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Z'bar rattled as tourism minister 'steps aside'

Ministers don't step down in our culture," he affirmed, wishing not to go into the proper contentions surrounding his decision to 'step aside'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

SIMAI Mohamed Said, the Tourism and Heritage minister for Zanzibar, tendered his resignation early yesterday, citing an unfavourable working environment.

He announced his decision in a video released late Thursday where he explained the contents of his letter to President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, in a step that the outgoing minister himself admitted that it was 'unusual.'

There are scarcely any recollections for a minister to have resigned in Zanzibar in the past 20 years or earlier, as "ministers don't step down in our culture," he affirmed, wishing not to go into the proper contentions surrounding his decision to 'step aside.'

Observers interviewed in Zanzibar and in the commercial capital of Dar es Salaam said that the



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has an audience in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Hyeong Ryeol Kim (L), administrator of South Korea's National Agency for Administrative City Construction. Photo: PMO

PMO, Korean agency agree on capital city architecture

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA has signed a memorandum of understanding with South Korea for the development and beautification of the capital, Dodoma.

Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Parliament and Coordination state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) signed the accord tying PMO with the National Agency for Administrative City Construction (NAACC) of the Republic of Korea, working with Heerim Architects and Planners, a Korean firm with engagements in various parts of the world.

The minister said that the partnership will enable the country to access modern technology in

the designing and construction of buildings which along with other structures will beautify the capital.

Noting that the government is seeking partnerships with companies having elevated capacity in designing and construction, she said, noting that developing the capital city needs massive investments in buildings, recreational areas, green environment, communication hubs and other attractions.

In pursuing these objectives, the government needs to work closely with the private sector, moving together to create a desirable capital city that attracts the eyes of millions within and outside the country, she said.

She appealed to the private sec-

tor, citing specifically businessmen and women, to invest in the city environs and develop the capital, elaborating that Korea and Tanzania have maintained diplomatic ties and cooperation activities for more than 30 years.

Korea has so far provided Tanzania with more than \$450m in grants and loans, being the biggest beneficiary of Korean assistance in Africa.

The MoU signing lays the basis for enhanced trade and investment between the two countries as similar projects will be implemented particularly in the capital, she stated, recalling that Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa visited Korea last year.

During the visit he met with

NACC top officials, as the agency administered the development and construction of Sejong City, itself an impressive feat of architecture, thus inviting the agency to "share experience with counterpart institutions in Tanzania."

Hyeong Ryeol Kim, the NAACC administrator, said the agreement will further strengthen economic relations between the two countries.

The government has lined up several strategies to develop the necessary infrastructure like transport systems, water supply and housing, to accommodate the growing number of civil servants and other residents in the capital, the minister added.

Ministry: PURA has to be keen on national interests

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) has been tasked to prioritise national interests in auctioning petroleum exploration blocks.

Athumani Mbutuka, the deputy Energy ministry permanent secretary standing in for permanent secretary Felchesmi Mramba, made this

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Green light for resumption of NBC Premier League

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Hemed 'Morocco' and AFCON innovation with a 7-3 formation

Zungu praises agro-tech international exhibition

By Guardian Reporter

NATIONAL Assembly Deputy Speaker Mussa Hassan Zungu has hailed East African countries for their robust efforts to market the agriculture sector's potential and its entire value chain to attract more investments.

He made the remarks when officiating at the opening of the three-day Agro FoodPack International trade exhibition involves Tanzania, Kenya, Turkey, Iran, India, Egypt and South Africa, among others.

The exhibition is part of government initiatives after President Samia Suluhu Hassan unlocked the

country to invite investments that will improve the economy and uplift individual economic prospects, he said.

The exhibition was first held in Kenya and now it is hosted here, later moving to Uganda in April, with the purpose of enabling local traders and entrepreneurs to ex-

hibit their products before a wider audience.

This way they stand to attract investments and new technology, he said, pointing out that during the expo, participants will exhibit

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Z'bar rattled as tourism minister 'stepping aside'

resignation of the 50-year-old Simai comes in the wake of public complaints he raised against the Zanzibar Liquor Board.

Decisions on permits for tendering for beer and other alcoholic drinks had ignited a shortage of various brands familiar in Zanzibar hotels.

The situation is explained by cultural influences at higher levels as Zanzibar is predominantly a Muslim country where drinking alcohol is considered illicit or in principle it is forbidden, but tourist hotels and restaurants are allowed to sell a whole range of alcoholic drinks.

Observers wonder how stricter compliance with cultural imperatives in Zanzibar is likely to be consonant with an economy heavily reliant on the tourism sector, with some Gulf zone developers seeking to put up at least one skyscraper apartment and hotel complex.

Simai is by profession an operator in the luxury industry, a hotel businessman who once served as chairman of the Zanzibar Association of Tourism Investors (ZATI).

His family runs the Mercury Restaurant and Bar, 6 Degrees South restaurant and other businesses, where the scarcity of beer and other alcoholic drinks is likely to harm business prospects for a wide range of stakeholders.

He recently hosted CNN business scene travelling producer Richard Quest in Zanzibar, for a special travel programme on the western Indian Ocean islands, widely regarded as a popular tourist destination.

A cross-section of Zanzibar politicians expressed shock over resignation, in interviews at different occasions, asserting that the minister's resignation will have adverse impact on the tourism sector.

The reason is his experience in the sector where he has been an

active professional and business stakeholder since its proper recognition in 1995 during the Dr Salmin Amour presidency.

Baraka Mohamed Shamte, a controversial politician and son of Sheikh Mohammed Shamte who was the prime minister of the post-independence Zanzibar government later overthrown, and an ECCM cadre, said he was surprised by the move, describing Simai as one among cabinet ministers considered to be close to President Mwinyi. "The move has surprised many, there must be something behind it because the sector has lost an important person who has served the private sector and now the government," he said.

Parmuk Singh Hoogan, the former Kikwajuni MP, said resigning was a democratic right "but the public ought to be told reasons for doing so."

It was worrying as his resignation comes at a time when Zanzibar faces alcohol shortages affecting the tourism sector, he said, pointing out that minister Simai was among people who understand the sector very well as he has been in the sector for a long time.

Simai cited 'unfavourable and disruptive working conditions' in his resignation letter, where the Tunguu constituency representative bemoaned the difficult conditions he faced in carrying out his duties.

Charles Hillary, the director of communications at the Zanzibar State House and government spokesman, confirmed the resignation in a statement, citing Article 129 of the Zanzibar Constitution as the basis for accepting the resignation.

Whispers abound of a deeper story as the minister's resignation follows in the wake of a year marked by significant success for the Zanzibar tourism sector.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has a word with other Muslim faithful shortly after prayers at Twauba Mwembemakumbi Mosque in Zanzibar's Unguja Urban District yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House.

Zungu praises agro-tech international exhibition

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silos technology, irrigation, poultry and solutions for grain value addition in beef.

Joseph Ntele, the exhibition coordinator who chairs the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), said the exhibition is organized collaboratively by MXM exhibitions organiza-

tion and KNCCI.

Local farmers will access skills in technology, boosting inter-trade and enhancing the opening of business opportunities between Tanzania and other participating countries in Europe and Asia, he stated.

"We aim to market East Africa's potential in the agriculture sector and its entire value chain exhibiting the latest

technologies to boost our economies through investment," he said.

Governments don't need funding to build infrastructure and provide other services, he said, noting that if Africa decides to market itself, using its agricultural potential to be self-sufficient, it will generate revenues to strengthen its outlays, he said.

Dickson Sitei, CEO of the Kajiado

County Investment Authority in Kenya, said that Africa can feed the whole world if it positions itself, and that is why it aims to promote, enhance, facilitate and nurture the growth of investments for realising this objective.

"We have come up with the enablers, including land and enhanced regulations to support investments," he added.



The secretaries general (or their representatives) of six political parties considered to have close historical links in relation to the liberation struggle in southern Africa show copies of the Management and Operation Constitution of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School yesterday shortly after signing the document at the school's premises at Kibaha in Coast Region. They are Obert Moses Mpofu (L) of Zimbabwe's ZANU-PF, Sophia Shaningwa (2nd-L) of Namibia's SWAPO, Manuel Domingos Augusto (3rd-L) Angola's MPLA, Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi (C) of Tanzania's CCM, Fikile Mbalula (2nd-R) of South Africa's ANC, and Francisco Mucanheia (R) of Mozambique's Frelimo. Third right is the school's principal, Prof Marcelina Chijoriga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Improved efficiency at GCLA easing our work at Judiciary'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE High Court of Tanzania has commended the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) for producing forensic laboratory reports on time.

Justice David Ngunyale, Judge of High Court, Dar es Salaam Zone, said this yesterday in Dar es Salaam after visiting GCLA booth at the ongoing Law Week that kicked off on January 24 and climaxes next month.

He said that provision of information such as forensic laboratory reports related to DNA has been improved compared to the previous years.

"Evidence in some cases brought to court depends on the work of GCLA. Therefore, your timely re-

sponse helps to facilitate forensic investigations to enhance justice and rule of law," he said.

Justice Salma Maghimbi, Judge In-charge of the High Court, Dar es Salaam Zone also commended the authority for the good performance.

She said GCLA is a key stakeholder in the rule of law chain, adding that without the authority, it won't be easy to achieve justice in some cases.

"The High Court of Tanzania is proud of your participation and excellent services as well as performance. You have made our work very easy," she said.

GCLA was established as an Authority by the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority Act No. 8 of 2016 on Jun 2022 that provides for the management and control of the

production, importation, transportation, exportation, storage, dealing, and disposal of chemicals and for matters connected therewith.

The authority's core functions are the provision of laboratory analytical services to facilitate forensic investigations to enhance justice and rule of law.

Others are ascertaining safety and quality of agricultural and industrial products; facilitate treatment on cases involving laboratory analysis for sexual ambiguity and sibling.

It is also the principal advisory organ of the government on matters relating to relevant forensic sciences (illicit drugs, DNA, toxicology), laboratory testing on food, medicine, chemical and environmental management.

ZHSF: All referrals ought to be justified, duly endorsed

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Health Service Fund (ZHSF) has called on its members to follow procedures and rules to avoid unnecessary inconveniences that generate complaints.

Yaasin Ameir Juma, ZHSF acting director general made the call here yesterday when speaking at the ongoing campaign to create public awareness on the fund's activities.

Juma said that anyone who goes to a referral facility without approval from medical personnel have to cover the incurred

cost, saying the fund is not be responsible in such instances.

She added that there are some customers who use harsh language to service providers, including forcing them to issue a referral letters to their own preferred health facilities without justification.

"If everyone is given a referral to Mnazi Mmoja Referral Hospital, it will be overwhelmed by patients and as a result doctors will be unable to work effectively," Juma said.

She said the fund has received complaints from service providers that some customers become aggressive when directed

to go back to the health centres after a forged referral.

Asha Kassim Biwi, ZHSF marketing and communication officer asked customers to have faith in the fund, saying that its goal is to provide better service for everyone.

Biwi said that there have been complaints from some service providers that some people force to be referred to referral hospitals, which is against the rules of the fund.

Members of the fund called for more education, saying sensitization will help get rid of the inconveniences.

Ministry: PURA has to be keen on national interests

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appeal during the launch of the second forum of the regulatory body's workers' council here yesterday.

PURA is required to inspect expenditures of contracted companies to ensure that the expenses they claim are realistic, to ensure the government gets what it is expected to get, he said, noting that the proper management of the sector is crucial for uplifting government revenues.

It will also earn dividends to enable it to develop the gas sector for the benefit of the country, he said, noting that the sixth phase government was determined to stamp out laxity and leakages of resources at workplaces.

Everyone is required to carry out responsibilities and achieve objectives within the allocated time frame, adhering to the law and existing protocols, he stated.

Charles Sangweni, the PURA director general, had earlier said they are making procedures to place demarcations between the gas auction blocks to advertise them by June this year chiefly with global magazines to attract investors from early 2025.

Up too now there are II contracts where eight companies engage in natural gas exploration, with a total of 24 contracts made for advertising. Ten adverts relate to marine and offshore exploration, he said.

Agatha Mwinuka, the Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE) chairperson of the union's women committee at PURA, commended the agency for putting in place strategies that ensure inclusiveness.

The council forums have created space where they can freely give their views at a high level of transparency for their views to be heard and timely solutions given, she added.

Project popularising organic farming in colleges, communities win praise

By Getrude Mbago

AGRICULTURAL experts have hailed the Curriculum Implementation Support for Training Institutes (CISTI) project, saying it has helped stimulate organic farming and environment conservation in colleges and surrounding communities.

The project, whose first phase commenced in 2020 and second phase in January 2023, has benefited 29 agricultural training institutes and is implemented collaboratively by the government and the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT).

Speaking to journalists who visited the colleges recently, a section of students, tutors and gardeners said that the project has facilitated review and approval of new training modules for agriculture production at certificate and diploma levels which saw organic farming being added as an independent course.

Dr Sebastian Masha, principal at the Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute (MATI-Uyole) in Mbeya Region said that the project has change the thinking of tutors, students and other staff who currently embrace organic farming. He said that interventions of the project have enabled tutors to acquire essential skills on

modern entrepreneurship as well as organic farming which they impart to students, leading to production of graduates who have the skills needed for self-employment.

Swertbert Yakusola, training co-ordinator at Mamre Agriculture and Livestock College in Wanging'ombe District, Njombe Region said organic farming knowledge is now becoming wider and important not only in the school community but farmers in surrounding villages.

He said apart from receiving training from SAT, the college also got a new greenhouse which will facilitate production of various horticultural products organically.

"We produce vegetables and fruits which are farmed and taken care of using organic fertilizers, boosters and pesticides. Apart from producing tasteful products which are loved by many from the college and surrounding society, the college also produce organic fertilisers and sell the same to farmers," he said.

Enock Mambe, a garden attendant at Mamre said the project hasn't only ended up reviewing curriculum but also broadened the understanding of staff, students and farmers on the importance of organic farming.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko graces the launch of an electrification project by switching on the lights at a house at Kigandini village in Mkinga District, Tanga Region, on Thursday. Left is Mkinga constituency legislator Dunstan Kitandula, who doubles as Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister. Photo courtesy of Energy ministry

Lifeline for people who stopped taking ARVs due to stigma

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

AMREF Health Africa-Tanzania has started an initiative to help people living with HIV/AIDS who have stopped using Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) due to stigma and discrimination.

Dr Edwin Kilimba, director of Afya Thabiti project at AMREF, said this yesterday in Dodoma when speaking at a meeting between AMREF, the Ministry of Health and President's Office (Regional Admin-

istration and Local Government).

Dr Kilimba said AMREF came up with the plan through the Afya Thabiti project and it targets people living with HIV/AIDS who stopped taking ARVs because of stigma and discrimination.

He said that they have started to educate the target beneficiaries before giving them the medicines that they are expected to use for three or six months without attending clinic.

The project coordinator said they

found out that there many people who stop taking ARVs because of being stigmatized and discriminated against, especially by close friends and relatives.

Dr Kilimba said they also encourage people living with HIV but have no underlying diseases to take medicines that the can use at home for long periods of time before attending clinic.

He said in providing education, they also entice individuals to continue taking medicines so that they

can protect their health and those of others.

The project coordinator said Afya Thabiti project intends to improve provision of services at all HIV/AIDS clinics owned by the government and selected private facilities in a bid to control the spread of HIV/AIDS.

He said AMREF Health Africa - Tanzania has been a stakeholder and key partner of the government in health sector for years.

He added that they also provide health education services, coordinate and develop various health policies and guidelines with various interventions implemented in different regions in Tanzania.

Other projects include mother and child health, youth and adolescent reproductive health, Tuberculosis, Covid-19 services, clean water, improving sanitation and waste as well as building capacity for health workers.

Dr Kilimba said in continuing its responsibility in supporting the government's efforts, the Organization is implementing a Sustainable Health project from 2023 that will continue until 2028 and is being implemented in Mara and Simiyu regions as well as Zanzibar.

Dr Anath Rwebembera, manager for National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) said the government continues to work with

stakeholders in implementing various health interventions, especially in the improvement of infrastructure and provision of health services.

She said that the government is set to ensure that it reaches the global goal of eradicating HIV/AIDS by 2030.

"We're working towards reaching the 95-95-95 target which call for 95 percent of all people living with HIV to know their status, 95 percent of all people diagnosed with HIV to receive sustained antiretroviral drugs and 95 percent of all people receiving ARVs to have viral suppression by 2030," she said.



French-Tanzanian Chamber of Commerce board member Benoit Araman (2nd-R), who is also Oryx Gas Tanzania managing director and board member, addresses members of the business community at an event the chamber hosted in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Third left is the French Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui, and right is F-TCC general manager Elise Lagache. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoka

Mass drug administration for river blindness to start next week

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OVER 7 million people in 29 district councils in the country are at a high risk of getting onchocerciasis diseases which is widely known as river blindness.

Onchocerciasis is an infection caused by parasitic worm spread by dark flies and can result in visual impairment and sometimes blindness.

Isaac Njau, Programme Officer at the Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Programme (NTDCP) in the Ministry of Health said this on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam ahead of the mass drug administration campaign scheduled to start on Tuesday next week.

He mentioned the district councils as Morogoro Urban, Ulanga, Mlimba, Kilosa, Mvomero, Ifakara and Gairo in Morogoro Region, and Ileje in Songwe Region. Others are Madaba, Songea Urban and Rural, Mbinga, Nyasa, Tunduru, Mbinga Urban in Ruvuma Region, and Tukuyu, Kyela

and Busokelo in Mbeya Region.

Others are all seven district councils in Tanga Region, Mafinga in Iringa Region, Njombe Town, Ludewa and Njombe in Njombe Region.

Njau said that in Tanzania, five NTDs are given top priority, namely Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, trachoma, onchocerciasis schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth.

He said Tanzania has made considerable progress in targeting and eliminating NTDs through mass drug administration (MDA) and other interventions. The officer said to ensure the NTDs are prevented, the government will launch a door to door drug administering next week.

"We call on the communities to adhere to personal hygiene and environmental cleanliness in order to be free from diseases," he said.

Dr Clara Mwansasu, Programme Officer at NTDCP in the Ministry of Health said that diseases have negative economic impact to the affected

people. She said NTDs often cause severe disfigurement, long-lasting or permanent disabilities, and social stigma. She said much of the Tanzanian population is still at risk of two or more NTDs.

Dr Mwansasu said that for example, onchocerciasis is endemic in 28 districts, and soil-transmitted helminths is endemic in all Tanzania districts.

She said the analysis found that men and women and boys and girls have varying levels of exposure and risk to NTDs. She said women are more likely than men to take protective measures against mosquito contact, especially during pregnancy, while men have a higher likelihood of wearing clothes that expose skin to mosquitoes, thereby increasing their vulnerability to infection.

The officer said men also are more likely to engage in work and leisure activities outside, which increases their risk of infection due to mosquito exposure.

Riba kwa mwezi - JANUARI 2024

Muda wa mkopo	Ada ya Mkopo	Asilimia ya Bima kwenye Makato ya mwezi	Call Centre			USSD
			Kuongeza Mkopo	Mikopo Mipya	Kununua madeni	Kuongeza Mkopo
3	0.00%	0.00%	3.49%	3.41%	3.41%	3.41%
6	2.00%	7.08%	0.77%	0.69%	0.69%	0.69%
9	5.00%	7.08%	0.84%	0.76%	0.76%	0.76%
12	8.47%	7.08%	0.80%	0.72%	0.72%	0.72%
18	8.47%	7.08%	1.59%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
24	8.47%	7.08%	1.99%	1.91%	1.91%	1.91%
30	8.47%	7.08%	2.23%	2.15%	2.15%	2.15%
36	8.47%	7.08%	2.40%	2.32%	2.32%	2.32%
42	8.47%	7.08%	2.51%	2.44%	2.44%	2.44%
48	8.47%	7.08%	2.60%	2.52%	2.52%	2.52%
54	8.47%	7.08%	2.67%	2.50%	2.50%	2.59%
60	8.47%	7.08%	2.60%	1.97%	1.81%	1.81%
66	8.47%	7.08%	2.64%	2.01%	1.85%	1.85%
72	8.47%	7.08%	2.54%	2.05%	1.89%	1.89%
75	8.47%	7.08%	2.56%	2.07%	1.90%	1.91%
78	8.47%	7.08%	2.57%	2.08%	1.92%	1.92%
81	8.47%	7.08%	2.58%	2.09%	1.93%	1.93%
84	8.47%	7.08%	2.51%	2.11%	1.94%	1.95%
87	8.47%	7.08%	2.52%	2.11%	1.95%	1.96%
90	8.47%	7.08%	2.53%	2.13%	1.96%	1.97%
93	8.47%	7.08%	2.54%	2.14%	1.97%	1.98%
96	8.47%	7.08%	2.55%	2.14%	1.98%	1.99%
108	8.47%	7.08%	2.58%	2.17%	2.03%	2.03%

Farmers embrace mobile irrigation services

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

FARMERS in Njombe and Songwe regions have expressed their readiness to start using mobile irrigation during dry seasons.

The farmers spoke recently during a mobile irrigation pilot visit at Mtwango ward in Njombe District, Njombe Region.

Oliver Kaduma, one of the farmers in the area said: "Last year, more than 30 of us from Lunguya, Welela, Ilunda, Itunduma and Sovi villages attended a field training on mobile irrigation which was supported by Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT)."

She said that mobile irrigation plays a crucial role in farmers' development since they can conduct agricultural activities throughout the year and earn more income.

"Mobile irrigation gives farmers an opportunity to conduct crop rotation, hence increase income for our livelihood," she said.

She appealed to the government and development partners to provide them with modern water pumps which can serve farmers at distant locations.

Another farmer, Philipo Joseph, from Njombe urged fellow farmers to use drip irrigation because of its advantages.

"We face a shortage of water in our area; so, I ask farmers to use drip irrigation since it does not consume a lot of water," he said.

He said most farmers in the area use water from river Rufiji for irrigation but the source now faces challenges as some of its tributaries drying

up.

Another farmer, Venance Mlata, urged the government to drill water wells in their area for irrigation services.

He said once wells are drilled, it would be easier for more farmers to access the services and reduce unnecessary costs.

Region Huruma, a farmer from Mahenje village in Songwe Luvanda said he was convinced to engage in mobile irrigation soon after he attended farmers' field demonstration.

"I have decided to engage in tomato farming for the first time whereby I planted during the dry season in November last year and sought mobile irrigation services," he said.

He said many farmers have shown interest in engaging in mobile irrigation, urging the government and private sector to improve the service.

"More improved services are needed; they should visit us regularly and be transparent on this project," he said.

Songwe-based farmer Adolf Simwiche said mobile irrigation services ensure that markets get constant produce.

"I'm ready to share cost of mobile irrigation services. What I want is permanent source of water for my farm," he said.

Delta Shila, AMDT programme officer, said they started to sensitise mobile irrigation services in some regions last year.

"We have come here to learn and exchange ideas with farmers on how to get more income through irrigation during dry seasons," he said.



Mara regional commissioner Said Mtanda (2nd-L) pictured on Thursday presenting a school bag to one of the pupils from needy families studying in primary schools in Chamriho Division, Bunda District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Gates Foundation CEO calls for increased philanthropic giving

SEATTLE

BILL and Melinda Gates Foundation CEO Mark Suzman has called for philanthropists to give more and give now to meet the unprecedented challenges nations across the globe face in combatting poverty, eradicating disease, and fighting inequality.

In the years since the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the world has seen a setback in progress at a time when low-income countries have fewer resources to meet basic human needs. And yet, there is a robust pipeline of health and technological innovations and proven

solutions that could be scaled up or catalyzed with the advent of additional philanthropic dollars.

"Philanthropy can take risks and help fill gaps that would otherwise be overlooked or underfunded," Suzman writes in his annual letter published on Wednesday.

"We have the opportunity to realize the full potential of philanthropy at the moment when the world needs it most."

According to Forbes, the net worth of the world's 2,640 billionaires is at least \$12.2 trillion. Suzman points out that with just \$1 billion in additional giving—a tiny fraction of that amount—philanthropists could

fund a set of high-impact, low-cost interventions that could save the lives of 2 million additional mothers and babies by 2030. With \$4 billion, they could help half a billion smallholder farmers become more climate resilient and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture by 1 gigaton a year by 2030. With a little more than \$7 billion, they could get vaccines to 300 million people, preventing at least 7 million deaths.

This immense potential to respond to compounding global crises and accelerate progress is why the

Gates Foundation is stepping up

its funding support. Earlier this month, the Gates Foundation's board of trustees approved a 2024 budget of \$8.6 billion—the largest ever—which the foundation will use to fund innovative ways to save and improve lives.

In 2022, the foundation announced its intent to increase its annual payout to \$9 billion by 2026, and it is committed to spending down its endowment within 20 years of its founders' deaths to focus on solving urgent problems now and helping set up sustainable systems for the future.

Suzman's letter also highlights the growth and evolution of phi-

lanthropy globally, citing organizations such as the African Philanthropy Forum that is helping African donors work together to drive inclusive, sustainable development across the continent and foundations based in countries like India, China, and Singapore are taking on more local and global problems. "The philanthropic ecosystem looks different than it did when I started doing this work over 15 years ago, and that's a good thing," he writes.

"Donors around the world are bringing bold vision and lived experience to complex challenges."

Small donations made by millions

of people worldwide are also having an enormous impact. Suzman underscores that nearly half the world's countries participate in Giving Tuesday, a movement that has facilitated more than \$13 billion in donations since 2012.

As Suzman writes, "Today's world has no shortage of complex problems to be tackled or innovators ready to take them on. But without generous investment and persistent support, great ideas remain just that: ideas. If more people step up their commitments and focus their resources on the areas of greatest need, those ideas can translate to impact."



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (4th-R) pictured in Dodoma city earlier this week shortly after a high-profile AngloGold Ashanti delegation headed by the firm's chief financial officer, Gillian Doran (C), paid him a courtesy call. Among other things, she briefed him on her firm's long-term plans for cooperation with Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Cooperative officer has one week to answer claims on theft

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

TANZANIA Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) has issued a one-week ultimatum to Songwe District cooperative officer to provide a report on the steps taken to address the recent reported embezzlement in seven cooperative societies in the district.

The directive was given by the TCDC Assistant Director of Resources, Isaiiah Kapakala, during the opening of a two-day training for leaders of tobacco cooperative societies taking place at Mbalizi Township in Mbeya region.

He said they have been receiving complaints through the media concerning embezzlements in sesame cooperative societies.

Kapakala said he saw regional commissioner issuing various instructions on the misuse of funds which have stained the societies.

"We must get a report to understand what is going on in the seven cooperative societies before this month ends because there have been a lot of complaints taint our reputation," he said.

Benjamin Mwangwala, assistant registrar of cooperative societies in Songwe Region, said they decided to offer training to leaders of the cooperative societies to improve efficiency of the societies.

He said that the training aims to remind the leaders of their responsibilities and ethics of running their institutions.

Media asked to report more about women and leadership

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

JOURNALISTS have been urged to increase efforts in reporting issues related to women and leadership especially as the country heads towards elections.

Dr Mzuri Issa, director of Tanzania Media Women's Association

(TAMWA-Zanzibar) made the call yesterday while addressing a forum that brought together stakeholders from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), youth journalists, directors from radio stations and editors from media outlets in the isles.

Dr Mzuri said there are several

issues that offend women when they contest for various leadership positions.

She said, TAMWA-Zanzibar in collaboration with various development stakeholders has been providing training for journalists so as to equip them with skills that enable them to write stories

about women and leadership.

"As we head towards the General Election in 2025, we depend on journalists to write more and produce many programmes so that we can see increase in the number of women contesting for various leadership positions," she said.

Mary Kanguni, NED project man-

ager, said they are relieved by the efforts made by TAMWA-Zanzibar in sensitizing the society to get rid of negative perceptions especially against women competing for leadership.

"TAMWA-Zanzibar is doing a good job of creating awareness in equal opportunity in leadership

to enable more women to take up leadership roles from the family to national level," she said.

Tatu Ali Mtumwa, TAMWA-Zanzibar project officer, said journalists have been the catalysts for development by reporting about gender equality as the country seeks to attain 50/50 ratio between men and

women in decision-making levels.

The project for empowering youth journalists to write news about women and leadership is implemented by TAMWA-Zanzibar in collaboration with NED and it involved participation of 24 young journalists from Unguja and Pemba.



Akili Platform Tanzania director Roghat Robert (R) briefs Dr Zainab Mango (3rd-L), a judge with the Tabora Zone of the High Court of Tanzania, as the latter visited the organisation's pavilion at a Law Week commemoration exhibition held in Tabora municipality earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Stolen presidential red carpet recovered in Malawi's south

LILONGWE

POLICE in Malawi have recovered a presidential carpet that had been stolen in the southern town of Mwanza, near the border with Mozambique.

The carpet was taken together with a tent on Wednesday night as the items were being moved to the town, where President Lazarus Chakwera was scheduled to hold a public event yesterday.

Two men have been arrested in connection with the incident, police spokesperson Peter Kalaya said in a statement.

The two are suspected to have stolen the items from a ministry of transport and public works vehicle along the Zalewa-Mwanza road.

President Chakwera is expected in Mwanza for the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of a stadium, as well as to inspect newly built police houses.

The incident comes a few days after unknown people broke into the office of Vice-President Saulos Chilima in the capital, Lilongwe, and stole some items.

Chakwera is a Malawian politician and theologian who has served as President of Malawi and minister of defence since June 2020.

He also serves as minister of defence per Malawian constitution, [citation needed] he has served as the leader of the Malawi Congress Party since 2013. He was President of the Malawi Assemblies of God from 1989 to 2013.

Arusha halves maternal mortality after service improvement

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale, Arusha

MATERNAL mortality declined in Arusha Region from 61 in 2021 to 39 women last year due to improvement of health services.

Arusha Regional Medical Officer, Dr Charles Mkombachepa, said this while addressing health officers

from the Ministry of Health, President's Office (Regional Admiration and Local Government) and journalists on success in health sector.

The health officers and journalists were on a visit to learn changes brought about by Health Basket Fund (HBF) after infrastructure improvements and construction of dispensaries and health centers.

Dr Mkombachepa said since 2022/2023, a total of 2,555 women with reproductive health issues were given care and saved from the risk of death.

"Out of 68,688 births, 12,719 pregnant women (18.5 percent) had surgery at 21 surgical centers. The number of maternal deaths dropped from 61 in 2021 to 39 in 2023," he

said.

"There are six districts and seven councils in Arusha Region, there are 259 government health centers throughout all councils and most importantly, dispensaries have increased from 194 in 2021/22 to 211 in 2022/23," he said.

He added that surgical services in health centers have increased from

17 to 22 and the number of district council hospitals increased from three in 2021/22 to seven in 2022/23.

Arusha Regional Commissioner, John Mongella, said the region's health services, which include spending over 14bn/- on building infrastructure and buying medical equipment, has contributed to a decrease in the number of maternal

and infant fatalities.

He said HBF's funding, along with those of other stakeholders such as M-MAMA service project, saved the lives of 2,555 pregnant women who needed emergency care.

"These HBF funds increased the availability of medicines from 66 to 93 percent for a period of two years, 2022-2023," Mongella said.

RC orders seizure of engineers' passports over delayed road

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

MBEYA Regional Commissioner Juma Homera has expressed dissatisfaction with slow pace of construction of the 32-kilometre Ibanda-Kanjunjumele-Itungi Kivira port road which connects the centres to Lake Nyasa.

Due to slow implementation of the project, Homera has directed the regional immigration office to hold passports of executives of MSAVM Company—a Turkish contractor implementing the project.

He gave the directive recently during a visit by Mbeya regional defence and security committee to inspect implementation of the project whose contract was signed on December 22, 2022 between the company and Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS).

Before RC Homera reached the decision, Mbeya Regional Manager for TANROADS Matari Masige issued a statement on the implementation of the project, explaining that by the time of the visit, the contractor had spent over 40 percent of the contract time, but the work had reached only reached 2 percent which he said indicated that the contractor had no plan of completing the project.

Masige said that according to the contract of the project, the contractor is supposed to hand over the completed work by March 31, 2025 but due to the snail's pace, the project cannot be completed.

He added that the project costs 38.5bn/- and that the contractor has already been paid 3bn/- for purchase of equipment which was not done. Instead, the contractor resorted to rental equipment.

"We ask you to help us because this contractor has let us down. So far they have spent 298 days out of 730 days but little has been done. This project is very essential because the road connects centres and villages to the main port of Kyela," he said.

He added that after noticing that the contractor's pace was slow, works ministry formed a probe team which found that nothing significant had been done.

After the explanation from the manager, Homera said that there was a possibility that the company's executives could run away and abandon the project hence the need to hold their travel documents until the project is completed.

"I have no authority to hold anyone's passport. Therefore, I instruct regional and district immigration authorities to hold travel documents of the company's executives," he said.



Prisons officers pictured yesterday leading former employees of the National Insurance Corporation (in civilian clothes) to the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam in connection with proceedings of a case they are facing involving 365 offences including causing the firm loss to the tune of more than 1.8bn/-. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Red Sea crisis sees surge in number of ships at Durban port

DURBAN

THE port of Durban, the main container port on the South African coastline, is struggling with surge in ships calling due to mounting tensions in the Red Sea.

The port of Durban in South Africa is facing capacity chal-

lenges as shipping companies take detours around Africa's southernmost tip.

Major container shipping companies temporarily halted all transits through the Red Sea, a vital waterway for global trade, on Dec. 15 after Yemen's Houthis claimed a drone attack on an Israel-bound cargo ship

in the region.

The group has vowed to prevent what it called "Israeli-linked ships" from passing through the Red Sea until the ongoing war on the Palestinian enclave of the Gaza Strip ends.

Increased shipping costs

As a result of surge in tensions, container ships have

detoured around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa and around South Africa's coastline, which would extend shipping period and lead to increased shipping costs. "The logistical cost is quite substantial. It's quite huge if you have to look at it in terms of cost," said Ian Rosario, op-

erations director of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) South Africa.

"Besides, of course, there is an additional demand. The capacity has depleted, very soon. You'll see that there will be a lack of equipment, there will be no containers available to be supplied to the market. Already

in the last two weeks I think the freight trades have skyrocketed."

The number of ships calling at the port of Durban for refueling and supplies has surged as a result of the detour.

Rosario said the congestion has extended waiting periods for container ships to enter the

port.

"We can't even accommodate our own vessels that are given the sea talk status because I mean the waiting period -- the congestion Durban [is facing] -- is humongous. It's quite colossal. It's the waiting period we're looking at about 20 days at this point in time," he said.



Outgoing Form Four students of Dar es Salaam's Feza Boys Secondary School carry one of their own, William Frederick, shoulder high in the city yesterday for having performed outstandingly in the 2023 Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations as a candidate from the school. The results were released on Thursday, with all 76 of them having emerged with Division One passes. Photo: Correspondent

Blow to President Ruto as court freezes housing levy

NAIROBI

A KENYAN court has dealt a blow to the government by rejecting its attempt to throw out an appeals case on a controversial housing tax.

In November, the High Court found that the 1.5 percent monthly levy unfairly targeted Kenyans working in the formal sector and ordered payments to halt.

Yesterday, the Court of Appeal ruled that citizens should continue not paying the tax until the case ends.

The government had wanted to resume collecting the tax in the meantime.

Kenya's government is expected to appeal. It had begun deducting 1.5 percent of the gross salaries of locals and foreigners last July, to fund construction of affordable houses for low-income earners.

The levy sparked an outcry from the opposition and a large section of Kenyans, who feel burdened by the raft of taxes introduced under President William Ruto.

The government had argued that suspending the levy would render thousands of workers under the housing program jobless and breach contracts that had already been signed.

Many Kenyans are relieved by the judgement, although the Court of Appeal is yet to make its final decision.

The ruling comes a week after the appeals court gave the go-ahead for a controversial healthcare insurance levy, which will require people to contribute 2.75% of their monthly salaries to a social healthcare programme.

Friday's housing levy case is among petitions that have created a rift between the judiciary and executive, with President Ruto accusing allegedly corrupt judges of colluding with the opposition to sabotage national development projects.



Many Kenyans are relieved by the judgement, although the Court of Appeal is yet to make its final decision

Ghanaians in Dar to explore business opportunities

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

BUSINESS executives representing 51 companies are in Tanzania to explore business opportunities during the five-day Trade Expo 2024 which started on Thursday in Dar es Salaam.

Varieties of product on display include agro-processing, beverages, cosmetics, garments, leather, ICT-related services, manufacturing, real estate, household utensils, plastics

and rubber products as well as arts and crafts.

The visit is part of Ghana's strategy that seeks to boost trade and strengthen economic ties with Tanzania and other the rest of African governments.

This is one step forward for the two countries to participate in the emerging African markets under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) trade protocol.

Koffi Addo, Chief Commercial Of-

ficer at Ghana's Ministry of Trade and Industry told The Guardian in an interview yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the visit symbolizes a profound commitment to shared values, mutual progress, and a united vision for an economically empowered Africa.

"Through this collective effort, Ghana and Tanzania are poised to unleash their full potential, capitalizing on each other's strengths to create a dynamic and resilient economic eco-

system," he said.

The AfCFTA came into effect in early January 2021 with all the 55 African Union (AU) member states with approximately 1.2 billion people having signed the protocol that creates the largest free trade area in the world.

It's expected to lead to the creation of a single African market for goods and services, facilitate the long-awaited free movement of people, mobilise regional investments and towards the

establishment of a continental customs union.

In October 2022 Ghana, alongside Kenya, Cameroon, Egypt, Rwanda, Mauritius and Tanzania participated in the Guided Trade initiative in collaboration with AfCFTA Secretariat that signalled the beginning of commercially viable trading under the AfCFTA initiative.

Ghana and Tanzania have complementary economies with different

products and resources, and in view of this, AfCFTA allows them to capitalize on these differences by promoting intra-industry trade and specialization and development of value and supply chains leading to greater economic efficiency and increased trade.

"Our aim is to create an economic environment where Ghanaians and Tanzanians can conduct business seamlessly while further strengthening our bilateral relations", he said.

Police in Manyara set for human rights training head of polls

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

POLICE force in Manyara Region is set to conduct human rights training for its officers meant to enable them work with journalists during local government elections scheduled to take place later this year.

Manyara Regional Police Commander George Katabazi made the pledge recently here when speaking to journalists during a third debate on journalists' safety and security organized by the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) under the sponsorship of International Media Support (IMS) in collaboration with the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), Misa Tanzania and Mulika Tanzania.

"The main objective here is to train officers on how they can work with journalists during the elections and on other important events," he said.

The RPC said police force and journalists need to undergo training together so that both parties can learn how to work together.

He said the debate was very constructive, adding that every person must understand their rights and responsibilities.

"These dialogues serve as a means of building a working situation that does not cause complaints. Instead, it is a way for building and improving a work relationship between the two sides," he said.

Zacharia Mtigandi, Chairman of Manyara Region Press Club (MNRPC), said a total of 29 incidents of police either attacking or taking equipment of journalist happened in 2022/23 with eight occurring in Arusha, six in Mwanza and three in Manyara.

Mtigandi said violation of work ethics, failure to balance news reports, writing false news, not doing research and lack of background information main causes of police either attacking journalists or taking their equipment.

"Most of those attacked are not professional journalists but quacks who masquerade as journalists. Also, there are those who pretend to be police officers and others masquerade as intelligence officers," he said.

Wilness Kimario, Head of police gender desk in Manyara Region said safety and security of journalists should start with the journalists themselves.



Most of those attacked are not professional journalists but quacks who masquerade as journalists. Also, there are those who pretend to be police officers and others masquerade as intelligence officers



Work on Dar es Salaam's Bus Rapid Transit infrastructure in progress, as captured yesterday at the Ilala-Amama section of Uhuru Street. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Municipality allocates 75m/- for theatre at health centre

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Municipal Council has allocated 75m/- for constructing a theatre building at Mafiga Health Centre which serves 10 wards in the municipality.

Ally Machelo, Morogoro Municipal Director said this yesterday here when addressing a full

council session.

Machelo said the funds have been allocated for fiscal year 2023/2024 and the construction of the building will start soon, adding that more fund will be added during the financial year 2024/2025 so that the facility starts offering surgical services as soon as possible.

Mafiga ward councillor Thomas Butabile said

that between 250 and 300 women give birth per month in the area, noting that 100 to 150 are referred to the Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital for C-section due to lack of surgical facilities at the centre.

He said Mafiga Health Centre has workers who provide various services to the community but challenge remains when a patient needs sur-

gery.

Butabile said at least a quarter of Morogoro Municipality residents are being served by other health centres such as Mindu, Mafiga, Sultan Area, Kihonda, Kindege, Kingorwali, Chamwino and Uwanja wa Taifa.

Fikiri Juma, CCM chairman in Morogoro District asked councillors to ensure that all children

who were selected to join Form One go school.

Juma said that it is important to get correct information about children, including those who opted for private school to make sure they attend school, especially female pupils.

"Being in school protects girls from various vices including early pregnancy and marriage," he said.

Genocide in Rwanda: Mass graves are still being found nearly thirty years later

KIGALI

A RWANDAN official has said that remains of 119 people believed to be victims of the 1994 genocide have been discovered in the country's south, as authorities continue to find mass graves nearly three decades after the killings.

The remains of more victims continue to be found because perpetrators of the genocide tried their best to hide possibly incriminating information, Naphthal Ahishakiye, executive secretary of the genocide survivors' organization Ibuka, told The Associated Press.

In October, authorities first found six bodies under a house that was being built in Huye district. They have since found more bodies there after investigating further, he said.

In April, Rwanda will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the genocide, in which an estimated 800,000 Tutsi and Hutu who were not extremists were killed by Hutu extremists.

Louise Uwimana, a genocide survivor and resident of Huye district, said she was saddened to learn



HakiMadini Tanzania project officer Emmanuel Mbise (R) speaks at capacity-building training for women tanzanite mining brokers and entrepreneurs at Mirerani township in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

that her neighbours had concealed information about mass graves at

a time when the government is encouraging reconciliation.

When genocide perpetrators conceal information, she said, "I question this thing called reconciliation."

Mining giants told to pay \$9.7bn over Brazil dam disaster

By Peter Hoskins

A FEDERAL judge in Brazil has ordered mining giants BHP, Vale and their Samarco iron ore joint venture to pay \$9.67 billion in damages over a deadly dam burst in 2015.

The collapse of the Fundão dam in the south-east of the country caused a giant mudslide that killed 19 people.

It also severely polluted the Rio Doce river, compromising the waterway to its outlet in the Atlantic Ocean. It was not immediately clear how much each company is required to

pay.

Judge Vinicius Cobucci said the companies were liable for "moral damages", or non-material harm, such as emotional distress suffered by those affected by the incident.

He added that the money, which will be adjusted for inflation since 2015, will be put into a state fund and used for projects and initiatives in the area impacted by the dam collapse.

The ruling came in response to a civil action brought by state and federal public prosecutors.

Vale said that it had not yet been in-

formed about the ruling.

The company also said that as of December last year, the Renova Foundation, which the firms have been using to make compensation payments, has so far paid out 34.7bn reais.

BHP and Samarco did not immediately respond to requests for comment from the BBC.

The ruling allows for the companies to appeal the decision.

Samarco is a 50-50 joint venture between Australian mining group BHP and Brazil's Vale.

The disaster in Minas Gerais state,

which also displaced 700 people, is considered to be one of the country's worst environmental disasters.

When the dam burst, it unleashed a deluge of thick, red toxic mud that wiped out the village of Bento Rodrigues.

It also polluted the Rio Doce river and Atlantic Ocean 650km away, devastating wildlife and tainting drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people.

A report released in 2016 found that the collapse of the dam was due to design flaws.

The technical report, commissioned by Samarco's joint owners BHP and Vale, did not assign blame for the disaster.

Dams holding mining waste, known as "tailings", commonly have walls made of a mixture of sand-like particles and clay-like silt.

The report said that a change in the Fundão dam's design between 2011 and 2012 led to less efficient water drainage, and ultimately to the dam's collapse on 5 November 2015.

Sand in the dam walls became saturated, and abruptly started to behave

more like a liquid, in a process known as "liquefaction".

A small earthquake on the day of the dam burst may also have "accelerated" the failure, the report added.

The disaster triggered intense scrutiny of safety policies in the mining industry.

BHP and Vale also face a class action lawsuit in the UK with more than 700,000 claimants.

In January 2019, another tailings dam owned by Vale collapsed in the same state near the town of Brumadinho, resulting in 270 deaths.



Agatha Lumato (2nd-L), a state attorney from the Dar es Salaam Region office of the National Prosecutions Service, briefs clients who visited the office's pavilion yesterday as the commemoration of Law Week gets well under way. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Ghana to lift visa requirement for Africans by the end of this year

ACCRA

GHANA is about to implement a policy to grant visa-free entry to all Africans visiting the country by the end of 2024, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo announced on Thursday.

The gesture is in line with the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to create a seamless single market on the continent to drive economic growth, job creation, and poverty eradication, Akufo-Addo said while opening the 2024 Africa Prosperity Dialogue in Ghana's Eastern Region.

"The government of Ghana is committed to ensuring visa-free entry for all Africans traveling to our country," Akufo-Addo said, adding that such policies are needed throughout the continent to ensure the free movement of people, goods, and services to use trade as a catalyst for economic transformation in Africa.

The implementation of AfCFTA should be more representative, benefiting different strata of African society, he said.

The Africa Prosperity Dialogue, organized by the AfCFTA Secretariat and the African Prosperity Network, a think tank, serves as an annual platform for Africa's leadership to engage, forge partnerships, and commit to achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063.

AfCFTA is a free trade area encompassing most of Africa. It was established in 2018 by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, which has 43 parties and another 11 signatories, making it the largest free-trade area by number of member states, after the World Trade Organisation, and the largest in population and geographic size, spanning 1.3 billion people across the world's second largest continent.

Cape Town emerges world's second best city in year 2024

CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN, the legislative capital of South Africa, has secured second place in the latest global ranking of the world's best cities to live in for the year.

In a list of the "50 Best Cities for 2024" released on Tuesday by Time

Out, a leading global media and hospitality company, Cape Town clocked in at a remarkable No. 2, beaten only by New York, the United States.

That placed it well ahead of other landmark European destinations such as Berlin (No. 3), London (No. 4) and Madrid (No. 5).

According to a statement on Time Out's website, its annual ranking of the most remarkable cities on earth is based on a survey of thousands of urban dwellers around the world in their hometowns.

Conducted in partnership with research firm Potential Insight, the survey tapped into the perspective

of locals, delving into aspects such as the quality and affordability of food, culture and nightlife, as well as the overall happiness and beauty of the city.

"A whopping 100 percent of locals said the city is beautiful and it made them happy, while Cape Town's culture scene was ranked highest in the

world for its quality," it said.

In a statement issued Wednesday on the city government's website, Cape Town Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis welcomed the latest ranking, saying it will only further boost the tourism to the city, which "is now at all-time record levels."

"The city is making the right in-

vestments now to ensure that Cape Town is an even better place to visit in the future.

That includes a record infrastructure investment pipeline, advanced plans for water and energy security, and growing our policing resources to keep making Cape Town safer," he said.

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2024

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

Social security helps in war on poverty, if we use all our resources more wisely

DECEMBER 14, 1990 saw the United Nations General Assembly designate October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons - and the day has been observed as such, globally, since 1991. The day is celebrated annually to recognize the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives.

There is a second day, endorsed by the UNGA on October 11, 2012, worth much similar mention. It is known as International Day of the Girl Child.

Its observation is in support of more opportunity for girls and an increase in awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide. This inequality includes areas such as access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care, and protection from discrimination, violence against women and forced child marriage.

Tanzanian laws recognize girl children and older persons (or senior citizens) as among vulnerable and commonly marginalised groups that ought to be much better catered for in society - including through social security benefits.

For instance, the 2003 Social Security Policy was meant to secure social assistance schemes to vulnerable groups like people with disabilities, the elderly, unsupported parents and children who cannot provide for themselves.

The ideal is to ensure that if one happens to be disabled or elderly or fall sick or lose one's job, there is still provision for basic needs such as food, shelter, housing and utilities.

But it is common knowledge that the situation on the ground is not promising enough.

For instance, many streets in our major urban areas are often lined with visibly desperate children and beggars, among them the elderly and disabled.

The benefits on offer at social security or pension schemes fall below the ILO Minimum Standards in terms of number, quality and indexation to the current levels of earnings.

The formal social security total cov-

erage in Tanzania is yet to adequately benefit all those employed in the formal sector, which comes to well below the country's whole workforce.

So millions of the workforce in the informal sector and those most vulnerable are not covered by the formal social security protection. The rest of the population is not covered by any formal scheme, with the advent of universal health coverage eagerly awaited following repeated promises by the government.

Repeatedly, temporary solutions are devised to address these seemingly permanent problems - including the eviction of beggars, street children and loiterers from urban streets.

Some are loaded onto trucks and dispatched back to rural areas, where many - but not all - will have migrated from owing to various factors real and imagined, only to inevitably return soon after.

We strongly recommend that there should be a team of social workers charged with accurately listing all genuinely needy persons in the country. The government should then issue details on the financial and other resources officially set aside and otherwise available for the purpose.

The social workers should then ensure that these resources are spent on the people they are meant to help out of misery - and, strictly, not otherwise.

Policy change is also recommended to allow direct funding by donors to choice groups in need, hence allowing for immediate application of funding and other support.

It is evident that there are inherent structural, operational and policy challenges in social security systems in many parts of the world.

Tanzania is no exception - and hence the need for the urgent enhancement of viable action designed to induce a sustainable end to these hiccups and guarantee all our people conditions of living as conducive as the human and other resources our country is blessed with can lead to.

Treasury, not PO-RALG, key to district roads bond designs

IT is reported that the government has designed an infrastructure bond to be developed in consultation with commercial banks and other financial institutions towards mobilising funds for Tanzanian contractors to execute road projects smoothly.

The minister overseeing the Regional Administration and Local Governments 'wing' in the President's Office made an announcement to that effect only days ago.

He was speaking at a seminar for contractors and engineers as well as Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) district and regional managers.

The TARURA Infrastructure Bond, the key topic at the seminar, is meant to enhance local content capacity building among construction sector actors.

It didn't call for much effort to expect the remarks to be received with mixed feelings. And, indeed, there is already a stammer in the formulation - as to whether it is local content or capacity building that is targeted or it is both.

What was visible in the presentation was why the bond is a good thing and how it will help the local contractors sub-sector to meet emerging challenges in seeking to enhance their participation in the district roads sphere in particular.

What was unclear is what level of design the proposal or the minister's presentation was supposed to be in the seminar. There was need for the presence of financial sector stakeholders at any particular level for the proposal to be held with a fork, or pincers, as otherwise it is just a floating idea.

In that case, the key issue was not really that the bond will uplift local contractors' liquidity, enabling them to compete with better-capitalised foreign contractors seeking road construction tenders.

That is easy to understand just as is the wish that the bond be known as the 'Samia Bond', in appreciation of efforts by

President Samia Suluhu Hassan towards improving the road network in rural and urban areas.

All that is laudable as a purpose and for its justification, but it would be serving a much bigger purpose if we had the support of enough of right stakeholders behind it.

All happened, though, those attending the seminar were on the demand side of the matter, to which there was need for financial sector expression of confidence in that idea, even simply by participating in the seminar.

It was vital that representatives of the Treasury be there to underline government ownership of the bond idea.

To all intents and purposes, the roads agency was mostly talking to its own constituency at the seminar as it sought to win the hearts of commercial banks.

It isn't a matter of sentiments but of feasibility when it comes to the capacity to pay up on such obligations - including whom to hold accountable in case there is visible defaulting on payments. The visibility of central government guarantee is necessary.

Someone may seek to argue that local bonds don't need the say-so of central banks or Treasury guarantees, which is true on condition that there is a well-structured stock exchange where even local authorities run attachable properties.

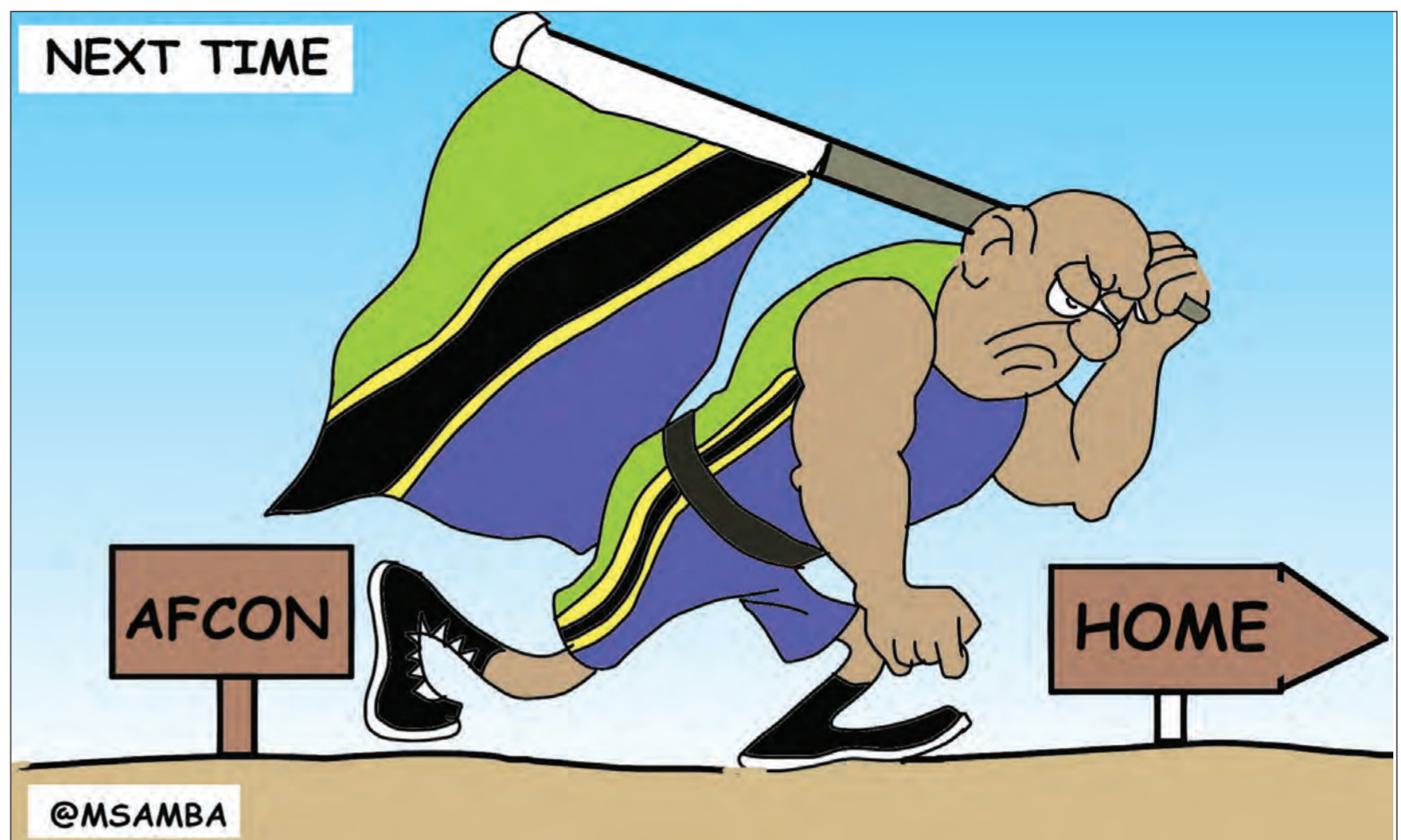
When all they have are public facilities, money-holding investors need to transact with central government authorities, as local governments would likely have little that the courts could attach.

This couldn't have been forgotten at PO-RALG, could it? The way to obtain bond status will be complicated because of this marketing method of wishing that money holders deal directly with TARURA and local authorities for the 'Samia roads bond'. Again, these are propositions it could pay to pursue with cool heads.

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Rapid advances in biotech and AI hold huge promise for future food security

By Muhammad Nakhooda

UNSUSTAINABLE livestock farming and commercial fishing practices to sustain growing human populations and expanding appetites have contributed to runaway climate change, immense loss of biodiversity, decline in ocean catches and unprecedented pollution on land and in rivers and our oceans.

Thankfully, we have been exploring numerous technologies to mitigate risks and seek sustainable alternatives to reduce our impact on the planet while maintaining the lifestyles to which we've become accustomed.

In addition to plant-based meat alternatives, lab-grown meats (or cellular agriculture) represent a very viable option to meet at least some of our need for animal protein.

Cellular agriculture entails the production of meat, dairy or even eggs from once-living cells using culture technologies that mimic natural growth and development and harness the genetic predisposition for cells to grow, develop and proliferate. Scientists can control the composition of such products so that they contain less or more fat, elevated nutrients, and are pathogen-free.

Since the first start-up companies in this space in 2011, and the first cultured beef patty was presented to the public in 2013, many more companies around the world, including some in South Africa - notably Mzansi Meats (now Newform Foods), Sea-Stematic and Mogale Meats - have been developing the technology and making significant gains along the way.

Lab-cultured abalone, for example, is a very real possibility, as is fish protein from species that are threatened, rare or simply unavailable.

Although not yet widely available, lab-cultured beef, chicken, lamb and shrimp, for instance, have already been developed. Several countries have invested heavily in the sector and are currently testing for safety, developing policies and guidelines and working towards accurate labelling before legislation is passed.

That said, lab-cultured chicken has been available in Singapore since 2020, and approved to be safe for public consumption in 2023 by the USDA and FDA in the US. Many countries in Europe, like the Netherlands and Norway, are at advanced stages of the safety and approval process, along with the UK, China, Japan and several others.

Conversely, Italy has taken the bold step of banning cultivated meats for now, citing safety concerns, and preferring to protect farmers and their culinary heritage instead.

While significant gains have been



made, many barriers must still be overcome for the technology to reach scale, for more companies to reach proof of concept for a wider range of proteins, and for these to reach the market. The cost of developing the technology and reaching proof of concept is coming down, and we're getting more efficient in terms of the energy requirements for such systems.

Nevertheless, sourcing the appropriate stem cells and developing and optimising standard media formulations for a variety of cell types remain considerable challenges, along with scaffold technologies to support cell proliferation and bioreactor design and function to produce cells at scale.

It has become astonishingly easier to model proteins and forecast chemistry using smarter, adapted AI applications.

We cannot afford to take scientific "short-cuts" in the development of this technology. For example, genetic modification would be a relatively easily achievable hack to create cells that respond and proliferate at accelerated rates in a standard growth medium. We can also use media with synthetically produced growth factors from genetic modification, or animal-derived scaffolds for cell adhesion, to give shape to the final product.

However, the premise upon which cultivated proteins is built is safety, sustainability and long-term benefit for consumers and the environment, and to have zero impact on animals - apart from sourcing stem cells through biopsies, which has little effect on the animal from which these are sourced.

Yet we now find ourselves in the most exciting phase in the development of this technology. The combination of our biotech knowledge with the recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI) will provide a tremendous boost to cellular agriculture in the months and years ahead. It has become astonishingly easier to model proteins and forecast chemistry using smarter, adapted AI applications. Companies that can effectively leverage AI will flatten barriers, saving months of research and development time. Harnessing AI to better understand and predict protein structure and function, for example through the AlphaFold database, was not available to scientists just a few years ago. We can now anticipate and predict potential protein-folding anomalies to address health and safety concerns far earlier in the developmental process.

Prediction, through AI, of genetic make-up and expression will yield

candidate stem cells in significantly shorter times. We can also use AI to explore new culture media formulations and predict, to some extent, cellular response to media components which will greatly improve our efforts at scaling up.

The masses of data generated from past and ongoing experiments are being analysed and interpreted in new ways, offering insights that researchers have missed along the way. Ultimately, we are now in a better position to automate cellular agricultural processes, gaining more precise control over the growth conditions and cell developmental processes.

Of particular interest to South Africa is the opportunity, through cellular agriculture, to relieve pressure on our especially sensitive ecosystems and coastline. This will translate to products that match natural meats more closely in terms of texture, composition (muscle-to-fat ratio, for example) and taste.

With the assistance of AI, the costs of cellular agriculture in terms of resources needed and time, are rapidly reducing, which will translate to greater accessibility once it reaches the global market. What remains is to understand the market demands and uptake.

Present research has focused primarily on the willingness of consumers to try the product, which is by no means an indicator of regular consumption or intention to switch from conventional meats. Here again AI presents opportunities to gain consumer insights and sentiment analysis by modelling and predicting consumer behaviour from data sources that were previously inaccessible.

The field of cellular agriculture, as with all industries, has much to gain from implementing AI in smarter and more novel ways. We are likely to see far superior products far sooner than anticipated from researchers who can harness the full spectrum of technologies currently on offer - and to come.

Of particular interest to South Africa is the opportunity, through cellular agriculture, to relieve pressure on our especially sensitive ecosystems and coastline.

Lab-cultured abalone, for example, is a very real possibility, as is fish protein from species that are threatened, rare or simply unavailable. We must see increased investments in this sector and more companies and researchers entering the space.

Muhammad Nakhooda is Associate Professor of Biotechnology at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town.

By Telesphor Magobe

Seeing compensatory damages as legal consequences of adulterous behaviour

LAST week, we briefly looked at what we intended to do for this year 2024, especially to familiarise ourselves with the law we are subject to. The idea behind this was to make a resolution to be more law-abiding and responsible citizens.

There are many things we still don't know, but which can help us solve our legal problems and we can even help others who are in need of legal help.

To start with we suggested buying a copy of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania. There is a pocket size copy of the Constitution which can be very helpful to us and we can carry it wherever we go and can read it little by little at any time we want.

When we finish it we may want to

read it again or as many times as we need. We may also wish to buy a copy of the Constitution of Zanzibar. All this is meant to help us familiarise ourselves with the laws we are subject to in general.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at adultery in marriage. Black's Law Dictionary defines adultery as: "Voluntary sexual intercourse of a married person with a person other than the offender's husband or wife."

It simply means voluntary extramarital sexual intercourse. Some spouses engage in adulterous relationships, sometimes even among those who are considered exemplary spouses.

This means marital fidelity (chastity) is not valued as highly as it should among some spouses. Other spouses have found themselves subjected to paying for damages or divorce after losing in adultery suits.

If you listen to stories people tell each other you will learn that both men and women often or from time to time engage in adulterous relationships. If you ask what has made some spouses end up in such a situation, some would simply say that 'familiarity breeds contempt', some it is a matter of inferiority/superiority complex, some it is sexual dissatisfaction they experience in their marriage and seek sexual gratification in extramarital relationships and others it is a matter of revenge after discovering that they cheat on each other while they both gave the impression that they always loved and cared for each other.

In these circumstances, strenuous efforts are needed to mend broken relationships if spouses wish to change and live chaste marriage. There are shocking stories that revolve around adultery and the least we can say is that many spouses cheat on each other.

They may live together and be blessed with material wealth and children, but they may not be happy to live as loving and caring husband and wife in the real sense. Chaste marriage life (marital fidelity) is possible as some spouses have happily lived together as chaste spouses and regard adultery as a mockery of marriage and of family values.

Section 72(1) of the Law of Marriage Act, 1970 (R.E. 2019) provides that a husband or wife may file a suit for damages against any person with whom his or her spouse has committed adultery. The latter is also one of the grounds that a marriage has broken down. Yet, in Tanzania adultery is not a criminal offence, it is a civil wrong.

In the case of Jenita Hussein Hinyura & Mark Mpolenkile (appellants) v Steven Kalenge Lubezagi (respondent), a civil appeal No 1 of 2022, arising from a civil case No 10 of 2021 of Kasulu District Court (Kigoma), the appellants were sued for adultery. The first appellant, Jenita Hussein Hinyura, is the wife of Steven Kalenge Lubezagi (the respondent). They married in church on October 30, 2010. But, the

wife of the respondent and another man, Mark Mpolenkile (the second appellant), were caught red handed committing adultery in a guesthouse on June 6, 2021. Thus, the husband filed a civil suit in Kasulu District Court for damages and was awarded 31m/-, out of which 30m/- was for specific damages and 1m/- for general damages.

Aggrieved by the decision of the trial court, the appellants appealed to the High Court of Tanzania, denying that they were found committing adultery, but that it was a framed up suit against them.

They also said the damages were more of a punishment rather than compensation in adultery cases. After going through the evidence, the High Court of Tanzania found that indeed adultery had been committed. The court held that the 1st appellant, who was the wife of the respondent, being a party to the marriage was excluded by the provisions of section 72(1) from actions in adultery.

The High Court Judge said it was in this position of the law stated above, "which I verily believe to be true, that I find the District Court went astray in holding that the 1st appellant is also liable for damages. The order for the 1st appellant to pay damages is unlawful." As regards the 2nd appellant, the Judge said: "I have already pointed out above that there is ample evidence that the duo were red handed found in flagrante delicto committing sexual intercourse, he is liable for adultery."

As regards damages, the Judge said damages for adultery were compensatory in nature, that is, they were intended to atone the damage suffered by the concerned party. Hence, they should not be punitive or exemplary.

The Judge cited the case of Musa Mwalugala v Ndeshe Hota which the Court held that "damages for adultery are always compensatory only, not exemplary or punitive, and the grounds upon which they are awarded are the actual value of the wife lost, compensation to the husband for injury of his feelings, to his honour and hurt to his family."

Furthermore, the Judge said unlike specific damages which must be proved, damages for adultery were awarded on the discretion of the court, the same were awarded basing on the court's assessment of the injury suffered by the claimant.

In light of this, the Judge said it was wrong for the trial court to award specific damages which were not discre-

tionary, but the same needed to be specifically proved by evidence.

"The trial court ought to award general damages only, and that is to the responsible party, in this matter the 2nd appellant. In the circumstances, I find that the appeal has merit to the extent I have explained above as for as the 1st appellant is concerned and I do hereby find the appeal by the 2nd appellant unmerited."

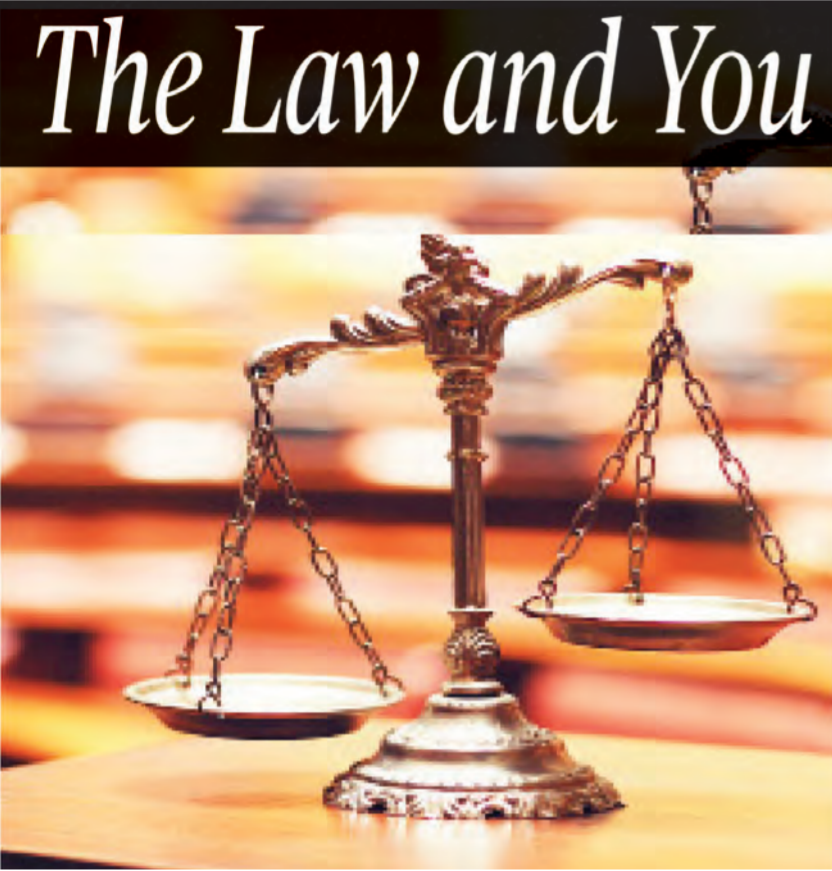
Thus, the Judge said he found the amount of general damages of Sh1m/- awarded was too low in the circumstances of the case. "In exercise of my revisional powers, I do hereby quash the order for award of the general damages of 1m/- and, in lieu thereof, I substitute it with 10m/-."

Therefore, the Judge made the following orders: 1) the appeal by the 1st appellant was allowed, the judgement against the appellant was quashed and decree set aside, 2) the appeal by the 2nd appellant was dismissed in its entirety, 3) the 2nd appellant was ordered to pay the respondent general damages of 10m/- and 4) the 2nd appellant to pay the costs of the appeal.

It suffices to stress that adultery is a mockery of marriage and of family values.

Today's legal maxim: "That which is bad from the beginning does not improve by length of time."

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The Law and You

Building high-level China-Africa community with a shared future

By He Yin

FRIENDLY cooperation between China and Africa has yielded fruitful results over the past year, marked by the official operation of the Lekki Deep Sea Port in Nigeria, the completion of international airport terminals in Zimbabwe and Angola, the opening of the Cocody Bridge in Cote d'Ivoire, and the inauguration of the China-aided International Diplomatic Academy of Tunis...

A leader of an African country recently noted that Africa has accelerated its economic growth, enhanced security and brought benefits to the people on the continent, and these achievements couldn't have been realized without China's long-term and selfless assistance.

Developing solidarity and cooperation with African countries has been the cornerstone of China's foreign policy, as well as a firm and longstanding strategy. In developing its relations with Africa, China has always followed the principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith. The Chinese people have worked together with African people in pursuit of a shared future, mutual respect and common development.

Charting the course for China-Africa cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping has taken China-Africa relations to new heights. He raised 10 major cooperation plans, eight major initiatives, and nine programs of cooperation between China and Africa. He also proposed to build an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future, a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era, and a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

This year, China will host the next meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, where Chinese and African leaders are expected to discuss future development plans. This will undoubtedly inject new impetus into the development of China-Africa relations.

China has all along treated African friends with sincerity and wholeheartedly provided support for Africa's development, making China-Africa cooperation a fine example of South-South cooperation and international cooperation with Africa.

China is pursuing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. Africa is moving at an accelerated speed toward the bright prospects envisioned in Agenda 2063. As the two sides join hands to advance modernization, they will deliver a better future for the Chinese and African people, and set a fine example in the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Leaders of African countries have expressed appreciation for Xi's governance philosophy and deep concern for the people, admiring China's remarkable achievements. They said African countries will keep joining the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative, and implement the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative.

At the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue held in August 2023, Xi proposed to launch the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization, the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization, and the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development, helping Africa bring its integration and modernization into a fast track.

China is ready to work with African countries to explore effective ways that suit their respective national conditions, preserve their independence, and achieve common development and prosperity, striving together for modernization.

China is the world's largest developing country, and Africa is the continent with the largest number of developing countries. The two sides need solidarity and cooperation more than ever. They should stay committed to observ-



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L, front) and Denis Sassou Nguesso (R, front), the President of the Republic of Congo, attend the completion ceremony of the China-Republic of Congo Friendship Hospital project in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of Congo, March 30, 2013. File photo

ing the basic norms governing international relations, oppose all forms of hegemonism and power politics, oppose interference in other countries' internal affairs, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries.

Many African countries and the African Union have been openly reaffirming their commitment to the one-China principle, firm support for China's effort of upholding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and support for China's reunification. Some said China is a great country, and no country or force can stop China's progress; some said there is only one China in the world and Taiwan is a part of China; some expressed their firm support for the one-China principle and an early reunification of China.

China supports Africa in becoming an important pole in the world's political, economic and cultural development. China is ready to create new opportunities for Africa with its own new development. China was the first country to explicitly express its support for the African Union's membership of the G20. China is firmly committed to upholding international fairness and justice, and firmly supports Africa in enhancing its international status and influence. This fully demonstrates the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation.

The African people need a friend like China, who takes care of Africa's realities, listens to Africa's demands, and never imposes its will on others, said Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe.

No matter how the situation develops, mutual respect, understanding, support and help have always been the key features of China-Africa friendships.

China will continue to stand firmly with Africa, and inherit and carry forward the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation. China will support Africa in accelerating independent development and upgrade and elevate China-Africa cooperation. This will ensure that more achievements of China-Africa cooperation would benefit African countries, and make new and greater contributions to the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

UNITED NATIONS

African women on the frontline of peacekeeping

For over a year, a group of United Nations peacekeepers from Ghana led by Captain Esinam Baah regularly patrolled the “blue line” or the demarcation line between Lebanon and Israel, and visited neighbourhoods in the area, checking in with local families and making sure they were safe.

In 2022, Baah was one of the 173 Ghanaian women peacekeepers who served in the UN Interim Mission in Lebanon. She was also one of the 6,200 uniformed women peacekeepers - military and police personnel - serving in the world's 12 peacekeeping missions which are mostly in Africa (6) and the Middle East (3).

These women are seen as a beacon of hope and protection for millions of civilians, many of them women and girls, who are struggling to keep safe while helping to rebuild their lives and communities after wars.

“There are some in the town who are not very comfortable with an unknown man talking to their females so, because I am a woman, I am able to approach any female, in any town, because they see me as a woman and I am not a threat,” says Baah.

Gender parity in peacekeeping, especially among its leaders and uniformed personnel, has long been a priority for the United Nations. The organization, which depends on its member countries to provide military and police contingents, has launched several initiatives over the years, including urging and incentivizing troop-and-police-contributing countries to deploy more women peacekeepers.

“The world will be a better place with gender equality. We should, therefore, continue to challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination, draw attention to biases and seek out inclusion,” says Ghanaian Commodore Faustina Anokye, the Deputy Force Commander of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, on critical ways to overcome the gender barriers.

Over the years, some progress has been made. Between 1957 and 1989, there were only 20 uniformed women in peacekeeping. As of September 2023, there were 6,200. But progress has been slow and particularly low among the military contingents. Out of the more than 70,000 uniformed peacekeepers, including over 62,000 troops, less than 10 percent are women.

More than half of these women are from Africa. Among the over 120 countries that contribute both troops and police, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia are some of Africa's largest contributors of uniformed women peacekeepers today.

Pioneers and trailblazers
“Together, with all the other women pioneers, we have a responsibility to carry the torch and break down the gender stereotypes, prejudices and barriers against women in the field of corrections and security,” says Téné Maimouna Zougrana, a corrections officer from Burkina Faso who served in the UN Multidimensional Integrated



African women on the frontline of peacekeeping.

Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

Zougrana was awarded the first-ever UN Trailblazer Award for Women Justice and Corrections Officers in 2022. Working under MINUSCA's mandate to help build-up the national capacity to maintain law and order, she was instrumental in creating an all-women rapid intervention team, and recruiting and training local prison officers at the Ngaragba Central Prison - considered the largest and the most notorious prison in Bangui.

“In my professional environment, the field of security, wom-

en are often placed second or even ignored, because of stereotypical perceptions that men are better suited for the job. I had the courage and strength, and vocation, to break down barriers and assert myself confidently in this field,” adds Zougrana.

Restrictive and biased deployment opportunities, gendered perceptions of the role of women, lack of family-friendly policies, and insufficient women in national militaries and police forces are some of the reasons for the lack of gender parity, according to the UN Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy, which was launched in 2018.

Female peacekeepers like

Zougrana act as role models for many women and girls. Her work helps to break down traditional gender barriers, and motivates and empowers local women to take on non-traditional roles monopolized by men in the security sector - improving their access to meaningful jobs and contribution to society, and helping to build their confidence.

Peacekeepers also play a critical role in putting in place gender-sensitive outreach programmes designed specifically to cater to the unique needs of women and girls. Military Gender Advisor Stephyne Nyaboga from Kenya, who won the UN Military Gender Advocate of the

Year award in 2020, was one such peacekeeper.

She trained a military contingent of more than 15,000 troops, who served in the UN Mission in Darfur (now closed), on gender dynamics and strengthened the mission's engagement with Darfuri women.

“Peacekeeping is a human enterprise: placing women and girls at the center of our efforts and concerns will help us better protect civilians and build a more sustainable peace,” says Nyaboga.

Over the decades, international norms and conventions have been adopted to include women in peace processes - to make sure women are represented in peace

negotiations, support women civil society organizations and address the gender imbalance among decision-makers that continues to exist today.

In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, formalized the urgent need to address women's empowerment and inclusion in conflict resolution among other priorities, paving the way for the adoption of the landmark UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000 - which acknowledged and highlighted the importance of women's contributions to conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

More recently in 2019, the Elise Initiative Fund, hosted by UN Women, was established to provide countries with financial incentives and support to increase the number of uniformed women peacekeepers. By 2022, it had invested \$17 million to support 21 national security institutions, including in Uganda, Senegal and Ghana, and two peacekeeping operations such as the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

“It is now time to live up to those commitments and walk the talk. We need to bring the voices of women to the negotiation table in political and peace processes. We must empower them through capacity-building and provide the support they need to be heard. This is a must for sustaining peace,” says the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee.

On the ground, the indispensable work of women peacekeepers continues to make a major impact especially in the lives of local women and girls. Jackline Urujeni, who commanded a force of 160 Rwandan police officers, half of whom were women, in the UN Mission in South Sudan, faces many questions about her work in a traditionally patriarchal security structure.

“Women here (in South Sudan) have asked me a lot of questions, especially when they understand that I'm the commanding officer of a big group of police officers. They ask me: “How can you be a commander? Don't you have men in your country?” says Urujeni, who believes that women peacekeepers “play a big role in inspiring girls and women.”

“I noticed that girls and women here are gradually becoming aware of their rights to become who they want to be. They understood that girls don't exist just to get married and have babies. We are opening their eyes to new possibilities, to new choices that they should be allowed to make.”

Source: Africa Renewal, United Nations

IPS UN Bureau



Téné Maimouna Zougrana is a corrections officer from Burkina Faso who served with MINUSCA. Credit: MINUSCA/ Hervé Serefio

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

UNICEF in Kiswahili cranky game to counter vaccine misinformation

By Correspondent Rose Ngunangwa

VACCINATION is one of the most significant medical interventions as it has helped to keep millions of people safe from the most deadly diseases to mankind. The vice has been so effective that some of the diseases that were once feared are no longer or easy to manage. In recent years however, the world has seen more emerging diseases, a situation that makes immunization even more crucial than ever. In Tanzania, like elsewhere, vaccines remain to be one of the most cost-effective and lasting health investments, playing a vital role in reducing child mortality among others.

While Tanzania has high coverage in routine immunizations, it too faces some challenges to address some of the emerging misinformation on the vaccines. Technology is spreading fast in all aspects of Tanzanian lives enabling innovative ways to solve problems in people's lives. As is always the case; technology can be good or bad it depends on its use. The emergence of social media and citizen journalism has come with challenges in terms of spreading false news when it comes to the efficacy and effectiveness of vaccines. For instance in the Tanzanian context if one is to misinform the public over a certain vaccine causing loss of libido for men or infertility for women it certainly would get the best buy in as sad as it may be. When it comes to this challenge, more often than not, the problem is always with both the elite as well as ordinary and humble citizens in rural areas with no exception.

It is based on the various challenges noted that UNICEF has come up with a ground-breaking effort to counter vaccine misinformation, with a free, evidence-based game, 'Cranky Uncle Vaccine', now available as a mobile app in Tanzania.

According to UNICEF, the move is meant to vaccinate community members against misinformation.

The game, created by developers

at GoodBeast, equips players with the skills to identify misinformation while building their knowledge of vaccine safety, efficacy, and importance along the way.

Awet Araya, Social and Behaviour Change Manager for UNICEF in Tanzania, says in a world overflowing with misinformation, the true vaccine is knowledge; and the tools to discern it are more crucial now than ever before.

According to the official, 'Cranky Uncle Vaccine' was developed as a collaborative effort by UNICEF, in partnership with the Sabin Vaccine Institute; Irimi, a public health behavioural design company; and the Senior Research Fellow Dr. John Cook of the Melbourne Centre for Behaviour Change at the University of Melbourne.

Dr. Cook developed the original 'Cranky Uncle' game using cartoons, humour and critical thinking to expose the misleading techniques of science denial to build public resilience against misinformation.

The idea of a vaccine version of the game was conceived early in the pandemic by Dr. Angus Thomson, Senior Social Scientist at Irimi, and Cook when writing UNICEF's Vaccine Misinformation Management Field Guide. UNICEF and Sabin joined the collaboration to develop the game and assisted with tailoring, developing, and testing the game's resonance and relevance to local culture and traditions. Regional, multilingual versions of the game were co-designed in East and West Africa and South Asia, later evolving into country-specific adaptations for Tanzania.

"Games and humour are perfect allies for tackling vaccine misinformation," says Cook adding that they are interactive, engaging, and can be scaled up to reach enough people to make a difference in building resilience against misinformation.

'Cranky Uncle Vaccine' centres around a character called 'Cranky Uncle' (an archetypal science-de-



nying individual) who insists he knows better than the world's scientists, and a health worker who shares factual information on the safety, efficacy, and importance of vaccines. Throughout the game players are mentored by the Cranky Uncle character, who teaches them different misinformation techniques ('tricks') that he uses to mislead people about vaccines.

According to Dr. Kate Hopkins, Director of Research in Sabin's Vaccine Acceptance and Demand Initiative; the game is evidence-based, starting with the literature review conducted which identified and classified the top 10 fallacies used globally to push vaccine misinformation.

She says the team worked with end users-young people, community health workers and parents/caregivers-to discuss and localize the script and characters to their context and ensure the final content is culturally

relevant. A pre- and post-game play survey was administered as part of the pilot studies.

UNICEF's Surani Abeyesekera who specializes in Social, and Behaviour Change with the Immunisation Section in New York, HQ says the programme is about taking the initiative and getting out ahead of this challenge, rather than always being on the back foot.

"We want to vaccinate people against vaccine misinformation," he says, adding that results have shown that 'Cranky Uncle Vaccine' is effective in helping users discern vaccine-related misinformation from vaccination facts. A global dashboard, engineered by GoodBeast (who also developed the mobile app) and supported by UNICEF, tracks data analytics," says Abeyesekera.

According to the press release released in Tanzania by UNICEF recently, 'Cranky Uncle Vaccine' which also rolled out in Ghana, is being tested in

other countries including Rwanda and Pakistan for roll out this year and will be scaled programmatically, embedded in the ongoing immunization activities of local UNICEF offices, Ministries of Health, and community-based organizations.

In case you are wondering over how Tanzanians can get the message, well you need not to worry as the game is available in multiple languages such as French, Kinyarwanda and Swahili, reads the statement.

To ensure equitable access and to narrow the digital divide, the game is also being optimized for low-bandwidth devices (not only as a smartphone application). Apart from the WhatsApp chatbot and a voice-based platform, the game can be accessed on the Internet of Good Things (IoGT) and as an offline print version.

To make this more effective, UNICEF intends to use community radios under

the umbrella of the Network of Community Media in Tanzania (TADIO) to ensure the message reaches as many people in hard to reach areas as possible.

The move will be helpful not only to curb the misinformation against vaccines but will also help to compliment the government's efforts to vaccinate children under five as well as implement other vaccinations such as the Covid Jab. As it has always been said, good health is a means to further economic development. Tanzania like any other country needs its people to be healthy to achieve that.

Rose Ngunangwa is a journalist, events manager, media consultant, rapporteur, moderator as well as an Executive Director for TAM-CODE and can be reachable via sangunangwa@gmail.com/+255-715-286-671

Kenyan marketers embrace generative AI as its use spreads globally

NAIROBI

A mother runs after her baby, speeding away with a huge loaf of bread as she smiles heartily.

The above scene, displayed on a billboard in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, advertising a brand of bread, has created a lot of buzz online and offline in the East African country.

Normally, such advertisements do not attract much attention, but in this case, the image is generated by artificial intelligence (AI) software. The advertisement is one of the first in Kenya to be created using generative AI as marketers embrace the technology.

Both private and government agencies in Kenya are rapidly turning to AI-generated advertisements to market their products and services.

Kenya's mobile operator Safaricom is among the companies that have adopted the technology for its advertising. The firm has not only made printed advertisements using AI but also motion ones that are now popular among Kenyan consumers.

Zizwe Awuor Vundla, director of brand and marketing at Safaricom, said the firm pioneered the commercials to show that AI can be a tool for creative excellence and marketing effectiveness.

"It's been so cool to see naysayers flip and say, 'This was incredible.' It (AI) has allowed us to do so much. I'm just really excited about that transformation. And it hopefully changes the conversation when it comes to AI for good," she said in a recent interview.

AI, according to Safaricom, is slowly making inroads into

the African creative space, although sometimes creatives have to struggle with difficulties in finding props and people that depict the authentic image of the continent.

But so far, so good, it seems, for Kenyan industry, as government agencies are also joining in on the use of AI for marketing purposes.

A week ago, the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) released an AI-generated advertisement that depicted progress made in building roads in towns and cities of the country.

"We are working toward a seamless connectivity across all the 47 counties through the transformation of urban mobility," KURA explained in the advertisement.

Moses Kembaro, a digital marketer in Kenya, observed that AI is currently having a "wild wild west" moment in Kenya as the country moves to make guidelines and regulations for using the technology.

Areas of concern, according to him, are things to do with intellectual property rights and the technology taking away the jobs of creatives, including photographers, videographers, and models.

"Whatever the case, the ship has already taken off as businesses opt to use inexpensive AI-generated creative assets for their marketing campaigns. AI will touch everyone and everything going forward, so we all either have to ride this tsunami, or get crushed by it," he said in an analysis.



A view of Nairobi city

in Nairobi.

"AI is slowly eating our cake; I am afraid that many creators may lose their jobs because of it, but the problem is that we have to adapt to the change.

The camera may not be important soon, but I certainly need

to know how to create the AI videos," he told Xinhua.

George Njuguna, director of information technology at Safaricom, noted that there are several ethical issues surrounding the use of generative AI.

"But many of the technologies that have impacted human civilization in the past have had ethical issues. So Safaricom is taking a leadership role in discussing it from an adoption perspective," he said. There is a proposed law be-

fore the Parliament of Kenya that seeks to regulate the industry as it rapidly grows.

Dubbed the Kenya Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Society Bill, 2023, it seeks to promote responsible and ethical development and applica-

tion of AI technologies in the country.

Kenyan President William Ruto recently directed the Ministry of Information, Communications and The Digital Economy to develop AI legislation to guide the industry.

By Zhao Xu in New York

AS a young man, he was exposed to the ravages of tyranny and war, and he would later champion the cause of bringing two nations together

IN his book *Travels With Henry*, veteran US journalist Richard Valeriani describes a scene in which Henry Kissinger, national security adviser and later secretary of state to president Richard Nixon, "walked in on some elaborate State Department setup on the road". "He would invariably ask, 'Who are all these people?' And then he would point out with some disdain, 'I opened up China with five people,'" Valeriani wrote.

"He was a different man in China," wrote the international affairs reporter, who "jetted over half a million miles (804,000 kilometers)" with Kissinger, watching him "negotiating his way through Moscow, Peking (Beijing), Cairo, Jerusalem and many other world capitals".

Kissinger, who played a key role in laying the foundations for today's international geopolitical structure by building what he called "the world's most consequential bilateral relationship", died at his home in Connecticut on Nov 29. He was 100.

By helping to end more than two decades of hostility between the United States and China, Kissinger also succeeded in drastically changing the US' public perceptions of the world's most populous country at that time and in " (putting) before our people a vision transcending the travails of the Vietnam War and the ominous vistas of the Cold War", said Winston Lord, Kissinger's former top aide, one of those the secretary of state had in mind when he talked about "five people".

"Henry's demand for excellence could have a chilling effect on people who worked for him," said Lord, who at dawn on July 9, 1971, was sitting with Kissinger and two other US people on a Pakistani plane as it skirted the planet's second-tallest peak before entering Chinese airspace.

"Yet for those of us who lasted with him, Henry stretched their patience but also their perspective. He extended my horizon, and the sights were sublime, literally."

The secret visit, which catapulted Kissinger to international fame, would be followed by Nixon's groundbreaking visit to China in February 1972 and by "many consuming years of agony and ecstasy" in which Lord would watch Kissinger "whiffing ping-pong balls beneath golden rooftops arching to the heavens" and inform him during one of his rare bedridden stints that "your staff has voted for you to remain in for another day so that they can get some rest".

"Henry was prone to occasional outbursts against his staff... he usually found a way to circle back with a sheepish gesture," Lord wrote in his foreword to the book *Kissinger on Kissinger*, which comprised a number of riveting interviews Lord did with his mentor between 2015 and 2016. The Chinese translation of the book has recently hit shelves in China.

"Beneath his carapace lies a gentle soul," Lord said.

That gentle soul was once trampled by the heavy boots of Nazi soldiers. In 1938, five years after Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany, Kissinger, then 15, fled his hometown of Fuerth, northern Bavaria, with his Jewish parents and younger brother. He would wait for six years to set foot on German soil again, this time as a US Army intelligence officer. Years later, in a homecoming that was perhaps even more triumphant, Kissinger the national security adviser, after noticing that "visiting relatives" was on the official calendar, told his aides, "My relatives are soap."

"Maybe what my European origin has done for me is to help me understand that not all things are possible, and that nations can suffer tragedies if they do not act with wisdom and dedication and foresight," said Kissinger, who later said he regarded "the ability to project beyond the known" as a touchstone of his policymaking.

For Lord, the traumatic experience was sobering enough to allow Kissinger to stay cool-headed in the rhetoric-fueled years of the Cold War. "Kissinger is a mix of an American immigrant's sense of optimism with a European sense of tragedy. He understood that America is very fortunate to have got two oceans, friendly borders and abundant resources, but he was aware of the limits of what she can achieve. Knowing that history would rein in the expectations of any country, he tended to be more muted about our possibilities."

In Germany in 1945 Sergeant Kissinger had "one of the most horrifying experiences" of his life when his division stumbled upon a concentration camp at Ahlem, northwestern Germany.

"That is humanity in the 20th century," Kissinger lamented in an article, after being told by one of his fellow soldiers that he had to kick emaciated bodies to determine who was alive and who was dead. "People reach such a stupor of suffering that life and death, animation or immobility can't be differentiated anymore," Kissinger wrote.

The writing was cited in the 2015 book *Kissinger 1923-1968: The Idealist* by Niall Ferguson, who recounted in the preface "my introduction to the diplomacy of Henry Kissinger", after he said he had turned down a proposal by the former diplomat for him to pen his biography.

"What a pity! I received your letter just as I was hunting for your telephone number to tell you of

The life and times of Dr K the conciliator

the discovery of files I thought had been lost: 145 boxes which had been placed in a repository in Connecticut by a groundskeeper who has since died. These contain all my files."

A few weeks later Ferguson was in Kent, Connecticut, "turning pages" and immersing himself in Kissinger's previously closed private papers, personal correspondence and academic writings from Harvard, where he stayed between 1947 and 1971, as a student and later as a professor.

"One of the first things that struck me is that he didn't seem to have the right bibliography for a realist thinker," said Ferguson, who would assert in his book that "the idea of Kissinger as the ruthless arch-realist is based on a profound misunderstanding".

One of Kissinger's writings the author had in mind was his undergraduate thesis *The Meaning Of History*. Its 383 pages not only offered a taste of the intellectual brilliance that would later allow Kissinger to engage some of the world's brightest minds, but is also the longest-ever thesis written by a Harvard senior. Indeed it prompted the college to come up with "the Kissinger rule" limiting all such endeavors from its undergraduate students to about one-third of that length.

'Noblest goal'

"Peace is therefore the noblest goal of human endeavor, the affirmation of the ultimacy of man's moral personality," Kissinger wrote in *The Meaning of History*, referring to his study of Immanuel Kant, the man "who has influenced me the most".

In his 1795 essay *Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch*, now considered a classical source of modern idealism in international relations, the German philosopher takes up the question of whether perpetual peace is the preserve of men in their graves.

Answering in the negative, Kant elaborates on the conditions necessary for the establishment of perpetual peace among nations, arguing that statesmen have a moral obligation to seek those conditions. For Kissinger, who entered the political realm as a nuclear strategist and consultant to president John F. Kennedy, the answer could also be a catastrophic yes, "invited by our shortsightedness".

A day after Kissinger became US secretary of state he told the United Nations General Assembly on Sept 24, 1973: "Two centuries ago the philosopher Kant predicted that perpetual peace would come eventually. ...What seemed utopian then looms as tomorrow's reality."

Ferguson said: "Although Kissinger ceased to be much concerned with philosophy, almost all his writings after 1950 are essentially historical, he kept referring to Kant. By doing so he was trying to signal to the world that he was not a realist, but the world didn't want to listen."

People had tended to see Kissinger as a contemporary equivalent to the Austrian statesman Klemens von Metternich or the German unifier Count Otto von Bismarck, Ferguson said, both power manipulators in a hotly contended 19th-century Europe that Kissinger had studied, because "it was a kind of easy story to tell".

One of the latter instances when Kissinger referred obliquely to the Kantian idea in relation to the nuclear age was when he talked to Lord in a series of interviews that formed the 2019 book *Kissinger on Kissinger: Reflections on Diplomacy, Grand Strategy and Leadership*.

"In the American public discussion the issue is often put this way: you have the choice between coexistence and detente or...but then the question is ... or what?" said Kissinger, a major initiator of the detente policy toward the Soviet Union during the 1970s, detente being a French word meaning relaxation. "The nuclear equilibrium in a way condemns you to some kind of coexistence."

Promoting greater dialogue with the Soviet Union, this core element of the Nixon-Kissinger foreign policy was carried out in tandem with US opening to China - "mutually facilitating efforts that preserved American influence after the debacle of Vietnam", Lord said.

"We agreed from the beginning that we should open to China," recalled Kissinger, who had been tapped by Nixon after having, as principal foreign policy adviser to Nixon's main Republican rival Nelson Rockefeller, "spent 15 years of my life trying to keep him from becoming president".

Strategic vision aside, the two trusted one another, evident during Kissinger's 1971 secret visit to China. "We never went off in July 1971 being told by Nixon, 'Now be very careful,'" Kissinger recalled. "When we went off, we were told, 'Get this done!'"

And he did it, partly by feigning stomachache on the last leg of a publicly announced trip that included Vietnam, Thailand, India and Pakistan. While Kissinger was supposedly recuperating in a hill station, the Pakistanis, who had been acting as a major channel of communication between the Americans and the Chinese, ferreted him and his four-man group to an airport in Islamabad in the wee hours of July 9.

Of the 49 hours Kissinger stayed in Beijing, 17 were spent in conversation with China's Premier Zhou Enlai, with whom he drafted the Shanghai Communiqué, later finalized by the two during Nixon's 1972 visit. "Fifty years later it's still being invoked as one of the foundations of our relationship, while most communiqués disappear



Henry Kissinger visits the Terracotta Warriors Museum in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, on June 29, 2013. File photo

within weeks," Lord said.

Depicting Zhou as "equally at home in philosophical sweeps, historical analysis, tactical probing and light repartee", Kissinger clearly saw in this combination an alter ego of himself. And he detailed their meetings in the 2011 book *On China*, written "to explain the conceptual way the Chinese think about problems of peace and war and international order, and its relationship to the more pragmatic, case-by-case American approach", to quote its preface.

"The Chinese don't think of negotiations as solving individual problems," Kissinger said. "They think that every solution is an admission ticket for another problem. They think in terms of processes. ... Hence Chinese diplomats consider continuity of relationships an important task and perhaps more important than formal documents. In this context, hospitality becomes an aspect of strategy."

Here comes what Lord considers Kissinger's biggest asset as a diplomat: his adaptability to the history and culture of his interlocutor. In *On China*, Kissinger, once described by his US army mentor Fritz Kraemer as "musically attuned to history", expounded the thoughts of Sun Tzu, the ancient Chinese military strategist canonized by his work *The Art of War*.

"Western strategists test their maxims by victories in battles; Sun Tzu tests by victories where battles have become unnecessary," Kissinger said, conceding that although negotiation is what keeps the threat of war "potential", it is often viewed with suspicion because of its inbuilt "admission of finite power".

Another place where Kissinger had tried to grasp the essence of what he dubbed Chinese realpolitik was in the board game go, or weiqi. In the game, invented in China more than 4,000 years ago, two protagonists try to defeat each other by encirclement, which Kissinger believes historically has been "the greatest strategic fear" for China, with its vast periphery.

"Chess produces single-mindedness, weiqi generates strategic flexibility," said Kissinger, who shared the view with Nixon that moving to China was "not to collude against the Soviet Union but to give us a balancing position to use for constructive ends, to give each Communist power a stake in better relations with us". In other words, "maximum diplomatic flexibility", as Kissinger called it.

In May 1972, three months after Nixon's historic trip to China, the US president met his Soviet counterpart Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow, where two arms control agreements were signed. This was followed by the Berlin Agreement, put into force in June that year. Finally, on Jan 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed, officially ending direct US involvement in the Vietnam War, which had cost the lives of more than 58,000 US soldiers. In the previous decade, the US, with the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam), had fought the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), backed by the Soviet Union and China, in an effort to contain what it saw as the threat of

spreading communism.

The meeting between Nixon and Chairman Mao Zedong took place in the early afternoon of Feb 21, 1972, the first day after Nixon and his entourage arrived in Beijing and about seven months after Kissinger's secret trip that resulted in a Chinese invitation for Nixon. The president brought with him Kissinger, who in turn brought Lord.

Observing that Mao "would almost invariably begin a conversation with a question 'before proceeding to answer it 'by means of a Socratic dialogue', Kissinger was initially somewhat baffled by his "elliptical comments" and "abstruse language". But he was quick to declare the man "Sun Tzu's student" who thought strategically and pragmatically, with full recognition of "the need for priorities".

"Mao suggested that each side develop a clear concept of its national interest and cooperate out of its own necessity," recalled Kissinger, who throughout his diplomatic career "tried consistently to think in long-range terms and in the national interests, but in the national interests related to the national interests of other countries".

"A sustainable outcome must be one that both sides have an interest in maintaining," he said.

Mao's tireless stressing of contradiction and disequilibrium as "a law of nature" had also struck a chord with Kissinger, whose 1954 doctoral dissertation *Peace, Legitimacy and Equilibrium* is widely seen as foreshadowing his activities on the international stage.

In the dissertation, published three years later as *A World Restored: Metternich, Castlereagh and the Problems of Peace 1812-1822*, Kissinger came up with two core concepts of his thinking as a political theorist: legitimacy and equilibrium, which he argued are inextricably linked to one another.

Legitimacy, equilibrium

"The outcome of their (the great powers') interlocking ambitions and inhibitions would be equilibrium," he wrote. "Legitimacy as used here should not be confused with justice. ... An international order accepted by all of the major powers is 'legitimate' whereas an international order not accepted by one or more of the great powers is 'revolutionary' and hence dangerous."

Such assertions have long fueled the charge that Kissinger was a power manipulator and a proponent of realpolitik for whom "equilibrium ... is order. It amounts to justice," to quote the French political scientist Stanley Hoffman.

"An amalgam of humanist concerns and realist calculations" was how Wu Xinbo, director at the Center for American Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai, put it.

"Like most humanists, Kissinger is preoccupied with the question of war and peace. But instead of steeping himself in pure idealism, he charted a course through the tempestuous waters of international politics, where survival requires a mindfulness of the relative military and psychological strength of each party, as well as an understanding of their historical and domestic realities. When he emerged, he emerged with realistic answers."

In 1972 Nixon's China visit proved a huge success with the US public, whose pain induced by the Vietnam War was "eased and put into perspective by the dramatic opening to one-quarter of the world's population", Lord said.

Superman outfit-donning Kissinger blasted onto a June 1974 edition of *Newsweek* as Super K. The previous year, after calling *Time*'s managing editor in person to try unsuccessfully to pull himself off its cover, Kissinger appeared alongside Nixon in the magazine's Jan 1, 1973, issue of co-men of the year.

The relationship is characterized by "wariness and co-dependence", said Walter Isaacson, a for-

mer Time editor, in his 1992 book *Kissinger: A Biography*. Nixon, restive at the potential publicity Kissinger might generate for himself, had been "merciless in toying with him on the issue (of who would go to China)" in the days before the secret visit, Isaacson said.

In his 2016 interview with Lord, Kissinger conceded that "the final decision was always the president's", paying ultimate tribute to Nixon, who had never failed to back his tactical move as Kissinger bestrode the world stage dealing with everyone from Israel's Golda Meir to Egypt's Anwar Sadat and Syria's Hafez al-Assad.

"One more Middle East swing like this and I'll be aged," Kissinger told Zhou Enlai during a later meeting, referring to his mediating efforts undertaken upon the outbreak on Oct 6, 1973, of the Yom Kippur War, fought between Israel and a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria.

"The shuttle diplomacy", as it was called, went on for about a year, during which Valeriani, the veteran journalist who was never sitting too far behind Kissinger on the plane, watched as Kissinger "grew in girth as well as in stature, eating when he was nervous, nervous when he was negotiating and negotiating all the time".

The apparent weight gain meant that Kissinger's hiking on the Fragrant Mountains of Beijing during his October 1975 visit "was all downhill", Valeriani said. On the same visit Kissinger, who brought with him his second wife Nancy Maginnes, also met Mao for the fifth and final time. The chairman, aging and in poor health, looked up at Maginnes and down at Kissinger with an exaggerated gesture, playing the comic as he noted the big difference in their heights.

During their first meeting in 1972, Mao impressed Kissinger as having "the quality of being at the center of wherever he stood", to use the latter's words. Despite the physical condition that rendered Mao's speech slurred, making him reliant on a translator, the Chinese leader would pull it off again.

"It's always extraordinary to me how much Mao is on top of things," Kissinger, who some believe had tried to cultivate in himself the same aura he saw in world leaders including Mao, later marveled. "For example, he knew the entire content of the talk I had had the previous night with Teng (Deng Xiaoping) in great detail. There's no way that could have done this orally. He had to have read it. So, you know, he's still very much there."

In the ensuing years many more times Kissinger would meet Deng, who, not long after Mao died, assumed the country's leadership and oversaw the establishment of formal US-China diplomatic ties in 1979. He would return again and again to exchange views with successive generations of Chinese leaders willing to seek his counsel. He traveled to China more than 100 times, the last trip in July, during which he was received by President Xi Jinping.

During a visit in 2013, Kissinger sat down to talk with students at the Center for American Studies of Fudan University in an event that Wu hosted. When a student joked that his name sounded like "kiss-girl", the 90-year-old answered by saying that "power is an aphrodisiac", a saying of Napoleon Bonaparte that Kissinger had earlier popularized through paraphrasing.

Commenting on the fact that at the height of his power, Kissinger was often seen with beautiful women including Hollywood stars and socialites, Lord, who attended Kissinger's 1974 wedding with Maginnes, said that the former long-time aide to the New York governor Nelson Rockefeller was "really the only person he liked (in those days)".

"It was all publicity and part of building a mystique," Lord said, recalling Kissinger "taking an attractive journalist to dinner in a Paris restaurant", right after one of his secret talks with Le Duc Thos, his North Vietnamese counterpart with whom he negotiated the Paris Accords.

Agencies

BUSINESS

Govt to extend Barrick mineral survey licences



Tigo Tanzania chief technical officer, Emmanuel Malya (Right) receives the Ookla Speedtest award from Ookla head of Middle East and Africa, Tristan Muhadeer at an event held yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

Mobile phone service firm wins international honours

By Guardian Correspondent

Tigo Tanzania, part of the Madagascar-based Axian Telecom Group, has emerged a winner of the prestigious international Ookla Speedtest award for offering the fastest internet services in Tanzania in 2023.

The international award was presented on Thursday in Dar es Salaam by the Head of Ookla Awards for the countries of the Middle East and Africa, Tristan Muhader.

Speaking at the handing over event held in Dar es Salaam Tigo Tanzania chief executive officer, Kamal Okba, Muhader said it took a long process to announce Tigo the winner.

"After conducting a detailed analysis of the set standards, Tigo has been named the leading mobile company in offering the fastest internet services in Tanzania for the year 2023," said Muhader.

On his part, Okba, said Tigo Tanzania is proud of winning the award

owing to its reasonable investments in the communication sector.

"We are delighted to announce that our achievements as winners of this major Ookla award have been recognized in local and international publications around the world. This year as we receive this influential award;

We celebrate the continued success of Tigo's significant investment in modernizing the web, publishing the new website, and the improvement of technology, all these have made us win this award," said Okba.

He said that since 2022, Tigo has invested more than 1trn/- for a five-year strategy to improve its network infrastructure and become modern, an investment that has significantly improved the digital experience of the mobile company's customers.

"This award is an honor to all my colleagues of this company but also to our customers who have continued to trust us to provide them with the best service," he said.

By Francis Kajubi

THE government has declared its intention of renewing 12 expired mineral survey licences by Barrick Gold Corporation for it to continue with mineral surveying activities for the next nine years.

Minerals Deputy minister Dr Steven Kiruswa revealed the decision earlier this week in Kahama district that the company had since early last year submitted requests to be granted new licenses to continue with minerals surveying projects that will enable the discovery of new large scale mines.

Dr. Kiruswa was addressing government officials from Shinyanga and Geita regions at a special event to announce Barrick Gold Corporation operations results for 2023 fourth quarter of its North Mara and Bulyanhulu gold mines.

"The ministry has so far issued seven licences while the remaining five licenses will be issued anytime from now," said Dr Kiruswa.

According to him, the ministry is currently implementing the Mining Sector Vision 2030 that targets widening the scope of surveyed land for mining activities by issuing plenty of licenses to mining companies.

"Barrick has made an enormous difference for the better



Minerals deputy minister Dr Steven Kiruswa

on every front in Tanzania. Through the Twiga Minerals Corporation partnership, I believe, the future of mining, particularly in developing countries," said Dr Kiruswa.

In the meantime, the deputy minister said rehabilitation of the closed Buzwagi mine is continuing with the ultimate aim of creating the foundation for a Special Economic Zone.

Christina Mndeme, Shinyanga Regional Commissioner said that in the previous financial year Msalala District Council in the region had received 1.9bn/- through corporate social

responsibility (CSR) arrangements from mining companies where Barrick largely contributed to this stake.

"In the current financial year it is expected that the same investors will allocate an estimated 2.1bn/- in CSR projects across the region's districts," said Mndeme.

According to her, the funds have been used in improving health, infrastructure, and education and in establishing economic activities that directly benefit mining host communities.

"The construction of the

standard gauge railway and the opening of Shinyanga airport is going to complement the establishment of the special economic zone for opening up to regional trade opportunities," said Mndeme.

She said the government is also considering constructing a dry port at Nyanshimbi village in Kahama district to become a center for logistics and storage.

Geita Regional Commissioner Martin Shigella said that Barrick's efforts in ensuring that the Kahama-Buzwagi special economic zone is set up will contribute to generation of em-

ployment opportunities.

"We need more investments especially on equipment needed for mining activities. The setting up of the economic zone will also open up for intra-regional opportunities favored by the geographical location of Kahama district," said Shigella.

According to him, Nyanghwale district council in the region has so far benefited with 2bn/- through corporate social responsibility (CSR) from investors in the mining sector including Barrick.

Barrick Gold Corporation president and chief executive Mark Bristow said the company in collaboration with the government is set on easing mineral concentrated transport from Zambia and Tanzania by investing at the Kahama-Buzwagi special economic zone, the previous Buzwagi Gold Mine exploration site.

The logistics hub is expected to facilitate transportation of cargo from the port of Dar es Salaam to Zambia through Kahama district.

"Exports of concentrates in particular from Zambia and South Africa shall be made even simpler with the Kahama special economic zone;

We have also applied this model to the reconstituted Porgera mine in Papua New Guinea and the Reko Diq copper-gold project in Pakistan," said Bristow.

CMA to expand over the counter bond trading

NAIROBI

The Capital Markets Authority is overseeing the expansion of over-the-counter bond trading in the secondary market as part of measures to establish a reliable yield curve by reducing inefficiencies.

According to the capital markets regulator, the initiative will include easing licensing for securities dealers who primarily engage in the over-the-counter (OTC) bond market where buyers and sellers engage directly including negotiating prices.

OTC bond deals have been stifled by elaborate licensing of players that has resulted in just four entities getting the nod.

They are Standard Chartered Bank, SBM, Kingdom Securities and investment advisory firm Private Wealth Management.

"The process of licensing can be very involving and so, we are making it easier so that they can take up that licence," CMA chief executive officer Wycliffe Shemiah said on Thursday.

Without adequate dealers, off-market bond deals have been forced to be cleared through intermediaries in the organised Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE).

At present, only the EABX Group Plc, a company that proposes to establish and operate an over-the-counter exchange in East Africa, has applied to be an authorised securities dealer.

"If you have huge players like banks who want to transact among themselves, they may negotiate the transaction and price the deals but the rules dictate that they go through members of the exchange to complete the transaction. This has brought a bit of inefficiencies," added Mr Shemiah.

Further to increasing the number of authorised securities dealers, the CMA says it is working with the NSE to improve the exchange's own Unquoted Securities Platform (USP) that has a window for off-market bond trades.

The revamp is expected to include

the creation of new rules and a system that will allow players to provide two-way quotes on securities during pre and post-trade sessions.

"We have asked the NSE to come up with specific OTC rules for bonds," added CMA director of policy and market development Luke Ombara.

Currently, the USP's listings are Acorn investment/development real estate investment trusts, the Linzi Sukuk and Laptrust's real estate investment trust while the market has been described as fairly illiquid.

The National Treasury is eager for the reforms to widen off-market bond trading as it seeks to deepen the domestic securities market.

"We will further enhance the market infrastructure through policy support to market participants to operationalise an over-the-counter automated exchange to complement the broker-intermediate NSE," the Treasury told IMF.

"The aim of the exchange will be to promote trading transparency and settlement efficiency and attract more capital in the economy, eventually leading to reduction of yields and cost of new public debt issues."

Bond trading in the secondary market has come under sharp focus in the past year as rising interest rates in the primary auctions distort pricing in the secondary market.

In November last year the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) moved to tighten regulations to protect the market against the impact of bad decisions made by intermediaries.

The proposed stricter checks target the directors and officers of market intermediaries including stock brokers and investment banks with the view to strengthen its oversight function.

Under the proposed amendments to the conduct of business regulations, which touch on the operations of market intermediaries, the markets regulator supports the firing of directors and officers who fail to meet fit and proper checks.



Elise Lagache, (R) French-Tanzanian Chamber of Commerce general manager, presents a Tanzanian Environmental, Social and Governance competition trophy to GasFasta CEO Mohammed Al-Beity 'an overall winner' award in competition organized by the chamber to recognize companies' dedication to sustainable and responsible business practices at an event held yesterday in Dar es Salaam. (3rd -Left) is the Ambassador of France to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoko

GasFasta emerges ESG trophy winner

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

THE French-Tanzanian Chamber of Commerce (FTCC) presents the first Tanzanian Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Trophy derived from an innovative competition aimed to recognize companies' dedication to sustainable and responsible business practices.

The trophy presentation took part yesterday in Dar es Salaam at a new year cocktail party event organized at the residence of the ambassador of France in Tanzania Nabil Hajlaoui.

Addressing the business community, Hajlaoui said the trophy competition was the reward opportunity for companies who have ESG policies in place and given the importance of the topics to encourage and inspire those who do not yet have a policy in place.

"The Tanzanian ESG Trophy competition recognized outstanding contributions ESG principles of which five companies were competing for the challenges award with each providing their dedication to sustainable and responsible business practices," he said.

He added: "France is a reliable partner of Tanzania to support the implementation of its development goals. This ESG trophy awarded tonight illustrates the contribution of the French Tanzania Chamber of Commerce to this objective."

The ambassador said France supports Tanzania's clean cooking initiative, furthermore in May 2024, France will host the International Energy Agency Summit on clean cooking in Africa co-chaired by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

"I am very thankful for the companies that participated in this first ESG trophy award in Tanzania. I am also delighted to see enterprises implementing environmental, social and governance programs and mobilizing their efforts in this area."

Benoit Araman, FTCC board member who gave his remarks on behalf of the board chairman said the board of directors was tasked with the selection process, Mazars, a French firm specializing in audit, accountancy and tax services was entrusted with verifying the compliance of the entire procedure.

"The winner can be proud to be the first company in Tanzania to win such a trophy. Thanks to its efforts towards ESG concerns," he said.

He added: "The FTCC is proud to announce GasFasta as the winner of the innovative ESG Award, recognizing its outstanding commitment to environmental, social and governance excellence."

He further added that in order to support ESG initiatives, the FTCC will continue to take initiatives that will allow its members to get operational, legal and tax information on how to approach an ESG strategy for their company but also what kind of initiatives can be implemented.

Mohamed Al Beity, the first Tanzanian ESG Trophy winner said: "This competition made us believe that every single Tanzanian youth can compete with the big companies and make a difference. It's a pleasure to receive such a trophy and we believe that this platform will give us an opportunity to become bigger in the future."

He added: "We understand the government initiative to make sure that

by 2030, 80 percent of Tanzanians are using clean cooking energy. We are also looking forward to supporting the initiative by distributing convenient, fast, and affordable access to clean cooking gas for consumers in Tanzania and East Africa."

FTCC general manager Elise Lagache, said the sustainable values are shared by International and Tanzanian companies who have the talent to put them into practice.

FTCC contains 80 members with a mission to support the growth of Tanzanian and French businesses by assisting and facilitating trade, investment, finance and industry activities. It provides a platform for exchange and business networking to both Tanzania and French companies.

It includes companies that are active in the manufacturing and industrial sector, construction, agriculture, health, transport and logistics, energy, hospitality and engineering sectors among others large corporations, medium and small companies are part of the network as well as 15 Tanzanian start-ups.

Making Cape Town a hub for technology, venture capital

CAPE TOWN

Cape Town is becoming a hub for technology and venture capital (VC) talent, attracting professionals from Europe and Africa. This is according to Michel Weiss, founder and CEO, Counder Network.

Counder Network supports African startups, fund managers and entrepreneurs by providing fundraising and investment solutions. Next month, it will host an invitation-only Wine and Venture Summit, aimed at establishing and deepening trust between African entrepreneurs and investors and their European counterparts.

Speaking to ITWeb Africa, Weiss said his organisation is focused on building enduring relationships and is hoping to 'dismantle preconceived notions, foster mutual understanding, and unlock substantial capital'.

He said: "Our journey in investing in the African continent began with our first German and South African startup, SEON, back in 2018."

Weiss spoke of Cape Town's

emerging status as a hub for tech and VC talent, which, he said, is attracting professionals from both Europe and Africa.

"This trend has positioned Cape Town as a burgeoning centre for innovation, reminiscent of the early days of now-established hubs like Berlin, Stockholm, and Silicon Valley."

According to Weiss: "We've observed that top VCs, investors, and founders who visit Cape Town from cities like Berlin and Stockholm often draw parallels between Cape Town today and their cities in the early 2000s, just before their substantial breakthroughs in venture and tech."

"Norrskens22 for instance, a \$200m growth fund for Africa, launched by Niklas Adalberth and Hans Otterling (one of Europe's most prominent VCs via Northzone), is a prime example as it also rooted in what they experienced in an ecosystem like Cape Town and connected it back to their success history in Stockholm, having built, invested in and exited tech giants such as Spotify, Klarna and iZettle."

Mark Miller and his team

of Carlsquare, a tech investment bank from Germany, are also in high anticipation of the summit as Carlsquare says it is very open to exploring and supporting Euro-African opportunities.

Weiss said South Africa's tech ecosystem has potential but faces a few challenges. "Looking at Cape Town, for instance, you can see a massive increase in international interest from talent, to investors and VCs who love spending three months and more here during the summer."

"Yet we notice a lack of interaction between internationals and locals. Internationals often stay within their own groups, having limited engagement with the local startup and investment scene. We aim to break these social bubbles, facilitating meaningful connections between these groups, which we believe can lead to really strong collaborations and mutual growth, investments and returns."

Weiss said that South Africa's restrictive visa policies and capital flow regulations hinder the international appetite. "We're addressing this through initiatives like the Startup Act, where

I serve on the steering committee, advocating for more open policies, which are so essential for a thriving ecosystem."

"Comparatively, countries like Kenya and Rwanda are far ahead in creating conducive environments for tech startups and venture capital. Their progressive policies make South Africa's approach appear less competitive and can hinder the unfolding of various opportunities. It's imperative that South Africa takes the venture opportunity more seriously to not fall behind its continental peers."

He called for South Africa's government to make investing in the country easier and more attractive for internationals seeking to invest in the country and provide value.

In conclusion, Weiss said: "While our focus has been largely on VC and tech, we're not overlooking the potential in more tangible industries like manufacturing, infrastructure, and energy. We have representatives from these sectors as well, recognising the diverse opportunities they present."



Michel Weiss, founder and CEO of Counder Network (LEFT) with Mark Miller the founding partner of Carlsquare, a German tech investment bank (RIGHT). Michel Weiss, founder and CEO of Counder Network with (R) Mark Miller the founding partner of Carlsquare, a German tech investment bank.

KIGALI

Annual milk production in the country reached more than one million tonnes (one billion litres) in 2023, representing significant improvement in the dairy sector, according to a 2022/2023 annual report by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI).

The implication is that Rwanda made strides towards achieving the target of more than 1.2 million tonnes in the financial year 2023/2024. Milk production steadily increased from more than 121,400 tonnes in 2005, to more than 372,600 tonnes in 2010, and 891,326 tonnes in 2020.

Talking about the main drivers of milk production, having reached 1,061,301 tonnes in 2023, the Deputy Director General in charge of Animal Resources Development at Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), Solange Uwituze, told The New Times that the rising production is associated with various interventions in boosting the dairy sector.

She pointed to the practice of zero grazing, forage cultivation and preservation, livestock water harvesting and storage, livestock insurance and enhanced dairy cattle husbandry practices as some of the interventions.

Uwituze said "this [increasing milk production] means enhanced milk availability for milk processing establishments, enhanced milk consumption per capita, [and] increased income for dairy farmers."

Rwanda's milk production exceeds a million tonnes



Worker filling milk at collection centre in Gicumbi district.

Such an increase in milk productivity, she said, signifies reliability of supply to the dairy industry, including meeting the demand of a milk powder factory located in Nyagatare District, Eastern Province. The new plant has the capacity to process

500,000 litres of liquid milk (into 50,000 kilos of powdered milk) per day.

According to data from MINAGRI, more than 81 million litres of milk were supplied to milk processing plants in 2022/2023. This accounts for about 8 per cent of the

total milk produced in the same fiscal year. The implication is that most of the milk was supplied to the market or consumers without factory-level processing.

Information from Inyange Industries, Rwanda's leading food processing compa-

ny, shows that the Nyagatare-based milk powder factory will have a combined capacity to process 650,000 litres a day given that it will have another line for processing 150,000 litres for ultra-high temperature processing (UHT) milk.

During the 19th National Dialogue Council (Umushyikirano) on January 23, Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente said that construction of the factory in Nyagatare District is near completion and its inauguration is planned in April.

"The growing milk production is an indicator of the Rwandan dairy farmer's capacity to supply milk to the milk powder plant under construction," Uwituze said.

On the current state of Rwanda's cattle breed and population, the RAB official said that it is more than 1.6 million, of which 16 per cent are local breeds, and 84 per cent improved breeds [obtained through genetic improvement].

"The noticeable proportion of the current milk production is attributable to improved breeds. Nevertheless, researches are going on to enhance the production of local breeds," she observed.

André Rwayitare, the Managing Director of Ingabo Dairy, a firm based in Nyabihu District, Western Province, told The New Times that

increased milk production over the years is attributed to the introduction of highly productive cattle breeds compared to traditional ones, provision of cows under One Cow per Poor Family Programme locally known as Girinka, infrastructure such as roads, as well as the progress made in agro-processing which improved market availability for dairy farmers and encouraged investments in the sector.

His firm makes dairy products including cheese and yoghurt.

"I started with processing 3,000 litres of milk per day just before 2011. But now, I process 5,000 litres of milk per day, which means that my production increased 17 times," Rwayitare said, pointing out that milk is available for him to double his current capacity if he gets finance to buy machinery.

Given that milk production fluctuates depending on rainy season and dry season - with abundant yields during the former and shortage of supply during the latter - Uwituze said that intervention to sustain the production of milk in both seasons are ongoing.

The interventions, she said, include support to farmers to cultivate and store forage.

The support includes subsidies for forage seeds, training of farmers on appropriate techniques for forage storage, as well as enhanced water access with subsidies for dam sheets and boreholes in drought affected areas.

Sh70bn bond tests resolve to cut domestic debt



The Central Bank of Kenya in Nairobi.

NAIROBI

The government is seeking Sh70 billion in an infrastructure bond (IFB) sale that will test the resolve of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) to keep the cost of domestic borrowing in check.

The eight-and-a-half-year infrastructure bond, which is the second of its type being sold in the current fiscal year, has been floated in a period of heavy maturities of government debt, underperforming revenue collection and external borrowing, raising the pressure on CBK to take up expensive bids in bond sales.

The bond will be on sale until February 14, having hit the market on Wednesday.

In February, domestic debt service obligations—maturities plus coupon payments—are estimated at Sh280.9 billion, nearly half of which lies on maturities of the 91-day Treasury bill.

The Treasury's latest statement of revenue and expenditure (for December 2023) showed that the tax revenue for the first six months of the fiscal year stood at Sh1.05 trillion,

equivalent to 42 per cent of the full-year target of Sh2.49 trillion.

Analysts have also pointed to the tougher stance taken by investors in the January bond sale as an indicator that investors will continue demanding a premium for lending to the government.

In the January bond that sought Sh35 billion, the CBK was forced to leave Sh12 billion on the table from bids of Sh37.2 billion in the initial sale after some investors asked for more than 19 per cent in interest.

In the subsequent Sh15 billion tap sale meant to mop up the rejected bids, investors offered Sh11.8 billion.

"The trend, at a time when the fiscal agent is behind its domestic borrowing schedule, could force the CBK to continue accepting aggressive investor bids which portend higher pressure on domestic interest rates in the near/medium-term," said analysts at NCBA Capital.

The tax-free infrastructure bonds—which are not benchmark bonds—have, however, tended to be an outlier in terms of interest rates compared to normal fixed-term bonds.

The 6.5-year November IFB for instance paid investors an average return of 17.93 per cent. An ordinary bond of a similar tenor, which carries a tax obligation of 10 per cent on interest would need to pay 19.92 per cent to give an investor a net return that is equivalent to that of the IFB.

This attractive tax-free return has made infrastructure bonds popular with both local and foreign investors, with the latter usually taking less interest in ordinary bonds.

The November IFB, which sought Sh50 billion on the initial sale, raised bids worth Sh88.9 billion out of which the CBK took up Sh67.1 billion.

Despite the oversubscription and acceptance of a higher-than-targeted amount, the Treasury rolled out a tap sale on the offer that sought Sh25 billion but ended up raking in Sh47.8 billion from investors after yet another oversubscription.

This bodes well for the Treasury's efforts to raise a substantial share of its Sh471.4 billion net domestic borrowing target for the current fiscal year from the February IFB.

December last year the Central

Bank of Kenya faced a test of its resolve to keep a lid on the cost of government borrowing in the ongoing sale of the Sh35 billion January 2024 Treasury bond, which is the first to be floated since the regulator raised the base lending rate by two percentage points.

The CBK had split the sale into two tranches, comprising a new three-year bond and the third re-opening of a five-year bond first sold in July.

The interest rate on the three-year paper will be market-determined. On the five-year paper, the coupon in its original sale was 16.84 per cent, but two subsequent reopenings in August and October saw rates go up to 17.95 per cent and 17.99 per cent respectively.

Cumulatively, the five-year paper has raised Sh50 billion from the three sales, and two tap offers in July and August.

The raising of the base rate is now expected to make investors bid more aggressively on the two bonds. In the October sale of the five years, the average rate demanded by bidders was 18.46 per cent.

Xi, Macron eye stronger economic ties

BEIJING

At a high-end reception marking the 60th anniversary of China-France diplomatic ties in downtown Beijing on Thursday, both President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron delivered video speeches and voiced hopes on taking the relations to a greater height.

Xi said that looking ahead to the next 60 years, China and France will work together to create greater glories.

When asking both sides to unswervingly develop bilateral relations, Xi set a clear goal of “responding to the uncertainties of the world with the stability of China-France relations”.

Among the members of the European Union, France is China’s third-largest trading partner and third-largest source of actual investment. China is France’s top trading partner in Asia and seventh-largest in the world.

Over the past 60 years, the annual bilateral trade volume has soared more than 800-fold to reach \$81.2 billion in 2022.

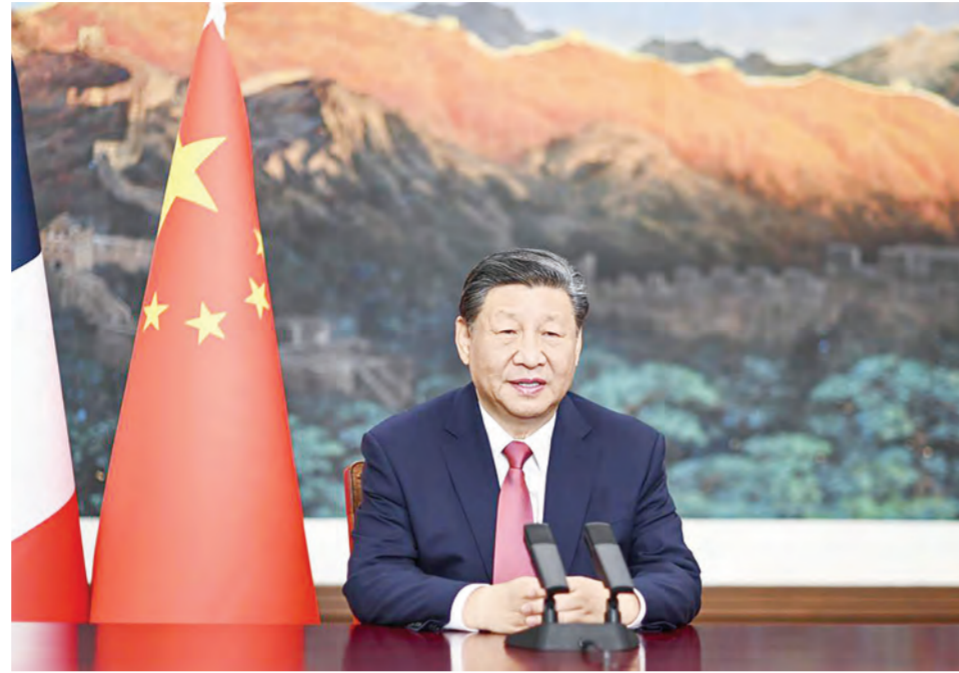
In terms of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation, Xi said Beijing and Paris should deepen traditional cooperation and “actively tap the potential of cooperation in emerging areas” such as green industry and clean energy.

He emphasized the need to “keep making the cake bigger” and “use openness to pool the strength of cooperation and share development opportunities”.

Regarding cooperation on the international stage, Xi said the two sides should jointly advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and inclusive economic globalization that benefits all, and “make further China-France contributions to maintaining world peace and stability and addressing global challenges”.

He referred to two major events on the agenda this year as “opportunities” – the China-France Year of Culture and Tourism and the Paris Summer Olympic Games, voicing hopes on expanding cultural exchanges and fostering bonds between the two peoples.

In his video address, Macron said the Year of Culture and Tourism should be used as an opportunity for closer interaction between the two peoples, especially young people, in order to cement the foundations for the future of France-China relations.



President Xi Jinping delivers a video address to a reception celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and France in Beijing on Thursday.

“The two countries today have the responsibility to build on the ambitious goals established in 1964” and jointly build a partnership that “meets the needs of both peoples and contributes to world peace and stability”, he said.

Paris is ready to work hand in hand with Beijing to “tackle global challenges and contribute to the resolution of international crises”, he added.

When addressing the reception, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China and France “are both major countries with a sense of global responsibilities”, they both advocate multilateralism, and they should lead the steady long-term growth of China-EU ties.

Beijing will “offer more convenience” for foreign investors including those from France, and Paris is expected to shape a fair, just and predictable business environment for Chinese businesses, he added.

French Ambassador to China Bertrand Lortholary said Paris will work with Beijing to further realize the consensus reached by the two heads of state and carry forward the great momentum of bilateral ties.

French Ambassador to China Bertrand Lortholary said Paris will work with Beijing to further realize the consensus reached by the two heads of state and carry forward the great momentum of bilateral ties.

In their video speeches, both presidents noted the fact that in 1964, Chairman Mao Zedong and General Charles de Gaulle pushed for the establishment of diplomatic ties.

Xi defined this as “a major event in the history of international relations”, saying that the two great statesmen “opened the gate toward China-West contacts and cooperation, bringing hope to a world in the midst of the Cold War”.

He praised China-France relations over the past 60 years as “always marching on the forefront of China’s relations with Western countries”, and he endorsed the “China-France spirit” of independence and self-reliance, mutual understanding, foresight and mutual benefit.

In face of the changes in the new era, China and France should honor their original aspiration for forging their relations, “actively face the future and dare to make a difference”, Xi said.

SA’s property sector well ripe for digital disruption

CAPETOWN

A technology-enabled property sector has the promise of enhanced efficiency, transparency, and accessibility in South Africa, and adopting these developments will most likely result in a more dynamic and responsive industry.

Peter Clark, founder and managing partner of Redimension Capital, a prop-tech venture capital firm, tells IT-Web Africa that these technological advancements will meet the changing needs of landlords, tenants, and investors.

South Africa’s property-tech market is booming as landlords rely on digital solutions to handle the residential rental sector, according to analysts.

The country has seen surge in prop-tech, as shown by the development of start-ups such as Preferred, DigsConnect, Instant Property, PropertyFox, and Payprop.

Clark explains that given the current low levels of automation and digitisation in the property industry, there are numerous opportunities to streamline processes, improve user experience, and bring other new solutions.

“Start-ups and entrepreneurs in prop-tech have the chance to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the property sector in South Africa,” he says.

Clark adds: “Technology is and will continue to change the way we interact with property. For those that embrace it, it will be an enabler for growth, and for the slow adopters, it’s likely to impact their current business models.”

He continues: “We are only at the start of the property industry embracing technology in South Africa. Current estimates suggest that only around 20% of processes are digitised or automated.

“This indicates a significant opportunity for growth and development. While we are behind some developed markets, the potential is immense, not only for catching up but for fundamentally transforming how we invest, manage, and interact with properties.”

Clark says digital ways of operating can help landlords save resources while respecting and protecting renters’ rights.



German coffee company shuts Kenya operations

NAIROBI

A global coffee miller has announced plans to shut its operations in Kenya next month as the bungled government-backed reforms in the coffee sector continue to disrupt the industry.

NKG Coffee Mills Kenya, a member of Germany’s Neumann Kaffee Gruppe, says it will lay off staff by the end of February, citing recent regulatory changes in the industry, after the implementation of the Coffee Regulations, 2019 and Capital Markets (Coffee Exchange) Regulations, 2020.

“Following these changes, NKG Coffee Mills Kenya Ltd has not been able to secure the milling license and it is in this regard that the company has taken the decision to close the milling operations. In these ongoing changes, there is a potential/possibility of certain posts within the company’s staff establishment becoming redundant,” the company said.

The letter by the company’s regional head of Human Resources (HR) Hellen Akumu followed a meeting on January 16 by the business to assess its operations and said that there would be consultations to explore alternatives before the February 29 deadline.

The company, which operates across different countries, said it was finalising the plans this month and next.

“The business will set up consultative meetings within the months of January and February 2024. The ideas offered will be given due consideration as we finalise the plans. We shall after this period communicate the final position on the intended redundancy,” Ms Akumu said.

“Whilst exploring alternative avenues during consultations, we wish to notify you of the intended redundancy. If no alternative is found and the redundancy confirmed, as per existing laws, [it] will be effective from February 29, 2024,” the letter stated.

The Hamburg-headquartered NKG has more than 60 companies across the globe.

Kenya coffee is marketed either through the weekly Nairobi Coffee Exchange or sold directly to buyers abroad.

It is not clear the number of workers who will be affected by the looming layoff since the company has not made public details of its employees in Kenya.

Available details, however, show that the company, which has operations in 27 countries, employs 495 people in Africa. Across the 27 countries where it operates, the company employs more than 3,200 people.

In Kenya, the company operates through two subsidiaries, Ibero Kenya Limited, which deals in export and milling, and Tropical Farm Management Kenya, a marketing agent, financier and service provider to farmers.

The exit of the miller and exporter is also set to hit farmers and other workers not directly under its employ but have benefited from its operations across value chains.

President William Ruto in January 2023 signed an executive order tasking his deputy Rigathi Gachagua with spearheading reforms in the coffee and tea sub-sectors.

The campaign has proposed restructurings that include the introduction of a direct settlement system (DSS) aimed at realising expedited and transparent payment of coffee sales proceeds.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 27 Jan

5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Ai Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:30 Shamba lulu
13:00 Soap: Laws of love
14:15 Igizo: Mzingwe
15:45 Igizo: Mzingwe
16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:05 Igizo: Slay Queen
21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Ai Jazeera

SUNDAY 28 Jan

5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Ai Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
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21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Ai Jazeera

MONDAY 29 Jan

5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Ai Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
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00:30 Ai Jazeera

TUESDAY 30 Jan

5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Ai Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
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21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Ai Jazeera

WEDNESDAY 31 Jan

5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Ai Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
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22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Ai Jazeera

THURSDAY 1 Feb

5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Ai Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
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21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Ai Jazeera

FRIDAY 2 Feb

5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Ai Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
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21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Ai Jazeera

SATURDAY 3 Feb

5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Ai Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
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23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Ai Jazeera

SUNDAY 4 Feb

5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Ai Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
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22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Ai Jazeera

CAPITAL

SUN 28 Jan

08:00 Ai Jazeera
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 DWI
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Dw
15:15 Abu ysko
16:30 Rev rpt
16:00 Dakka 45 rpt
16:45 Mzingwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru rpt
19:30 EcoAfrica
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights

Mon 29 Jan

06:00 Ai Jazeera
09:00 Kumekucha Michezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru rpt
11:30 Business edition
12:00 Out & About rpt
12:15 The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
00:00 Ai Jazeera

Tue 30 Jan

06:00 Ai Jazeera
09:00 Kumekucha Michezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru rpt
11:30 Business edition
12:00 Out & About rpt
12:15 The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
14:00 Ripoti maalum
14:45 Sports Gazette
15:15 Jagina
16:00 Tomorrow Today
16:30 EcoAfrica
16:30 Microgaze rpt
16:30 Tomorrow Today
16:30 Business edition rpt
17:00 In good shape
17:30 Shamba lulu
19:30 Out & About rpt
19:30 EcoAfrica
19:30 Monday Agenda
21:30 Our Earth
22:00 Out Earth rpt
20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana
21:30 Capital Prime News
23:00 Ai Jazeera

Tue 30 Jan

06:00 Ai Jazeera
09:00 Kumekucha Michezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru rpt
11:30 Business edition
12:00 Out & About rpt
12:15 The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
14:00 Ripoti maalum
14:45 Sports Gazette
15:15 Jagina
16:00 Tomorrow Today
16:30 EcoAfrica
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16:30 Business edition rpt
17:00 In good shape
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19:30 Out & About rpt
19:30 EcoAfrica
19:30 Monday Agenda
21:30 Our Earth
22:00 Out Earth rpt
20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana
21:30 Capital Prime News
23:00 Ai Jazeera

Wed 31 Jan

06:00 Ai Jazeera
09:00 Kumekucha Michezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru rpt
11:30 Business edition
12:00 Out & About rpt
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Thurs 1 Feb

06:00 Ai Jazeera
09:00 Kumekucha Michezo rpt
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A plastic cow painted with the colors of the EU flag is held up by a strap from a tractor during a demonstration of French and Belgian farmers outside the European Parliament in Brussels on Thursday. AP

French farmers block roads as protest edges closer to Paris

AGEN

FRENCH farmers blocked highways and dumped crates of imported produce on Thursday, demanding urgent action on low farmgate prices, green regulation and free-trade policies as swelling protests moved closer to Paris.

Farmers said the protests, now in their second week after breaking out in the southwest, would continue as long as their demands are not met, posing the first big challenge for new Prime Minister Gabriel Attal.

"All possibilities are still on the table," Arnaud Gaillot, the head of the Young Farmers (Jeunes Agriculteurs) union told journalists when asked about reports farmers could start to disrupt traffic in Paris as soon as Friday.

French intelligence services have warned the government that regional farming unions have called on their members to converge on the capital, Le Parisien newspaper and BFM TV said.

As Attal convened senior ministers with the aim of announcing concrete proposals on Friday, farmers used bales of hay and tractors to block major highways across France, the European Union's biggest agricultural producer.

"We always have more rules to follow, we are always asked for more and we earn less and less. We cannot live from our work anymore," 61-year-old farmer Jean-Jacques Pesquerel from the Calvados Coordination Rurale union said.

Crates of tomatoes, cabbages and cauliflowers that one group of farmers said had been imported were strewn across the A7 highway that links Marseille and Lyon, France's second and third-biggest cities. On the southwestern edge of Paris, dozens of tractors led a go-slow during the morning rush-hour.

Asked when the protesters would lift roadblocks, Gaillot said to ask Attal: "It is he who holds the key."

Demands

The powerful FNSEA farming union late on Wednesday handed the government a list of their demands, including better enforcement of a law designed to safeguard farmgate

prices.

The union also called for continued diesel tax-breaks for agricultural vehicles, the immediate payment of EU agricultural subsidies, guarantees on insurance payouts related to health and climate, and immediate aid for winemakers and organic farmers.

"Urgent responses are needed," said FNSEA's head, Arnaud Rousseau.

French retailers are locked in annual price negotiations with suppliers, which the government wants concluded by the end of the month. Farmers say they will be on the sharp end of efforts to haul prices lower.

Fearing a spillover from farmer unrest in Germany, Poland and Romania, the French government has already postponed a draft farming law meant to help more people become farmers, saying it will beef up the measures and ease some regulations.

Ahead of European Parliament elections in June, President Emmanuel Macron is wary that farmers are a growing constituency for the far right.

Far right leader Marine Le Pen accused the government of complacency and backing European regulations that hurt farmers, such as rules on mandatory fallow land.

"Emmanuel Macron addresses farmers with a hand on the shoulder and then knives them in the back in Brussels," Le Pen told reporters. "The farmers' worst enemies can be found in this government", she added.

The hard-left CGT trade union, the country's second-largest, has called upon its members to join forces with the farmers to allow for a broader social movement against the government.

Farmers in the southwest who on Wednesday sprayed manure over a local prefecture building in Agen, on Thursday directed their animal waste at a nearby Leclerc superstore, France's biggest supermarket chain, as police looked on.

Emmanuel Macron addresses farmers with a hand on the shoulder and then knives them in the back in Brussels

Global South should uphold multilateralism amid growing challenges, says Ugandan FM

KAMPALA

DEVELOPING countries should actively participate in shaping decisions that directly impact them rather than relinquishing the responsibility to other nations, Ugandan Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeje Odongo has said.

"Whereas decolonization may not be on top of our agenda, justice, which was embedded in the question of decolonization, is still an issue for us. Is the world just? No. We seek to ensure that we have a justice system that works," Odongo said in an interview with Xinhua at a recent meeting attended here by senior officials of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) members.

The NAM is an international organization dedicated to representing the interests and aspirations of the Global South and comprises 121 developing countries. It aspires to es-



tablish a united front during a time of heightened geopolitical tension.

At the founding of the NAM in 1961, newly emerging post-colonial nations hesitated to join any single political bloc during the Cold War. Odongo said the current divide in the Global North calls on the Global South to remain united.

He emphasized that complex global challenges have given NAM's founding principles new life. "The world today is more volatile, and there are struggles for a new redistribution of power ... We, the Global South, the least developed world,

seek to achieve justice in power distribution, justice in development, and in humanity," he said.

As Uganda took the chairmanship of the NAM from Azerbaijan, the minister said the country will continue to build solidarity and collaboration among the Global South during its three-year term.

"There is an ongoing reconfiguration of the global governance system, and the NAM must have a say," Odongo said. He noted that in the past, the Western system of governance was dictated to developing countries by Western powers. Today, new governance systems have proven to work.

As a larger part of the developed North continues to push for unilateralism, the Global South must stay the course of multilateralism, he said, stressing that it is through multilateralism that countries can collectively bargain on international issues that affect them. **Xinhua**

UN: Houthi Red Sea attacks leading to global price hikes

UNITED NATIONS/CAIRO

HOUTHİ attacks on ships in the Red Sea have cut Suez Canal trade volume by 42 percent since November, a UN trade official said on Thursday.

The disruption adds to the strain shipping routes have been hit with on other major routes, in the Black Sea, hampered by the war in Ukraine, and through the Panama Canal, suffering from climate change-induced low freshwater levels, threatening consumer price hikes, said Jan Hoffmann, chief of the Trade Facilitation Section of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

"We are concerned that the attacks on Red Sea shipping are adding tensions to a context of global trade disruptions due to geopolitics and climate change," Hoffmann told reporters at the UN headquarters in a video briefing from Geneva. "These disruptions underline global trade's vulnerability."

He said maritime trade carries around 80 percent of the goods in world trade, with an even higher percentage for developing countries where shipping prices are already rising, notably in container and tanker shipping. Gas carriers, particularly, fear going through the Red Sea to Suez out of fear a Houthi attack could trigger a ship explosion.

UNCTAD said the Red Sea crisis is causing significant disruptions in the shipments of grains and other critical commodities from Europe, Russia and Ukraine.

"This situation leads to increased costs for consumers and serious risks to global food security, especially in regions like East Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia, which rely heavily on wheat imports from Europe and the Black Sea area."

Hoffmann said that prolonged disruptions in major trade routes would disrupt global supply chains, leading to delayed deliveries of goods, increased costs and potential inflation. The shipping industry is already witnessing immediate impacts, with spot rate increases from Asia to Europe exceeding the levels seen in 2023.

He said the rates between China



A picture taken during an organized tour by Yemen's Houthi rebels on Nov 22, 2023, shows the Galaxy Leader cargo ship (right), seized by Houthi fighters two days earlier, approaching the port in the Red Sea off Yemen's province of Hodeida. AFP

and the Mediterranean have more than tripled since early December. Longer trade distances and higher freight rates caused by going around Africa could have cascading effects on food prices. UNCTAD estimated that about half of the increase in food prices observed in 2022 was due to higher transport costs.

Red Sea tensions to raise carbon emissions

Chairman of Egypt's Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Osama Rabie said on Thursday that ongoing tensions in the Red Sea threaten "to exacerbate the volume of harmful carbon emissions of vessels as they consume larger amounts of fuel when they take alternative routes and sail for longer distances."

His comments came during a virtual meeting with Arsenio Dominguez Velasco, the newly appointed secretary-general of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to discuss the repercussions of the current situation in the Red Sea region.

"Navigation in the Suez Canal continues and has not stopped despite the various challenges... and we continue to communicate with customers and support them by providing new services that have not been provided

before," Rabie said.

According to an SCA statement, Rabie added that the Suez Canal saves fuel consumption and harmful carbon emissions compared to alternative routes, reducing carbon emissions by 55.4 million tons in 2023.

The IMO secretary-general voiced support for freedom of navigation and called for calm in the Red Sea region.

"We are delivering a clear message that navigation in the Suez Canal is still open to everyone," said he.

Both officials discussed the recent developments in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab region, as well as mechanisms of cooperation and joint action to reduce the effects of the crisis on global supply chains and maritime freight traffic, added the statement.

On Monday, Rabie said the SCA's companies and shipyards prepared to offer repair and maintenance services that transiting ships may need when encountering breakdowns or emergencies.

The Houthi group launched attacks on Red Sea ships last November, saying it was a response to the Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip. The Red Sea tension escalated after American and British warplanes struck Houthi sites in Yemen earlier this month.

Agencies

UN envoy calls on Haiti to prepare for deployment of multinational force

UNITED NATIONS

THE top UN envoy for Haiti on Thursday called on all stakeholders in the country to prepare for the deployment of the UN-authorized, Kenya-led multinational police force.

Haiti remains plagued by a mounting scale of violence due to an unprecedented surge in kidnappings, rape and other crimes committed by armed gangs that increasingly affect the livelihoods of people and undermine humanitarian activities, said Maria Isabel Salvador, the UN secretary-general's special representative for Haiti.

"I cannot overstate the severity of the situation in Haiti, where multiple protracted crises have reached a critical point," she told the Security Council in a briefing.

Last year, the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) documented more than 8,400 direct victims of gang violence, including people killed, injured and kidnapped, an increase of 122 percent over the previous year, she said.

The capital of Port-au-Prince accounted for 83 percent of killings and injuries, and violence also spread to other areas, specifically to Artibonite.

South of the capital, gangs conducted large-scale attacks to control key zones and continue to systematically employ sexual violence in their areas of control, putting women and girls as young as 12 at risk, she said.

BINUH has continued working toward enhancing the capacity of the Haitian National Police (HNP) with a special focus on intelligence-led performance and training.

High attrition rates, however, have continued, further diminishing the HNP's ability to counter gang violence and maintain security, said Salvador, who also heads BINUH.

She asked all Haitian stakeholders to effectively prepare for the deployment of the multinational police force and to create the necessary coordination mechanisms for its success.

She asked UN member states to contribute generously to ensure the timely deployment of the police force in Haiti.

While improvement to the security situation is essential to break the cycle of crises in Haiti, long-term stability can only be achieved through a nationally owned and inclusive political process, she said.

"I call on stakeholders from across the spectrum to engage peacefully and constructively in the political process."

The continuous support to the Haitian National Police, the rapid deployment of the multinational force, effective sanctions, and a sustained political process constitute fundamental elements to restore security and stability in Haiti, where, consequently, the rule of law, democratic institutions, and sustainable development become a reality for its people, said Salvador.



I cannot overstate the severity of the situation in Haiti, where multiple protracted crises have reached a critical point

GAZA

Hamas says Israel paralysed hospitals in Gaza's Khan Younis

THE Palestinian Resistance Movement (Hamas) on Thursday accused Israeli forces of encircling and paralyzing the hospitals in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, as the Palestinian death toll kept rising.

The Hamas-run Health Ministry in the Gaza Strip said in a statement that the Israeli army's besiegement has rendered the hospitals in Khan Younis completely paralyzed and hindered the movement of ambulances.

It said that Israel conducted 21 attacks against families in the

Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours, resulting in 200 deaths and 370 injuries, raising the total Palestinian death toll in the Palestinian enclave since Oct 7, 2023, to 25,900.

The ministry added that the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict has wounded at least 64,110 Palestinians, noting that a large number of victims were still under the rubble as ambulance and civil defense crews could not reach them.

Currently, medical teams are working to resume partial operation of the hospitals in northern

Gaza that were damaged by Israeli attacks.

Efforts were also underway, in collaboration with international organizations, to provide medical supplies and fuel to restore the operation of the hospitals in Gaza.

Medical aid has been entering the besieged enclave in limited quantities, falling far short of basic needs, while 70 percent of the aid is deemed unusable, according to the statement.

The ministry called on the International Committee of the Red

Cross and United Nations institutions to protect local hospitals, and step up the delivery of medicines, food and fuel, among other humanitarian aid.

The Israeli army on Thursday ordered residents of the southern Khan Younis city to evacuate their homes in preparation for coming bombings.

Avichai Adraei, a spokesman for the Israeli army, said on social media platform X that "to the residents of Khan Younis in the neighborhoods of Al-Nasr, Al-Amal, the city center and the

camp, in blocks of 107-108-109-110-111-112, for your safety, you must move immediately to the humanitarian area in Al-Mawasi".

Local sources said that more than 60,000 residents were under the threat of evacuation from Khan Younis, and many of them had already started evacuating to escape the expected Israeli operations in the area.

Meanwhile, the Israeli fire on Thursday struck a crowd of Palestinians waiting for humanitarian aid at Kuwait Square, a major intersection in Gaza City, killing

at least 20, the Hamas-run Health Ministry added.

The ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra said the Israeli strike also injured 150 others, who were among the thousands waiting for humanitarian aid at Kuwait Square.

He noted that the death toll is likely to rise, as dozens of seriously injured citizens, who were sent to the city's Al-Shifa Medical Complex, may fail to be treated due to the limited medical capabilities of the hospital.

Mahmoud Basal, spokesman

for the Civil Defense, told Xinhua that "the Israeli army deliberately approached people from the flour carts to receive them near Kuwait Square, and began firing bursts of gunfire at them."

"We transferred a large number of wounded and deaths, but there are still large numbers of others in the place as the army continued firing and shells at anyone approaching the area," said Basal.

An Israeli military source told Xinhua that the Israel Defense Forces is looking into the reports, without revealing more information.

Agencies

Hemed 'Morocco' and AFCON innovation with a 7-3 formation

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

SATISFACTION to the point of jubilation was in the air in Dar es Salaam and elsewhere in the country as Taifa Stars held the Les Leopards of DR Congo to a barren draw in one of the two last group matches in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Cup tourney in Cote d'Ivoire.

The national side's appearance was an astonishing event by any standards, where the side had to replace the coach after the first match, and the new top duo at the technical bench did better in their two matches than the first one.

It will take a while to figure out what underlying pattern explains this performance.

By and large how pundits have approached the issue is valid, in the sense that there was an overly noticeable fear of the opponent when the side played against Morocco and lost 3-0.

Interpreting that encounter was in part difficult because one had to choose between the score line and the pattern of play, both of which improved in the second game, and sort of 'exceeded' in the third encounter.

What was most troubling was not the scoreline but the relative inability to be playing to seek results other than being confined not to defense but to the ropes.

Yet those who looked at statistics in any of the entries provided by search engines would have been surprised at the neat balance between the two contending sides, seemingly comparable, if with a noticeable disadvantage for Taifa Stars, in virtually all departments of the match.

That says a lot for the much-maligned field of statistics, where a howler in the past century used to assert that in statistics if one says he has his feet in the oven and his head in a deep freezer, the



Tanzania's senior national football team skipper, Mbwana Samatta (2nd R), races past DR Congo's defender, Gédéon Kalulu (C), when the two teams met in the Group F clash of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations which took place in Korhogo, Ivory Coast on Wednesday and culminated in a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

sanguine statistician will say 'on the whole you are comfortable'.

So, by the statistics that were given on the first match, Taifa Stars had nearly as many passes; it did well.

There was a little reflection from the inside for either of the three matches, as passing remarks from either coach did not help matters, especially with the now suspended Adel Amrouche, playing up Algerian-Moroccan rivalry, told his home media that the Moroccans had found a way of being favoured all along the tourney.

Pundits recalled that there were instances where playing times were arranged to suit the Moroccans, but one wonders if that was a favour or it was due to the demands of television.

For his remarks, the continental federation went for his scalp and was put aside for eight competitive outings of Taifa Stars, virtually covering the CAF dimension of the remaining part of his existing contract, that is, eight camps in all.

competitive side after all.

It was a way of saying with the benefit of hindsight that had the first match been available for a replay, no one would have been confined to the defense, and a Moroccan win, even with a 1-0 margin like what they obtained against Zambia, would on no account be assured.

They would have to battle for the three points all the way and not be assured of results, the way their less colourful neighbours, Algeria, had it with the gallant Mauritanian side, who like Tanzania are virtual novices in the tournament.

What was visible about the last march was how head coach Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco', one of a few veteran trainers for a range of national soccer sides, adopted a 7-3 formation to suit competing demands which no one was providing a formula.

Pundits were divided between Taifa Stars' defensive pattern of play and occasional forays into Leopards' territory, hopefully with a better performance than in the first encounter it was trying to imitate, especially in the background of a draw in the game between DR Congo and Morocco.

Others were arguing for open play up front, which their wary detractors were persuaded could only lead to a bountiful of goals for the DR Congo side.

That is how, as if playing either a game of cards or the old 'snakes and ladders' version, the interim head coach stuck to the traditional 4-3-3 formation, but only the latter three traditionally had their positions.

He wiped out the midfield in all but name, taking out his good seven defenders to form the backbone of the lineup, allowing Feisal Salum, Mbwana Samatta, and Simon Msuva to make forays into Leopards' territory.

Once DR Congo had returned the ball to mid-pitch, Taifa Stars' defenders were all over.



Tanzania's senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' attacker, Simon Msuva (L), dribbles past DR Congo's Dylan Batubinsika as the two teams locked horns in a Group F encounter of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations that was held in Ivory Coast on Wednesday and ended in a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Records hardly favoured Taifa Stars in 2023 AFCON clash vs DR Congo

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S senior national soccer team's chances of making it to the round of 16 of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations played in Ivory Coast were, before Wednesday, hanging on the balance.

Taifa Stars needed a win over DR Congo in the Group F duel that was slated for later the same day at Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium, which could have guaranteed the former's progression to the next round.

The Tanzania team was also praying Morocco defeated Zambia in Group F's other tie that was also held the same day in San-Pédro.

DR Congo and Tanzania are the East and Central African teams to have qualified for the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) and the duo met in the penultimate clash of the Group F.

Taifa Stars understood that the clash was a must-win for the squad, as far as this year's edition of the AFCON is concerned, given they will otherwise have to qualify for the 2025 AFCON to again seek the first win.

The two teams' previous meeting, a World Cup qualifier match, ended in a 3-0 win for Leopards.

Taifa Stars' only win against DR Congo came in March 2018, when goals netted by Mbwana Samatta and Shiza Ramadhani at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam sealed a historic win for Tanzania.

Samatta, who is captaining the current Taifa Stars squad, was gunning for a repeat of the squad's triumph against regional rivals to claim the bragging rights as East and Central Africa's best team.

Both teams were placed in Group F alongside Zambia and the fourth-place finishers in the Qatar 2022 World Cup - Morocco.

DR Congo kicked off their campaign in the tournament with a tie against Zambia at the Laurent Pokou Stadium in San Pedro, Ivory Coast on January 17 that ended in a 1-1 draw.

Taifa Stars suffered a humiliating 3-0 defeat to Morocco - with goals netted by Romain Saiss, Azzedine Ounahi, and Youssef En-Nesyri sinking the former's hopes of securing a positive start to the tournament.

Taifa Star's midfielder Novatus Dismas further received marching orders after a second yellow card was dished out to him in the 70th minute.

DR Congo currently sits in 69th position in the FIFA world ranking while Tanzania, regarded as the weakest side in the group, is placed 121st.

Zambia is ranked 84th whereas Morocco is the highest-ranked African team at 13th position.

Leopards have won the prestigious continental tournament twice - in 1968 and 1974 - beating Ghana and Zambia respectively. They have

qualified for the tournament 19 times.

Leopards sealed qualification for the 2023 AFCON as winners of their group (Group I) ahead of Mauritania, Gabon, and Sudan.

Tanzania had garnered two previous qualifications for the tournament - first in 1980 and 39 years later in 2019.

They have, however, never progressed beyond the group stages - only earning a single point over the previous two tournaments they were part of.

They qualified for the 2023 AFCON as runners-up to Algeria in Group F ahead of neighbouring Uganda and Niger.

The Tanzania team managed to register eight points from six games, the lowest tally from any qualifying team as well as the lowest goal difference.

After securing qualification for the continental tournament, the squad was awarded a cash prize by the government.

Besides the government's award, the team received 77m/- from CAF (Confederation of African Football) for qualifying for the tournament.

Taifa Stars was - despite the early loss to Morocco - seeking to proceed beyond the group stage of the tournament, a feat that was set to become a boost ahead of the 2027 AFCON to be co-hosted by East African countries - Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda.

The trio submitted a joint bid - dubbed 'Pamoja Bid' - to host the tournament, beating strong bids from Morocco, Algeria, Botswana, and five-time host Egypt.

Uganda had been supporting Tanzania to conquer Group F even though the latter secured a slot in the tournament at the former's expense.

Taifa Stars, however, was having a grueling task of defeating Zambia, DR Congo, and Morocco - who are by far superior and have experience in the tournament.

Zambia won the AFCON top honour once in 2012 after edging out the tournament's current hosts, Ivory Coast, 8-7 in the penalty shootout of the final.

Zambia also secured a runner-up slot twice and a second runner-up spot three times. The side secured 17 qualifications for the tournament.

Morocco's Atlas Lions, who are making their 19th appearance in the tournament, have only won one title in 1976 despite their dominance in the continent.

Their highest-ever finish after that came in 2004 when they ended as the runners-up in the event which took place in Tunisia, with the host clinching the trophy.

There has, however, been an aura of confidence in the Moroccan camp ever since their heroics in Qatar, and many fans and pundits see them as favourites for the 2023 AFCON silverware alongside the host nation.

Save the Children sports bonanza improves Hanang children's school attendance

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

A sports bonanza organized by an NGO - Save the Children - that kicked off on January 10, 2024, and climaxed on January 20, 2024, has improved pupils' attendance in most schools in Hanang District, Manyara.

The sports bonanza brought together children who had been affected by mudslides that occurred in the district on December 3, 2023.

Save the Children's Acting Director Abdulmajid Faraj said that the introduction of the sports bonanza aimed at improving the children's school attendance and using sports as a good way of improving the psychological and mental healing of the children.

Faraj disclosed: "We are committed to continue collaborating with the government and do whatever is needed and possible to ensure children and community get what is important for their well-being."

Eight primary schools that were affected by mudslides in Hanang, in their joint speech that was read by Jorodom Primary School's Head Teacher Balitoga Francis, commended Save the Children for introducing the sports bonanza in their schools.

The schools disclosed in the statement: "The pupils' attendances have shot up from 52 percent on January 8, 2024, when schools were opened to 98 percent on January 19, 2024."

In their speech, they said that the sports bonanza was the contributing factor to the children's good attendance.

They further applauded Save the Children for establishing health and environment clubs in the schools.

Experts from Save the Children

collaborated with officials from Hanang District to teach pupils how to conserve and protect their environment while at school and outside the school environment.

Hanang District Commissioner, Janeth Manyanja, commended Save the Children for camping in Hanang since day one when the natural calamity occurred.

Janeth pointed out: "You are a good example, and we thank you for your efforts to normalize chil-

dren's mental health."

She said that whenever she goes around Hanang she meets Save the Children's officials going from house to house to ensure children in the houses have regained their normal mental health.

The District Commissioner further commended Save the Children for choosing to deal with children who make up a large part of the population.

She said that good and bad memories stay long among children and that

is why nowadays whenever Hanang children see a sign of rain they tell their parents to get out of their houses to avoid what happened to their fellows during mudslides.

Janeth further urged Save the Children to introduce a similar sports bonanza to secondary school students and street children to improve their psychological and mental health, given the NGO garnered great achievements in the first sports bonanza.

Elizabeth Benedict,



Dar es Salaam's junior footballers are pictured playing a friendly clash at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's ground last week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Holders Senegal remain team to beat after spectacular AFCON group stage

ABIDJAN

THE Africa Cup of Nations moves onto the knockout phase after a remarkable group stage packed with goals, drama, shock results and a huge scare for hosts Ivory Coast, but holders Senegal remain the team to beat.

The tournament is on course to be far more prolific than either of the two previous editions to feature 24 teams, after 89 goals were scored in the group stage.

That average of 2.5 per game marks a huge increase after 68 were scored in the first round in Cameroon two years ago, and in the first expanded AFCON in Egypt in 2019.

Senegal got to the final of both of those tournaments, and won the title for the first time in 2022.

They have so far lived up to their billing in Ivory Coast, with Aliou Cisse's side alone in finishing the group stage with a 100 percent record.

Led by Sadio Mane, they swept aside Gambia, Cameroon and Guinea and can be confident going into a last-16 tie with the Ivorians in Yamoussoukro.

Meanwhile Morocco, the continent's top-ranked team, eased through with seven points and the sense is there must be more to come from a side led by Paris Saint-Germain full-back Achraf Hakimi, as they face South Africa next.

Three-time champions Nigeria have looked remarkably sound defensively, with coach Jose Peseiro openly admitting keeping clean sheets is his number one priority.

That is despite the Super Eagles' impressive array of attacking options around superstar Victor Osimhen, the African player of the year.

"My responsibility is to choose the best way to win this competition," Peseiro said when asked about his decision to put the focus on the defence. "I chose another strategy, and the players believe in it -- don't concede goals because we will score at least one."

He astutely pointed out that Senegal only scored one goal in their first three games at the last AFCON before going on to lift the trophy.

Nigeria's meeting with Cameroon is a mouthwatering repeat of the 2000 final, when Rigobert Song's Indomitable Lions won on penalties in Lagos -- he is now the Cameroon coach.

Egypt have been the opposite of Nigeria -- a team that conceded only six goals across the last three tournaments combined have let in six in three group games here.

"Obviously this is something that worries me," said their coach Rui Vitoria, although the fitness of talisman Mohamed Salah is their biggest concern before facing the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He has returned to his club Liverpool for treatment on a hamstring injury amid suggestions he might not be fit to come back for Egypt unless they reach the February 11 final.

Not all the heavyweights survived the group stage, with Tunisia and Algeria the biggest names to be eliminated.

In contrast, Namibia and Mauritania have made it beyond the group stage for the first time, while Cape Verde and Angola's impressive showings so far give them reason to believe they can win knockout ties for the first time.

"In our first team meeting I said to the players the objective was to get to the semi-finals," declared Cape Verde coach Pedro 'Bubista' Brito.

Few in Ivory Coast could have contemplated that their team, one of the traditional powerhouses of the African game and two-time continental champions, could be eliminated in the group stage.

AFP

Injured Salah pledges 'love' for Egypt in swipe at critics

LONDON

MOHAMED Salah underlined his "love" for Egypt as the Liverpool star hit back at critics of his decision to return to England for treatment on a hamstring injury.

Salah is expected to be sidelined for around four weeks as a result of the injury he suffered while playing for Egypt in their draw against Ghana at the Africa Cup of Nations last week.

The 31-year-old has been criticised for leaving the Ivory Coast to undergo his rehabilitation with Liverpool.

Egypt's record caps-holder Ahmed Hassan said Salah should have stayed with the team "even if he only had one leg to stand on".

Egypt captain Salah hopes to rejoin his team-mates if they reach the latter stages of the tournament, and he gave short shrift to those who questioned his commitment to his country.

"Yesterday I started the treatment and rehabilitation program and I will do everything possible to be ready as soon as possible and return to the national team as was agreed upon from the beginning... I still love it and love its people. Try harder," he wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Salah had watched from the stands as Egypt secured their place in the last 16 on Monday with a 2-2 draw with Cape Verde.

The two-time African player of the year has never won the Cup of Nations and twice fell short in the final, to Cameroon in 2017 and Senegal two years ago. AFP

Nigeria face Cameroon amid multiple clashes of AFCON tournament champions

ABIDJAN

A SHOCK-RIDDLED Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast has reached the round of 16 with four ties between winners of the competition highlighting a four-day schedule that kicks off today.

The clashes of champions pit Nigeria against Cameroon, Egypt against Democratic Republic of Congo, title-holders Senegal against Ivory Coast and Morocco against South Africa.

None of the other four matches feature a former winner, but 2015 semi-finalists Equatorial Guinea will attract attention after topping a group including more fancied Nigeria and Ivory Coast.

Here, AFP Sport looks at the eight matches and predicts which countries will advance to the quarter-finals of the African football showpiece.

Today

Angola v Namibia

This clash of southern Africa neighbours was totally unexpected given Angola had not gone beyond the group stage since being 2010 hosts and Namibia had been winless in three earlier appearances.

Angola overshadowed Algeria and Burkina Faso

to top Group D with Gelson Dala scoring twice while Namibia stunned Tunisia, were crushed by South Africa, then exceeded expectations to hold Mali.



Equatorial Guinea captain Emilio Nsue (L) celebrates scoring in a stunning Africa Cup of Nations group victory over hosts Ivory Coast. Agencies

Equatorial Guinea v Guinea
Equatorial Guinea captain Emilio Nsue, the leading tournament scorer with five goals, told his team "not to get carried away" after topping Group A through a shock 4-0 win over Ivory Coast.

Guinea are a team who regularly reach the knockout phase, then make little impact. They will hope fit-again Serhou Guirassy can recapture his Bundesliga scoring form.

Prediction: Angola to win

Nigeria v Cameroon

When it comes to finals in the Cup of Nations Cameroon have won all three against Nigeria, who got the better of the Indomitable Lions in three other meetings.

A Victor Osimhen-led Nigerian attack have found goals hard to come by with just three in three matches, including a penalty and an own goal, but the Cameroon defence is far from impregnable.

Prediction: Nigeria

Tomorrow

Monday

Cape Verde v Mauritania

This is another tie that no neutral observer would have foreseen before Mauritania, after two unlucky losses, stunned two-time champions Algeria to finish third and squeeze through.

They need to avoid conceding free kicks in their half as Cape Verdean Bebe scored from a 40-metre set-piece against Mozambique. Holding Egypt suggests

Prediction: Equatorial Guinea

Egypt v Democratic Republic of Congo

It would have been hard to imagine before the tournament began that record seven-time champions Egypt would qualify without winning a match, but they drew all

three in Group B.

The absence of injured talisman Mohamed Salah is a massive blow against a workmanlike Congolese side, led by impressive centre-back Chancel Mbemba, that also progressed after three draws.

Prediction: Egypt

Tuesday

Mali v Burkina Faso

A clash of former runners-up with Malian Lassine Sinayoko and Burkina Be Bertrand Traore among eight players who have scored twice so far in the Ivory Coast.

Both sides are physically powerful, with Mali exploiting that factor in a group victory over South Africa, and they have been more impressive than rivals who surprisingly fell to Angola.

Prediction: Mali

Morocco v South Africa

While Morocco will be favourites, they have won only one of five meetings with South Africa, who rank among the most unpredictable teams in this tournament.

Outmuscled by Mali, they thrashed giantkillers Namibia, then fought a dour goalless draw with Tunisia. Morocco has several potential match-winners while South Africa rely on Themba Zwane.

Prediction: Morocco

Song and Cameroon aim to get better of Nigeria again at AFCON

ABIDJAN

THERE can be few more evocative fixtures at an Africa Cup of Nations than a meeting between Nigeria and Cameroon, and today's last-16 encounter in Ivory Coast will surely bring back plenty of memories for Indomitable Lions coach Rigobert Song in particular.

Cameroon's tally of five AFCON titles is bettered only by Egypt's seven, and their first three victories at the tournament were all secured by defeating the Super Eagles in the final.

Roger Milla's Cameroon came from behind to beat Nigeria 3-1 in the 1984 final, and a side coached by Claude Le Roy then came out on top when the teams met again in 1988 in Casablanca.

Most recently, and most infamously, they clashed in the 2000 showpiece in Lagos, a match that went to penalties after ending 2-2 at the end of extra time, with a young Samuel Eto'o among Cameroon's scorers.

Song, the Cameroon captain, converted the decisive penalty in a shoot-out that Nigerians will always remember for Victor Ikpeba's kick that appeared to cross the line after hitting the underside of the bar, but was not given by the referee.

"I have not set foot in Lagos since then, and I don't really have any intention of doing so," Patrick M'Boma, who scored for Cameroon in normal time in that game and in the shoot-out, told Jeune Afrique magazine recently as he recalled that day.

Now aged 47 and on the bench, Song leads his



Current Cameroon coach Rigobert Song captained his country to victory over Nigeria in the 2000 Cup of Nations final. Agencies

country into the latest meeting with their neighbours at Abidjan's Stade Felix Houphouet Boigny, which was the venue for the 1984 final between the teams.

- Dramatic comebacks -
While Nigeria eased through the group phase unbeaten with seven points and just one goal conceded, Cameroon lost to Senegal and only made it this far thanks to a remarkable 3-2 victory over Gambia in Bouake, after they had been 2-1 down with five minutes left.

Song, though, is no stranger to dramatic comebacks, whether on the pitch or off.

He was just 40 when he suffered a stroke in October 2016 and went into a coma, before making a full

recovery.

"I have already been declared dead and yet here I am, still alive," he said earlier this week as he prepared for Cameroon's vital final group game.

While their last-16 opponents are

led by the African footballer of the year in Victor Osimhen, Song's Cameroon side lacks obvious star names.

The most recognisable is Andre Onana, but the goalkeeper who is enduring a difficult season at club

level with Manchester United was dropped by Song for the decisive match against Gambia.

Most of the attention around the Indomitable Lions focuses on Song himself, at least when it is not on Eto'o, now his boss as president of the Cameroonian Football Federation.

Song was under pressure after his team's poor start at this AFCON, but he insisted that was not a concern.

"I don't panic, I don't get stressed. I listen to and understand the criticism, I know what I have to do and I stay calm," said the former Liverpool, West Ham United, Lens and Galatasaray player.

"I have lived with pressure since I was young. It is part of the game."

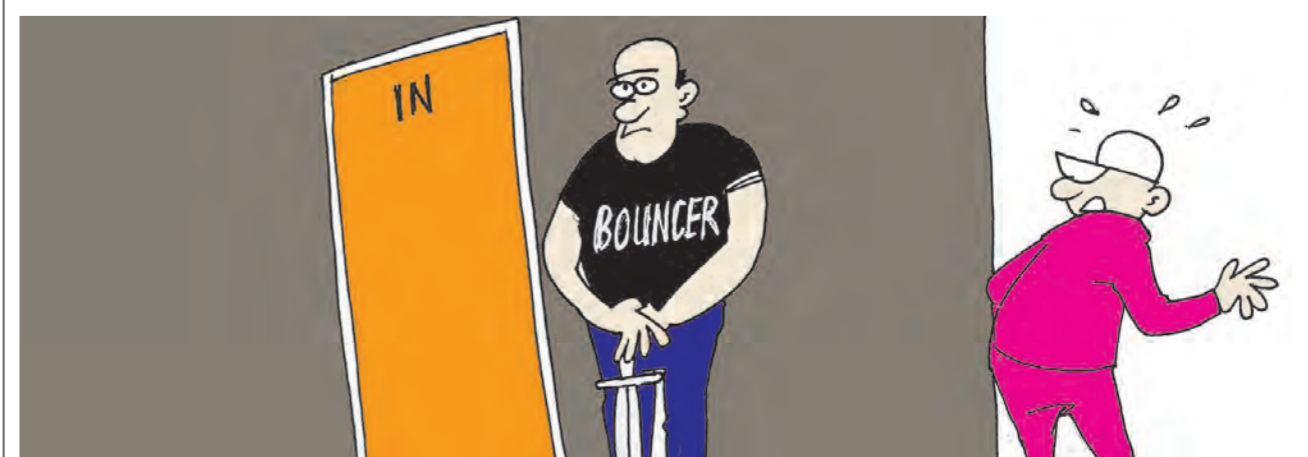
Song was appointed coach after Cameroon lost in the semi-finals as hosts of the last Cup of Nations in 2022, and oversaw a famous win against Brazil at the World Cup later that year. It was the first ever victory for an African team against Brazil at a World Cup.

Now the hero of that 2000 final must mastermind another victory over Nigeria, who notably came out on top the last time the sides clashed at the AFCON, winning 3-2 at the same last-16 stage in 2019.

Whoever emerges victorious will advance to a quarter-final against either Angola or Namibia.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Song and Cameroon aim to get better of Nigeria again at AFCON

PAGE 19

Taifa Stars' players missing from 2023 AFCON group stage Best XI squad



Tanzania's senior national football team players participate in drills in Ivory Coast recently to shape up for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations which got underway on January 13 and will climax on February 11, 2024. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

NO Taifa Stars player was listed in the best eleven of the group stage of the ongoing African Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Ivory Coast.

The CAF Technical Study Group (TSG) for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations officially released the best XI performing players of the group stage of the competition on Thursday.

Morocco dominated the list with four players, followed by Senegal with three, while Equatorial Guinea got two slots. Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola had one player each.

Equatorial Guinea's shot-stopper, Jesus Owono, emerged as the best goalkeeper of the group stage.

The goalkeeper was influential as Nzalang Nacional topped Group A which had Nigeria, Ivory Coast, and

Guinea-Bissau.

The 22-year-old Deportivo Alaves goalkeeper made a total of 10 saves in the three group games he played.

He won the man-of-the-match award in their opener against the Super Eagles of Nigeria.

Reigning CAF Young Footballer of the Year, Lamine Camara, who scored the competition's first brace picked the Best Young Player Award in the group stage.

The 20-year-old Metz attacker has been one of the most exciting players in the compe-

tion.

Aliou Cisse is the coach of the group stage after leading Senegal to three straight victories. The first time in the country's history. The defending champions Senegal were the only team to win all their group matches.

This is the best eleven of the group stage: In goal, there is Owono of Equatorial Guinea.

The back four include Kalidou Koulibaly, Nayef Aguerd, Achraf Hakimi, Arthur Masuaku. Sofyan Amrabat, Lamine Camara, and Azzedine Ounahi complete the midfield.

In defense, the Moroccan duo of Achraf Hakimi and Nayef Aguerd are joined by Kalidou Koulibaly and Arthur Masuaku of Senegal and DR Congo respectively.

The midfield is dominated by the Atlas Lions of Morocco. Azzedine Ounahi, Sofyan Amrabat as well as Senegal's Lamine Camara and Gelson Dala of Angola.

The attack is unsurprisingly led by Emilio Nsue Lopez of Equatorial Guinea who tops the scoring charts with five goals.

For Taifa Stars, defender

Ibrahim Hamad 'Bacca' was arguably the stand-out performer.

The Young African SC center-back was invariably in the right place all the time to snuff out any threat in his near vicinity.

'Bacca' did not put a foot wrong in defense. He also made important tackles and clearances.

Forward Simon Msuva who scored Tanzania's only goal in the tournament also deserves an honourable mention alongside defensive midfielder Himid Mao.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kall Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kall Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SSPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1(r)

5Sports

The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5Sports.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Simba SC resumes training after 2023 AFCON break

By Guardian Correspondent

SIMBA SC has resumed training ahead of a jam-packed campaign as they compete in three different competitions including the 2023/24 CAF Champions League.

The players and technical bench staff reported for training at Mo Simba Arena at Bunju in Dar es Salaam on Thursday after a two-week break.

The team resumed training under assistant coach Selemeni Matola. Head coach Abdelhak Benchikha is expected to jet into the country from Algeria and join the team today.

Simba SC made six signings in the mini-transfer window. The new players- Edwin Balua, Fredy Kouablan, Babacar Sarr, Ladaki Chasambi, and Saleh Karabaka- have all joined their teammates.

Gambian striker Pa Omar Jobe is expected to join the Msimbazi Street squad this weekend.

After he was introduced to teammates, Ivorian striker Kouablan who was signed from Zambia's Green Eagles FC, said he is looking forward to the new challenge at Msimbazi.

The Ivorian attacker disclosed: "I feel normal. Since I started playing football I aim to play at a higher level so I am happy to be here."

"It is a big team and a good challenge for me. It is not always easy as a new player but I will do my best," the goalkeeper noted.

Seven Simba SC players

who were part of Tanzania and Zambia national team squads in the ongoing African Cup of Nations finals are also expected to resume training this weekend.

The Msimbazi Reds' form has been patchy this season, but they are poised to compete on three fronts during the backend of the 2023/24 campaign.

They remain in contention for a quarterfinal slot in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League.

They will be resuming their CAF Champions League campaign on February 23 with an away game against ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast.

A final Group Stage game against Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy FC is scheduled for March 1 in Dar es Salaam.

They are still in the NBC Premier League title race but will have to hunt down Azam FC and reigning champions League Young Africans SC.

Simba SC is currently sitting third in the NBC Premier League, eight points behind leaders Azam albeit with three games in hand.

Benchikha charges also find themselves seven points behind second-placed Young Africans SC, which has played one more game.

The NBC Premier League is likely to resume next weekend as players who were on national duties for Tanzania and Zambia join their respective teams.

A busy February will also see Simba SC play a rescheduled Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) game against lower league side, Tembo FC.

Green light for resumption of NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe



Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Almasi Kasongo.

THE 2023/24 NBC Premier League campaign is expected to resume early next month.

The season has been on pause while the 2023 African Cup of Nations takes place in Ivory Coast.

The 2023/24 domestic season got underway on August 15 and is slated to run until May 28.

The 2023 CAF Africa Cup of Nations began on January 13-meaning it has caused major disruptions to the current NBC Premier League campaign.

Seventeen players from the NBC Premier League were in the Ivory Coast, with 13 representing Tanzania's Taifa Stars.

Clatous Chama and Kennedy Musonda were part of the Zambian final squad while Stephane Aziz Ki, Henock Inonga, and Djigui Diarra represented Burkina Faso, DR Congo, and Mali respectively.

Defending champions Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, leads the rank for NBC Premier League teams with

seven players, one more than their long-time rivals Simba SC.

The other NBC Premier League teams- Azam FC, Singida Fountain Gate FC, and Namungo FC- were also represented at the 2023 AFCON.

The NBC Premier League halted on December 23 after Tabora United welcomed Yanga at Jamhuri Stadium, Dodoma, and lost 1-0 to the latter.

However, the domestic season is soon to get back underway after Tanzania and Zambia's elimination from the 2023 African Cup of Nations.

Tanzania and Zambia who were in Group F alongside DR Congo and Morocco finished third and fourth respectively to bow out of the tournament.

The development was confirmed by Tanzania Premier League Board CEO, Almasi Kasongo, on Thursday, with the official saying it will restart as soon as possible because both Simba SC and Yanga have less than three players each active in the AFCON.

Kasongo said: "Initially we said that our league would restart from where we left before the AFCON break in consideration of our regulations."

The official noted: "If you look at our regulations, they are very clear, they say that if a club has at least three players in the national team then their games have to be postponed."

"That no longer affects us after the latest development in AFCON. You look at the NBC Premier League clubs who had players for the African Cup of Nations, none has three players still active in the tournament," Kasongo confirmed.

He noted: "We can now say that we will sit as a board to strategize and be able to officially announce the date of the league resumption."

Kasongo added: "We will restart from where we stopped. As you know, when we took the league break, our fixtures showed who would be up against whom. So it's a continuation from where we stopped."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

