a 13th successive home win - a feat they last achieved 40 years ago.

But their away form is less impressive, with just two wins from six games on the road.

**Fixtures (1500 GMT unless stated)**

**Today**  
Manchester City v Liverpool (1230), Burnley v West Ham, Luton v Crystal Palace, Newcastle v Chelsea, Nottingham Forest v Brighton, Sheffield United v Bournemouth, Brentford v Arsenal (1730)

**Tomorrow**  
Tottenham v Aston Villa (1400), Everton v Manchester United (1630)

**Monday**  
Fulham v Wolves (2000)

## What is VAR, how does it work and what are the biggest problems?

BY KARL MATCHETT

THE use of technology in football has been on the increase over the past few years but none seems to create as much heated debate and questioning as that of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR).

By and large, it is felt that minor and visible calls are improved across the course of the season with on-pitch referees getting extra help. However, there have been several high-profile incidents of late that have led to clubs, or personnel within them, complaining about the eventual decision or decision-making process, with the most recent coming in the Champions League.

Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag felt aggrieved that a number of calls went against them in their 4-3 defeat to FC Copenhagen, including a decision to send off Marcus Rashford for serious foul play.

Here's everything on VAR you need to know, including the latest causes for complaint against it.

**\*What has gone wrong?**

Most recently, Man United complained about Rashford's red card, given out for stepping across and onto the foot and shin of an opponent in a Champions League encounter. Ten Hag insisted his side had seen three "very debatable" penalties go against them in four games and called his forward's sending off "very harsh".

In domestic football, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta complained over "unacceptable" errors from on-pitch and VAR officials as his team lost to Newcastle, while Wolves boss Gary O'Neil labelled a penalty decision given against his team and upheld by VAR as "scandalous" - also against Newcastle.

Ange Postecoglou suggested recently that clubs have to shoulder part of the blame for long stoppages for VAR, saying: "Some of it is self-inflicted because if we come out every week

complaining about decisions that is what will happen, every decision gets forensically checked and we will be sitting around for a long time in every game trying to figure out what is going on."

However, it must be noted that the vast majority of these are subjective opinions and where Arteta sees fault, another manager, supporter or, indeed, official may see justification in decision.

One incident which was not subjective, but instead a quite clear mistake, came with Luis Diaz's goal for Liverpool against Tottenham being ruled out for offside and then allowed to stay disallowed, despite the VAR officials running their processes and showing the forward was on-side. The "significant human error" came as a result of the official, Darren England, appearing to forget that offside rather than a goal had been awarded in the first place.

To another extreme, Millie Bright criticised the fact there was no VAR in the first edition of the Women's Nations League, after a clearly offside goal was allowed to stand against England which would have been simple to rule out.

Further clear VAR errors which PGMOL have had to apologise for include no penalty being awarded to Wolves against Man United after Andre Onana clattered Sasa Kalajdzic, a Brentford goal against Arsenal not being checked properly with no offside lines drawn and a West Ham late equaliser being ruled out for a foul, where none was apparent.

**\*What has gone right?**

In truth, a lot. It's overlooked when three or four calls are spot-on, when one causes serious complaint or at least is a subjective call which a majority seem to disagree with.

As an example, in the incident-packed Tottenham vs Chelsea fixture, several goals were correctly ruled out for offside through use - or

checking - of VAR and the penalty awarded which saw Cristian Romero sent off was also a result of VAR intervention.

Generally speaking, these calls that are widely accepted as correct do not get highlighted, partially because the technology exists for that very reason: it's expected to help officials make the right calls with a second look.

That doesn't mean they don't occur, though. The Premier League reported that 82 per cent of decisions were correct in the season before VAR was introduced, rising to 94 per cent being correct in 2019/20.

**\*What is the process for VAR checks?**

From the Premier League website: VAR will be used only for "clear and obvious errors" or "serious missed incidents" in four match-changing situations: goals; penalty decisions; direct red-card incidents; and mistaken identity.

When any of those match situations occur or potentially occur, VAR is constantly rewatching and monitoring match footage from the hub at Stockley Park.

If there is a decision to be made, the VAR or Assistant VAR (AVAR) will relay to the referee that play should be halted while checks are made, before recommending either an overturn, a pitchside check of the monitor for the ref or a continuation of play with the on-pitch original decision.

The video officials have until the ball goes dead to inform the referee that a check is underway if play is already ongoing.

The referee can then either check the monitor or accept the VAR recommendation. Upon reviewing the pitchside monitor, they may then stick with their own initial assessment or overturn the original, before communicating their new decision to the crowd.

**\*What have PGMOL said?**

The refereeing chief of Professional Game Match Officials Limited, Howard Webb, took over the role last year to improve the standard of officiating in the English game and to help oversee a smoother use of technology.

PGMOL confirmed to the League Managers' Association "they are actively looking at how best to incorporate VARs into match-day refereeing teams, to ensure the dynamic between on-field referee and VAR is conducive to producing positive outcomes."

After the Diaz incident, the organisation "acknowledge[d] a significant human error occurred" and brought in additional processes to ensure no repeat happened. They also released the audio of that incident, an "unusual step" according to Webb, "to show everybody what was very quickly pretty apparent to us, a human error and loss of concentration."

Webb has suggested the pool of VAR-specific officials will be increased but Lee Mason presents a cautionary tale. The former referee was appointed a full-time VAR for 2022/23, but departed the role last season after the aforementioned error over Brentford's goal against Arsenal.

Mason, who had already been stood down from the officiating list that campaign previously for wrongly disallowing a Newcastle goal, was labelled a "serial offender" by ex-PGMOL boss Keith Hackett - however, at the start of the current campaign, Mason was re-hired as a referees' coach for the lower leagues.

It is not thought he has ongoing work with VAR but that has not been confirmed by PGMOL, nor why his credentials are suited to guiding less-experienced officials despite having been removed from his post already.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Man City now face Liverpool summit meeting as Everton fight for survival

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Simba SC Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally.

## Simba SC official admits slow pace in jerseys' sales

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, has admitted that the outfit's jersey sales have recently dropped due to the poor performance in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League fixtures.

The Msimbazi Street outfit that recently launched its CAF Champions League kits is this afternoon hosting ASEC Mimosas in the first Group Stage match of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba SC has replaced the logo of the outfit's main sponsor, a betting company, occupying the front part of the jerseys, for another sponsor's logo.

One of the global betting firms is among CAF's sponsors, hence, African inter-club competition participants with kits bearing logos of the companies dealing with the same business are not allowed to wear jerseys with such companies' logos.

Such a situation prompted Tanzania's outfits, Simba SC and Yanga, to introduce other jerseys for the competition.

Ally revealed: "It is true jersey sales have dropped in recent weeks and even after introducing new CAF champions kits and this goes in line with our recent form and what is going on at the club, we have a chance to revamp the situation."

"Few people have shown up to purchase our jerseys but it won't be for long, sometimes human beings need assurance before deciding on doing something," the leader stated.

Ally pointed out: "From November 25 (to-

day) we aim at changing everything around through positive results, sometimes words are not enough, fans want to see changes to positive results."

"Good results will change to narrative and fans will begin to show up in various shops to purchase our collective competition kits for this season."

Ally revealed the team's morale heading into their fixture against ASEC Mimosas, pointing out all players are in good shape and focused heading into the opening fixture of this season's premier continental tournament Group Stage.

The official noted there is a positive impact brought by assistant coach Selemeni Matola since his return to the senior team, serving as a deputy to interim head coach Daniel Cadena.

Cadena previously worked as a goalkeeping coach at the club and was appointed as head coach on an interim basis after the sacking of Brazilian Roberto Oliveira, alias Robertinho.

"The players are ready to turn things around, with Matola back at the helm, players have connected well and they understand him more and what it means to play for Simba SC since he is our club legend," the Simba SC official noted.

"He has an impact on our players due to his age, he communicates with the players very tactically and directly on how to turn things around, with the response of our players we hope to turn the tables tomorrow (today) and in upcoming fixtures," Ally insisted.

## Yanga fans expectant, Simba SC fans cautious ahead of continental ties



Yanga's players are pictured taking part in drills at Stade du 5 Juillet in Algiers on Thursday in preparation for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D match against Algeria's CR Belouizdad that was held at the stadium yesterday night. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent John Kimbute

A day before the city archrivals took on their opponents in home and away matches to kick off the Group Stage of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League, certain media outlets followed the fans in some of their more noticeable hide-outs.

Their explicit perspectives on the two matches were largely convergent in terms of what is by and large expected, whereby Yanga fans looked ebullient to the extent of surprising a few observers, by the extent of assuredness on their side. Simba SC fans looked timid.

There are ways in which expectations at the point of departure lead to negative results at the height of an awaited event.

Argentina lost the opening match of the last World Cup finals to Saudi Arabia and appeared bound for an early exit, and then they reorganized play and went on to win the coveted trophy.

Back in 2002 during the preliminaries to the qualification to the World Cup finals, Brazil had struggled to qualify while Argentina was rising high and, as the tournament started, it was Argentina that left early and Brazil proceeded to clinch the trophy, again.

So there is always something deceptive about confidence, and especially being overconfident, the way the Msimbazi Street side called for a feast of a sort on Friday before what was billed to be 'killing' on Sunday, and it went the opposite direction.

While overconfidence is usually based on the track record in previous matches, there is also the problem of misreading their opponents and, in this case, it appears that the track records are being read with care on the Msimbazi Street side and in a rather misleading manner on the other side.

Fans tend to see things in terms of playing with 'Arabs', failing to take note chiefly of ranking, and circumstance.

CR Belouizdad as Algerian champions and veteran entrants in the quarterfinal stage are a step higher than Al Merrikh whom Yanga removed from the tourney to enter the Group Stage.

What is also overlooked in how Yanga outclasses the 'Arabs' from Sudan is that the turmoil there has robbed the side of its international cream, retaining but a Colombian player and a South Sudanese compatriot, who it seems were not too hastily being followed by big clubs in the region.

In that, this was not the typical Al Merrikh or Al Hilal side that Yanga was tasked to confront, but they have not been in the mood to admit that they had an accidental advantage.

In equating Belouizdad with Al Merrikh and in the background of Yanga's 5G wins including the city derby, the fans could be making a massive mistake, but that is unlikely to be the case with the coach, who knows the risks from close and is used to assessing how to use his striking force in that direction.

This is the peculiar gift that Miguel Gamondi has demonstrated with the Jangwani Street side, in being able to get the best out of strikers whom pundits did not think much of, the likes of Clement Mzize, Max Nzengeli, Stephane Aziz Ki, and Pacome Zouzoua.

When they are backed by a packed midfield they have produced 5G league results.

There are hence several things that stand in favour of the local champions but do not seem to add up to what the fan base believes.

The first error is to think that they played with Simba SC at the latter's optimal capacity, whereas they were mentally exhausted from their taxing encounters with National Al Ahly and needed to rest. The merry-making the club organized did not help either.

Simba SC fans are on the other hand more realistic, looking at the match in

like manner as with Power Dynamos, as they also had a faulty impression of the side on account of having disposed of it 2-0 in a friendly encounter on 'Simba Day' earlier.

Their opponents came up differently during the second stage of the preliminary phase of the CAF tournament, and the Msimbazi Street side qualified by a technicality, on the away goals rule.

The same came up when they faced Al Ahly, and this time there was a shred of overconfidence with the 'Arabs,' not Simba SC.

Discounting the derby and looking at the two sides from the continental playing record, the Msimbazi Street side has greater reason for optimism with ASEC Mimosas than the Jangwani Street outfit with CR Belouizdad, despite that the opposite outlook sort of reigns at the moment.

The only daunting element in the Msimbazi Street outlook is the likely confusion, and worse, experimentation on the technical bench, as pundits and a range of fans talk of the duo of Daniel Cadena and Selemeni Matola as if the latter is in charge.

And he has the habit of upstaging coaches when they aren't fully in control, as happened with Pablo Franco Martin.

So there is a danger that Matola will be in charge and wish to make an impression with his supposed techniques that would ensure a win for Simba SC.

This is also apparently why the leadership did not ask Juma Mgunda to take over, as they did not wish to foment aspirations of actually being confirmed as coach - and his fans have plenty of reasons why this is the case.

Cadena at his more humble opposition would direct them in ways that Robertinho was directing, and little else.

That way the side stands to attain its best, not with misplaced coaches' ambitions.

## Simba SC's resolve on trial in CAF CL clash vs ASEC Mimosas

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC is eager to kick off the club's CAF Champions League Group Stage campaign with a victory as the squad takes on ASEC Mimosas from Cote d'Ivoire at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam this afternoon.

Egyptian referee Mohamed Maarouf Eid Mansour will take charge of the game which has kick-off slated for 4 pm.

He will be assisted by Samir Saad and Youssef Elbosaty. Mahmoudy Mosa is the fourth official while Kenyan Francis Oliele is the match commissioner.

Simba SC's recent outings have been less than stellar, with unexpected detours on their journey, suffering a heavy defeat to long-time rival Young Africans SC.

In a follow-up game, they were held to a 1-1 draw by Namungo FC last time out, with Jean Baleke scoring a 75th-minute equalizer for the hosts at Uhuru Stadium.

These setbacks have been rare blemishes in an otherwise solid campaign. The squad, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', steered by interim coach Daniel Cadena is eager to leave the disappointment of the two previous games in the rearview mirror.

This match presents not just a challenge, but an opportunity for redemption and a chance to signal their intentions to qualify for the knockout stage out of a group that also includes Moroccan giants Wydad AC and Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy FC.



Simba SC interim head coach, Daniel Cadena. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

To beat ASEC Mimosas, it is not just in the final third that Simba SC has to up its game this campaign - the club looks porous at the back too.

They have failed to keep a clean sheet in any of their previous eight games, suggesting that they are struggling at the back.

ASEC Mimosas, on the other hand, head into this clash on the back of a 1-0 home defeat against Racing Club Abidjan last week.

They are sitting third on the Ivorian Ligue 1 table after collecting 22 points in 11 outings.

In terms of the CAF Champions League, ASEC Mimosas have a title to their name (1998).

However, they have not made it past the CAF Champions League Group Stage since 2006, when they were beaten by Al Ahly in the semi-final. They did manage to reach the CAF Confederation Cup semi-final last season.

ASEC Mimosas claimed a 2-1 aggregate victory over Libyan outfit, Al Ahly Benghazi, in the CAF Champions League play-offs in September to punch their ticket to the competition proper.

They arrive in Dar es Salaam with their ambitions, seeking to disrupt Simba SC's plans and carve out their first Group Stage triumph.

The stakes are high, and the Ivorian side knows that a win on enemy territory could be a big boost to their qualification hopes.

In the clubs' head-to-head records, Simba SC and ASEC Mimosas have faced each other on four occasions in Africa inter-club competitions since 2003, picking up two victories apiece.

### Flexibles by David Chikoko

