



**Guardian BUSINESS** **BoT maintains cautious monetary policy stance**

**Twiga Cement shareholders for 31st Annual General Meeting**

**Air France-KLM stock drops over narrowed loss**

**DSE all share index gains after KCB price increases**

**FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

## BUSINESS



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# 'Tanga Cement bankrupt, deal vital'

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

**T**HE government has defended the planned acquisition of Tanga Cement Co. Ltd by Twiga Cement of Dar es Salaam, as Tanga Cement is already bankrupt.

Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance and Planning minister, made this clarification as MPs debated estimates of the Investment, Industry and Trade portfolio, pegged at 119.17bn/-.

He said Tanga Cement can no longer afford operational costs as it was the case seven years back, which makes it necessary to proceed with the transaction of 68.33 percent shares to another firm.

He said the acquisition takes into account the country's economic interest, expressing confidence that Tanga Cement will be placed in safe hands if the deal is successful.

The city firm is a subsidiary of the Tanzania Portland Cement Co. while Tanga Cement has links with a Mauritius cement group.

Tanga Cement has posted bad financial results for the past seven years, the minister noted, highlighting that the firm will attract over 1bn/-, enabling its operations to set sail again.

The already has the remaining shares in Tanga Cement through pension funds, so it won't allow the firm being acquired firm go into doldrums leading to its collapse.

Tanga Cement has lately recorded a negative cash flow stretching to 11bn/-, with an accruing debt pegged at 203bn/- and an overdraft slotted at over 19bn/-, he elaborated.

"The real fear is the firm collapsing after being



**The government retains its authority on this matter. It is not for the legislature to decide on how this issue should be handled but the government itself**

acquired," he said, noting that the opposite is the case, of collapsing if it is not bought out.

The back and forth debate might lead to scaring committed investors if the government is doubted on handling acquisition deals like this, he cautioned.

Detailed information on the matter will be presented to the Permanent Budget Committee upon the winding up debate on estimates of the 2023/24 central government budget, he specified.

Patrobass Katambi, the Labour, Youth, Employment and Disability deputy state minister at the Prime Minister's Office, said that market dominance is not an issue to worry about.

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi receives report on Tanzania's 2022 Population and Housing Census from Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## MPs want salt imports halted

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

ENDING imports of salt and setting up strategic factories for small salt miners will enable commercialising local salt production, MPs say. Contributing to debate on the 119.17bn/- estimates for the Investment, Industry and Trade portfolio yesterday, they said such efforts must include the revival of dead factories so that the country stops importing the product.



**Instead we should be investing in empowering small scale miners to advance in technologies and take the lead in production**

Several MPs castigated the issuance of permits for salt importation, asserting that this derails the development of small scale salt miners, affirming that the ministry had turned a blind eye on the sector. They emphasised that the sector has a

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## TUCTA reiterates PAYE cut appeals

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) has appealed to the government to reduce taxes on salaries for private and public sector employees to ease the cost of living burden.

Said Wamba, the deputy secretary general, said in a press conference yesterday that high rates of Pay As You Earn (PAYE) hurt workers, hence



**We should make good use of that opportunity**

the need to review the deductions.

TUCTA has already submitted a request to the government and was urging it to consider the matter, he said, noting that the confederation

was gearing for discussion on the salary increments directed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in the May Day address.

He appealed to workers to increase productivity at their workplaces "so that the confederation has valid arguments to the government for annual salary increases.

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## Arusha National Park unveils King Charles III's 'secret' tree



**The park management intends to place a distinctive signboard at the spot where King Charles showed particular interest in the tree**

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AS Charles III, the King of England and the British Isles, undergoes the coronation ceremony today, Arusha National Park is unveiling a memorabilia landmark with which the new monarch identified a decade ago. Yustina Kiwango, a top conservator with the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), said in an interview yesterday that the landmark memorabilia is located at the foot of Mount Meru. The park management intends to place a distinctive signboard

at the spot where King Charles showed particular interest in the tree, she said.

It is a short distance from Tulusia Waterfall to see a giant fig tree, and during a visit in 2011 the now reigning monarch stood there staring at the tree for quite some time. It was this feature that appeared to impress him most in the park, she stated. Five days towards his 63rd birthday on November 11, 2011 the then Prince of Wales accompanied by Camilla Parker Bowles,

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## Arusha National Park unveils King Charles III's 'secret' tree

FROM PAGE 1

then Duchess of Cornwall and later Queen Consort, walked for a lengthy period at the park, contemplating over what they saw. Just a few people accompanied the royal couple during the strictly private excursion, notably the park top conservator Michael Ngatoluwa and then chief warden, Domician Njau. The ranger revealed that Charles III asked many questions about the fig tree, where students at the Mweka College of African Wildlife Management were around and answered the questions to relative satisfaction. The monarch had commented that in England there are fig trees but most people there plant them in their gardens. "They never grow to be as big as this," the monarch, an avowed naturalist in his pastime, had remarked. The 120 minutes tour of the park enabled the couple

to view plants and wildlife species, including herds of buffaloes, giraffes and elephants. The park's trademark species is the black and white Colobus monkeys "but even these did not impress the royals as much as the giant fig tree," he elaborated. The couple's visit was directed by Richard Beatty of the African Environment Safari Co., who in 2013 was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his work as honorary consul in Tanzania. This weekend millions of people around the world will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles II in a hybrid religious service and customary pageantry. The new King of England took office at the death of Queen Elisabeth II last September, and formal coronation is billed for today, set for the royal chapel at Westminster Abbey, the 40th monarch crowned there since 1066.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa shares a light moment with Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe (2nd-R) and Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (3rd-R) during recess in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: PMO

## 'Tanga Cement bankrupt, deal vital'

FROM PAGE 1

There are sensitive local products where a few manufacturers have dominance and there are no visible cartels, he said.

"If the right decision is not made on this matter there is a possibility of over 3,000 people will lose their jobs as the firm collapses," he stated, urging MPs to support the decision.

Dr. Ashatu Kijaji, winding up debate on Investment, Industry

and Trade estimates, said that the deal is in line with the Fair Competition Act 2003, as it does not exceed 35 percent of the market share.

"If the two firms are merged they only form 31.53 percent of installed capacity, below the limit of 35 percent. Market variables and creating competitiveness are among issues that were observed in reaching the decision," she stated.

The acquisition process was

made public through an advert published in government newspapers on January 11, 2023.

There were no complaints or objections filed to the minister in relation to the deal as per Regulation No. 49 of the Fair Competition Regulations 2018, the minister noted.

Chalinz Cement Co. Ltd did not file for any objections until Twiga won the cards to acquire the firm, she said, elaborating that Chalinz was deregistered after it was proven that it never

existed.

The company had submitted false information during its registration process, she asserted, citing a fake address handed to the Registrar of Companies. "It submitted false names and contacts of the shareholders," she pursued.

"The company was given 30 days to defend itself on why it should not be deregistered but didn't respond. I personally asked them for a visit at their facility but never responded to

date," she stated.

Speaker Dr. Tulia Ackson urged the government to take its own course on the matter, affirming that MPs' perceptions towards the deal should not be perceived as intimidation too executing the decision.

"The government retains its authority on this matter. It is not for the legislature to decide on how this issue should be handled but the government itself," she added.



NOWHERE TO GO: Members of some of the 47 families rendered homeless since the eight houses they used to live in were demolished over a week ago reportedly on court orders lie under trees yesterday with some of their earthly belongings. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## MPs want salt imports halted

FROM PAGE 1

lot of potential for communities along the seashore, with Stanslaus Nyongo (Maswa East) pointing out that 70 percent of salt consumed in the country is imported. Salt demand stands at 250,000 tonnes annually, he said.

"We have enough potential to produce 300,000 tonnes of salt a year but the ministry has for years now hesitated to seek serious investments in the sector," he stated, objecting to the tendency to lobby for private investments.

Hassan Mtenga (Mtwara Urban) said that salt production ranks third in value after cashewnuts and fishing, while reiterating the charge that the ministry had abandoned the sector.

Asserting that the salt sub-sector "has the potential to offer thousands of employment opportunities" to residents in the area, he stated that issuing permits for salt imports was the problem.

"Instead we should be investing in empowering small scale miners to advance in technologies and take the lead in production," he declared.

Ng'wasi Kamani (Special Seats), called upon the ministry to slow down the issuance of salt importation permits if local miners are to benefit from the resource, intoning that the Investment and Minerals ministries need to initiate a collaborative way of attracting new investments in the sector.

Doto Biteko, the minister, acknowledged the salt industry potential for the local market and even for export. The 70 percent of salt imported arises from blending, he stated, intimating that this is a cross-cutting issue requiring wider collaboration.

Different stakeholders including the Ministry of Investments are needed to bring up ways of ensuring that the salt sub-sector benefits the people, he added.

## Raila hands Ruto new protests warning

NAIROBI

Azimio leader Raila Odinga yesterday warned that the Opposition coalition would return to the streets if the government side does not show goodwill or honesty in the bi-partisan talks to resolve the August 2022 post-election stalemate.

Odinga issued the warning yesterday as details of how behind-the-scenes manoeuvres by both sides culminated in the calling off of anti-government protests emerged.

President William Ruto prevailed upon the Opposition to call

off the protests, partly because of the high-profile visitors currently in the country.

Some of the notable figures who have visited Kenya in the last seven days are Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, World Meteorological Organisation Secretary-General Petteri Taalas, African Union Commission chairman Moussa Faki, International

al Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad) President Alvaro Lario, and Canadian Foreign minister Melanie Joly.

The two sides also reportedly agreed to fast-track the proposals to change the Constitution to create the offices of the Leader of Official Opposition and Prime Minister on top of withdrawing Eldas MP Adan Keynan from the bi-partisan committee as had been demanded by the Opposition.

AGENCIES

## TUCTA reiterates PAYE cut appeals

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The confederation is aware that wages paid to the workers do not meet their daily needs, "but in order for the government to be able to pay high wages, they must produce more," he said.

At the May Day national ceremony in Morogoro, the president countered

the TUCTA motto for adequate wage as the basis of workers' welfare, with an alternative slogan, that diligence and competence at work is the basis for sustainable economic activity.

"Sometimes we go to demand an increase in wages and we are asked why, so let's be honest and work hard," he

urged, elaborating that it was encouraging that the government has opened doors for discussions with trade unions.

"We should make good use of that opportunity," he said, pointing to the need to find solutions to problems facing workers countrywide.

Before the May Day celebrations, President Samia

met with union leaders take up issues concerning workers' welfare, which he said was positive as it shows commitment to improve workers' welfare.

"We have a lot to say and some problems have accumulated for a long time," he said/ "You cannot solve them all with a one day statement," he added.





UNFPA's Resident Representative in Tanzania, Mark Bryan Schreiner, speaks at the commemoration of International Day of the Midwife (May 5) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

# Govt reaffirms commitment to boost education on midwifery

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has reaffirmed its commitment to continue collaborating with partners and stakeholders to increase efforts in midwifery training and education so as to improve delivery of maternal services.

Catherine Joaquim, Head of programmes at the Ministry of Health affirmed this in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a roundtable discussion to mark the International Day of Midwife.

She said this year's theme, "Together Again from Evidence to Reality," speaks on the critical importance of working collaboratively to bridge the gap between the knowledge we have about effective midwifery care and the reality of what is currently available in many parts of the world.

She said study shows that one professional midwife can save the lives of mother and newborn by 65 percent, therefore, training to midwifery was inevitable. Joaquim said that the government will also improve the guidelines and open opportunities of new employment of practitioners in the sector.

"Lack of professional midwifery is one of the big challenges hindering their duties effectively. To work on that challenge, the government has invested highly in skills training for this cadre to eliminate avoidable deaths," he said.

Dr Shekalaghe further said despite efforts made by the government to construct health facilities, invest-

ing in professional and competent midwifery was a matter of paramount importance.

United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) country representative, Mark Schreiner said that if every pregnant woman had access to a well-trained, caring midwife, it would be much closer to a world where every childbirth is safe.

He noted that many health systems continue to marginalize the mostly female workforce, and treat midwives poorly in terms of pay, working conditions and opportunities to cultivate skills.

He said the consequences of not having enough skilled midwives are alarming.

Schreiner said every single year, 287,000 women globally lose their lives giving birth; 2.4 million newborns die and an additional 2.2 million are stillborn.

In Tanzania 8,000 to 11,000 women lose their lives giving birth each year (approximately 30 per day) and over 40,000 new-borns will not see their first birthday.

In Tanzania, UNFPA has continued to work with the government through the Ministry of Health both in mainland and Zanzibar to strengthen midwifery education, regulation, association and enabling environment for midwifery practices.

Tanzania Midwifery Association (TAMA) vice chairperson, Lovelucky Mwashia said that while there has been progress in recent years, with more midwives being trained and deployed to rural areas, much more

# Customs and levies officials from DRC in Dar to discuss business challenges

By Guardian Reporter

CUSTOMS and levies officials from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are in the country for an official visit aimed to discuss and find solutions on various challenges thwarting business between the two countries.

The delegation led by the director for customs and levy govern-

ing Haut Katanga, Lubalaba, Tanganyika and Lomami provinces, René Kalala Masimango, has on May 4, this year met with leadership of the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) in Dar es Salaam to discuss areas of interest.

Speaking on the tour, Tanzania ambassador to DRC, Said Mshana said the embassy has organized the mission so as to bring together

business stakeholders from the two countries so as to discuss and recommend solutions to address challenges thwarting trade development between the sides.

During the meeting with TPA leaders, Masimango said Dar es Salaam Port was very important as it serves a lot of cargo from Congo so the tour was important to learn more

on port operations.

"We have witnessed how the port is operating, many things have been improved and we are happy with this because this port has been serving a lot of cargo from DRC," he said.

TPA director general, Plasduce Mbossa assured that his management was ready to work on various challenges raised by the mission

to further stimulate trade between the two countries.

"Tanzania and DRC has enjoyed a cordial relationship for years, with that, TPA will ensure that it continues to improve its operations so as to facilitate timely services for various cargo entering and going outside the country," he said.

Jean Pierre Massala, DRC ambassador to

Tanzania said the tour will produce positive outcomes for the two countries which include cementing the historical diplomatic relations for mutual benefits.

The delegation yesterday continued with its tour by visiting Kwana Dry Port in Vigwaza, Coast Region and Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project.

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM: CHANGES IN MANGROVE COVER, RESTORATION STATUS MANGROVE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS IN THE RUMAKI SEASCAPE AREA**

**1. Background**  
The World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an International Non-Governmental Organization that deals with conservation of nature through environmental management and conservation programmes. Its mission is to stop the degradation of the Planet's natural environment and to build the future in which humans live in harmony with nature. WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) through Marine Programme is currently implementing a project titled "Mangrove Management for Climate Risk Resilience and Improved Livelihoods" funded by the Norwegian NORAD and regionally implemented in Tanzania, Mozambique, and Madagascar.

WWF Tanzania through this project is looking for consultant(s) to carry out baseline assessment of mangrove ecosystem, mangrove governance and management frameworks in the RUMAKI Seascape.

**2. Objectives of the consultancy**  
The overall objective of this study is to establish baseline data and information on mangrove resources including estimation of changes in mangrove cover, mangrove restoration status and mangrove governance and management frameworks in the Seascape area

**3. Tasks and performance indicators**

- (i) Preparation of an inception report outlining the steps and methodology with clear activities/events' timeline.
- (ii) Assessment of mangrove sediment type and salinity in the project area/sites
- (iii) Determine mangrove governance and management framework including:
  - (a) Community-based mangrove governance,
  - (b) Existing mangroves rehabilitation strategies and plans
  - (c) Post planting mangrove management and monitoring,
  - (d) Mangrove Rehabilitation scale (size and survival rate) including total number of planted mangroves, and an estimated size of mangrove areas planted before the project.
- (iv) Mangroves community structure, species distribution, and zonation
- (v) Mapping the extent of mangrove cover changes and identification of suitable mangrove areas (Remote sensing)

**4. Deliverables**

- (i) Activity report detailing all the above indicators.
- (ii) An annex of baseline indicators to be monitored by the project.
- (iii) At least 20 high resolution photographs from the field taken on mangroves and consultative meetings in study sites.


**5. Duration of the Consultancy**  
(iv) The consultancy is assigned 75 working days (2.5 months) from date of contract signing.

**6. Qualifications, Skills and Experience**

- (i) A minimum of advanced degree in mangrove related field of study (such as mangrove conservation, management, ecology, mapping, and/or Marine / Aquatic sciences).
- (ii) Remote sensing in environmental studies will be an added advantage.
- (iii) In case of a team/firm, the team leader will have at least 5 years of professional experience in mangrove assessment, preferably with experience of mangrove ecosystems in designated blocks
- (iv) Experience in working with coastal communities
- (v) Evidence of having undertaken similar assignments in the past 3 years.
- (vi) Fluency in both English and Kiswahili languages with advanced report writing skill.
- (vii) Mastery of computer tools: MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other relevant applications

**7. Mode of Application**

- (i) Interested applicant(s) should submit electronic copies of application to email: procurement@wwftz.org
- (ii) Please, address the application to: Secretary, Procurement Committee, World Wide Fund for Nature - Tanzania Country Office, Off Mwai Kibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikocheni, P.O. Box 63117 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- (iii) Application documents should include full technical & financial proposal with a cover letter, and CV(s). The technical proposal should clearly demonstrate skills and experience in assessing mangrove conservation/management, and governance, and the consultant's understanding of the Terms of Reference including suggestions (if any) for amendments to improve quality of deliverables.
- (iv) The detailed Terms of Reference is also accessible through website [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/consultancies\\_and\\_tenders/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/)
- (v) Evaluation of applications will be based on WWF procurement guidelines. WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal submitted. **All applications should reach us by or before 05pm EAT on Monday 22nd May 2023.** Only successful applicant shall be contacted.
- (vi) WWF has a principle of zero tolerance for fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, then report by sending an email to [fccl@wwftz.org](mailto:fccl@wwftz.org)



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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**SEAWEED VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS FOR DOMESTIC, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL TRADE IN TANZANIA**

**1. Background**  
The World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an International Non-Governmental Organization that deals with conservation of nature through environmental management and conservation programmes. Its mission is to stop the degradation of the Planet's natural environment and to build the future in which humans live in harmony with nature. WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) through Marine Programme is currently implementing a project titled "Mangrove Management for Climate Risk Resilience and Improved Livelihoods" funded by the Norwegian NORAD and regionally implemented in Tanzania, Mozambique, and Madagascar.

WWF Tanzania through this project is looking for consultant(s) to carry out value chain analysis for seaweed produced in the RUMAKI Seascape. The consultancy assignment is based on the project's objective to develop sustainable community-led enterprises that support coastal communities beyond the project in order to ensure sufficient management capacity, incentives, and financial sustainability upon which the long-term sustainability of community mangroves management depends. However, the seaweed economic viability and financial sustainability requires sufficiently robust business models and good governance. This can best be developed through analysis of seaweed value chain hence development of business model suitable for seaweed business enterprise.

**2. Objectives of the consultancy**  
The objective of the consultancy is to carry out value chain analysis for seaweed production and its economic and social opportunities in Tanzania from their source in the RUMAKI Seascape across to their local markets before export, and the outline recommendations to develop business models.

**3. Tasks and performance indicators**

- (i) Analysis of seaweed governance and legislation in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.
- (ii) Analysis of seaweed actor's demographic characteristics including involvement of women and youth;
- (iii) Actor's socioeconomic characteristics incl. sources of finance, relationships and binding agreements between seaweed farmers/producers and agents/collectors of seaweed;
- (iv) Analysis of gender in processing nodes and power dynamics;
- (v) Analysis of seaweed marketing infrastructure incl. end markets and trade (pricing, product quality, place/distribution network, promotion);
- (vi) Mapping seaweed value chain (production, landing, processing, storage, distribution, marketing, consumption);
- (vii) Analysis of actors and existing business models and profitability
- (viii) Analysis of infrastructure and opportunities for improvements in all important nodes (production, processing, marketing and distribution networks)
- (ix) Assess research gaps for future improvement of seaweed products

**4. Deliverables**  
Major deliverable is the value chain analysis draft, and final reviewed reports:

- The report should be logically structured including the executive summary, value chain description in Tanzania, methodology, findings, conclusions, recommendations, and annexes (key officials interviewed, documents consulted, and data collection instruments).
- The report mainly focuses on addressing the objectives/performance indicators outlined above, and should ensure recommendations are made for development of business model.

**5. Duration of the Consultancy**  
The consultancy is assigned 60 working days spread over two months from date of contract signing.

**6. Qualifications, Skills and Experience**

- (i) At least master's degree or equivalent in socio-economics, agricultural economics, fisheries economics, Marketing and related fields.
- (ii) In case of a team/firm, the team leader will have at least 3 years of professional experience in value chain analysis of agriculture products /fisheries industry.
- (iii) Substantive knowledge of seaweed farming practices. Experience in value chain analysis of seaweed industry and experience in socio-economic characteristics of coastal communities will both be an added advantage.
- (iv) Evidence of having undertaken similar assignment.
- (v) Advanced report production skill

**7. Mode of Application**

- (i) Interested applicant(s) should submit electronic copies of application to the procurement, email: procurement@wwftz.org
- (ii) Please, address the application to: Secretary, Procurement Committee, World Wide Fund for Nature - Tanzania Country Office, Off Mwai Kibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikocheni, P.O. Box 63117 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- (iii) Application documents should include full technical & financial a cover letter, technical and financial proposals and CV(s). The technical proposal should clearly demonstrate skills and experience in value chain analysis of crops/agriculture products, and the consultant's understanding of the Terms of Reference including suggestions (if any) for amendments to improve quality of deliverables.
- (iv) The detailed Terms of Reference also accessible through [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/consultancies\\_and\\_tenders/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/)
- (v) Evaluation of applications will be based on WWF procurement guidelines. WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal submitted. **All applications should reach us by or before 05pm EAT on Monday 22nd May 2023.** Only successful applicant shall be contacted.
- (vi) WWF has a principle of zero tolerance for fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, then report by sending an email to [fccl@wwftz.org](mailto:fccl@wwftz.org)



## Ministry underscores need for govt to protect local industries

By Guardian Correspondent

SHADOW Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade, Halima Nabalang'anya has underscored the need for the government to protect local industries, especially those manufacturing cement by encouraging establishment of more factories for purposes of increasing competition in the market.

Nabalang'anya from the opposition - ACT Wazalendo made the statement yesterday when speaking to journalists on the recently endorsed budget estimates for Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Commenting on the takeover of Tanga cement factory, by Portland Cement Limited Plc (Twiga Cement), she said the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) should respect the court ruling because by allowing the merger, FCC is violating the country's laws. The law in question is the Fair Competition Act 2003 and its several amendments that discourage acquisitions and mergers that will lead to over 35 percent of the market share.

"Following FCC's approval of the merger, stakeholders appealed at the Fair Competition Tribunal (FCT) and on September 23rd, 2022, the decision to allow the takeover was annulled by the court," she said, adding that FCC has violated the laws and ignored decisions by the court.

Nabalang'anya said that FCC re-

sumed the takeover process by the end of December 2022 and on February 11, 2023, it made a public announcement that aimed to collect views from stakeholders on the continuation of processes to sell Tanga cement shares to Twiga.

She said the cement sub-sector is crucial for the country's development, hence the need for regulators to ensure a competitive market. She warned that failure to properly regulate the sector would result in price surge and shortage of the product just because one manufacturer owns majority market shares.

Investment, Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji said in the National Assembly yesterday that the deal is not against the Fair Competition Act 2003 and its several amendments of not exceeding 35 percent of the market share.

"If the two firms are merged they only form 31.53 percent of the installed capacity below the limit of 35 percent. Market variables and creating competitiveness are among the issues that were observed in reaching such a decision," said Kijaji.

She said the acquisition process was made public through an advert published in government newspapers on January 11, 2023 and there were no complaints or objections filed to the minister in relation to the deal as per Regulation No. 49 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2018.



Opposition ACT-Wazalendo shadow Minerals minister Edgar Mkosamali briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a meeting at which the party analysed the Investment, Industry and Trade ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2023/2024 tabled in the National Assembly earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## TALGWU suspends two officials over chaos during May Day celebrations

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Local Government Workers Union (TALGWU) in Mbeya Region has suspended its officials at Mbeya District Council to pave way investigations on allegations against them.

The officials are alleged to have abandoned members during the International Workers Day (May Day) celebration held at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya City on

Monday this week.

The suspended officials include TALGWU Mbeya District Chairman, Emmanuel Dalika and its Secretary, Joyce Amelye who are alleged to have abandoned union members who participated at the event without paying their allowances or providing them with food.

Addressing reporters in his office, Mbeya Region TALGWU Chairman, Lugano Bansilile said the officials had poor communications

with members and that was the reason from their complaints.

However, he said they also alleged to have insulted union members who were airing their complaints at the exhibition ground that created a fracas pitting officials and members.

Bansilile further said the officials ran away from members and switched off their mobile phones, that was impossible even to senior union officials to contact them.

Meanwhile, the suspended TALGWU Chairman for Mbeya district refuted the statement by the regional chairman that suspended him saying he decided to resign on his own accord after being humiliated by some Union members.

He said on the day of the event he was among officials who sat on the main stage but did not hear of any calls in his mobile phone due to the din in the stadium.

He said later, one of the mem-

bers, Richard Mgogo approached him and pulled him to the place where other union members sat who were demanding their allowances.

He added that due to the ensuing misunderstanding, Mgogo started insulting and beating him, hence he decided to resign to ward off conflicts among union officials.

"Remember that I am not a TALGWU employee, but as Mbeya District Council employee, hence I

simple decided to resign from the Union," Dalika added.

However, Mgogo who is the Ikukwa Ward Executive officer said TALGWU officials were rude and that they mouthed insults when they were being queried on issues they had pledged for them.

During this year's Workers Day celebrations in Mbeya Region, more than 70 TALGWU members who are district council employees refused to leave the stadium de-

## Z'bar govt planning to construct ports in Kizimkazi, Wete to further stimulate trade with neighbouring areas - minister

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government is planning to construct ports in Kizimkazi in Unguja South and Wete Districts so as to further stimulate trade and open up more economic opportunities for the islands and neighbouring areas.

Minister for Works, Communication and Transportation, Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed revealed this yesterday when he witnessed the signing for the commencement of feasibility study for the implantation of two port projects in the islands.

He said the construction of Kizimkazi port was important to increasing the number of transport services for citizens from the island and the mainland.

In addition, he said the government has taken the responsibility as part of its strategies to increase commercial activities, stimulate trade and thus boost the blue economy.

Ministry's deputy permanent secretary, Shomari Omar Shomari, said the feasibility study of the construction of the ports will greatly help in directing how the ports should be constructed so as to bring the intended outcomes.

The ports will not only open up opportunities for the citizens in Zanzibar but many others in the mainland and neighbouring countries.

Harbour engineering executive director Cheng Yong Jian said they are well prepared to implement the job faithfully and complete it within the scheduled time-frame.

Hassan Hamd Omar, Kojan MP in Pemba said it was high time the government should invest much efforts to open up Pemba Island as there are many potentials that are yet to be exploited.



Condesta Sichwale, legislator for Momba constituency in Songwe Region, shows various brands of spirits in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday when contributing to debate on Budget estimates of the Investment, Industry and Trade ministry for financial year 2023/2024. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Govt allotted 100bn/- to build VETA centres in 64 districts in FY 2022/2023, MPs told

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government had set aside 100 bn/- to build Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) centres in 64 districts in 2022/23, the parliament heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technol-

ogy, Omar Kipanga told the lawmaker that it is part of the efforts to establish VETA centres in every region and district in the country.

He said, so far there are already building plans and areas allocated for the construction of the centres.

He made the statement in

response to a question by the Kilombero MP, Abubakar Asenga (CCM), who wanted to know what the government was doing to establish a VETA centre in Kilombero districts after the residents had set aside 30 hectares of land.

"As the government continues building the vocational

training centres in every district, when shall the same be done in Kilombero district since residents have set land for the same purpose?" asked the lawmaker.

The deputy minister explained that administratively the country has 139 districts, adding that VETA colleges

have been built in 77 districts.

"So far 64 districts have no VETA colleges of which this financial year the government has set aside 100bn/- to construct 64 vocational training colleges," explained the deputy minister.

On part of Kilombero district, the minister said the set

aside site is at Nakaguru village in Mchombe ward and 45mn/- has been allocated for the project since March 2023.

He further told the parliament that several districts are among the 64 districts which the government is going to construct vocational training colleges in the 2022/23 finan-

cial year.

Equally, the deputy minister further called upon parents and guardians to take their youths to the colleges already built in the country to acquire skills that will enable them to get employment or be self employed by establishing small factories.





Laurent Kabikiye, Weights and Measures Agency's Kigoma regional manager, makes a presentation yesterday at a working session for various officials in the region on ways to eliminate invalid measurements in the palm oil industry. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## RC bans human activities in Sekenke Forest Reserve area

By Guardian Correspondent, Iramba

SINGIDA Regional Commissioner Peter Serukamba has banned all human activities inside Sekenke Forest Reserve in Iramba District in the region as a measure to fight the effects of climate change.

Serukamba issued the ban Wednesday this week when listening to complaints from residents of Masagi Village, Mtoa Ward in the district following their requests for permission to graze their livestock inside the reserve.

He said conducting human activities in forest reserves contribute to drought that has been affecting other production activities including farming.

Serukamba noted that people owning livestock should embark in allocating own grazing areas including the cultivation of hay for their animals.

"For you elders who have been around here for decades, there were forests in many areas because your ancestors used to protect them, hence it is now not acceptable for us to stop protecting them, the issue of grazing, cutting trees for firewood or farming is not permitted, every herder must have his own grazing area," he said.

Concurrently, Iramba District Commissioner, Suleiman Mwenda said forest destruction in Mtoa ward and other areas has caused the destruction of water sources and the absence of rains that has affected production compared in the past when there was abundant forest land.

The DC said Iramba District is the only area with many water sources including dams and lakes such as Kitangiri, Doromoni, Urughu and Mayanzani but now, he said, owing to forests destruction many water sources that used to feed them have dried up.

## Govt directs regional and district officials to supervise implementation of agriculture and fisheries programmes to boost food security

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has directed regional and district administrative secretaries and executive directors to oversee the implementation of agriculture and fisheries programmes so as to strengthen food security.

Dr Jim Yonazi, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination said that yesterday in Dodoma city when speaking at the capacity building workshop to regional, district and council leaders.

He said that seed securities are very important in agriculture this is why the Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) has continued to invest in the area and keep in stock enough seeds to realise the government goal.

"The government has, up to April this year, produced a total of 49,962.35 tonnes of quality seeds which is equivalent to 26.68 percent of country demand 187,197 tonnes annually," he said.

Dr Yonazi said that the government has focused much on the availability of seeds to ensure food security and in fisheries ensure the resources are fully utilized.

He said the government plans to procure six fishery vessels to fish in deep sea level to benefit from the resources.

The PS clarified that the programme will involve construction, expansion and renovation of infrastructure such as the Kingulwira fingerlings hatchery in Morogoro Region.

"We must collaborate with stakeholders to spread the knowledge to produce more fingerlings by constructing dams, so I call upon leaders to take the role of overseeing the programme and implement it on time," he added.

Paul Sangawe, director of policy and coordination from the Prime Minister Office, said that the objective of the programme was to develop aquaculture and fishery in deep sea.

Principal Agriculture Officer from the Regional administration and local government authority Dr Rehema Mwendembi said that the programme will improve agriculture and fishery sector hence assure food security.

Last year, the government said plans were afoot to procure 320 new modern fishing boats for small and middle-scale fishermen in a move aimed at transforming the fisheries industry.

Mashimba Ndaki, the then Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, told parliament in the capital Dodoma that the procurement of the fishing boats was part of the government's intention to transform the fisheries sector and enable it to contribute to the national economic growth.

He said the boats to be used for deep-sea fishing will be procured during the 2022/2023 financial year that starts on July 1, 2022, and runs to June 30, 2023.

He told the House that the government has also put in place strategies aimed at facilitating fishermen to construct small-scale fish processing plants to enable them to boost their income.



**The government has, up to April this year, produced a total of 49,962.35 tonnes of quality seeds which is equivalent to 26.68 percent of country demand 187,197**



## TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001:2015 Certified

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### REGISTRATION OF STORAGE FACILITIES

*Dar es salaam, Friday, 05<sup>th</sup> May, 2023*

#### 1.0 Introduction

Tanzania Revenue Authority wishes to remind the General Public that, the Finance Act, 2022 introduced the obligation to owners of storage facilities for the purpose of keeping goods for business to register such facilities with the Commissioner General. This obligation was introduced by the new Section 45A of the Tax Administration Act, Cap 438. The implementation of this requirement commenced with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

#### 2.0 Operational Modality

In order to have a smooth implementation of registration of the facilities, owners (or operators) of those separate facilities are reminded to comply with the following requirements: -

- To inform the Commissioner General through TRA office where the facility is located, by filling form No. ITX 106.01.E (Registration Form for Storage Facility).
- To register each storage facility separately whether or not it is within the same building/ plot.
- After registration and upon provision of storage facility number, facility owner (or operators) will fill necessary details in the storage facility monthly return for each calendar month. Return for each storage facility shall be submitted to their respective areas of Registration using prescribed form no. ITAX 284.01.E.
- The monthly return shall be submitted within fifteen (15) days after the end of each calendar month period.
- Where the owner of the storage facility intends to close or change the use of storage facility, the owner shall inform the Commissioner General through respective TRA Office in writing.

TRA continues to provide awareness to owners (or operators) of storage facility and other stakeholders in order to ensure proper and effective registration is maintained. Therefore, TRA urges all owners of storage facilities and other stakeholders to take note of various TRA guidances that are issued from time to time and to attend prospective awareness and sensitization sessions.

For further information, please visit your nearest TRA office or use the following contacts to communicate with us: -

**Website:** [www.tra.go.tz](http://www.tra.go.tz)  
**Toll Free:** 0800 750 075 au 0800 780 078  
**WhatsApp:** 0744 23 33 33  
**E-mail:** [huduma@tra.go.tz](mailto:huduma@tra.go.tz) or [services@tra.go.tz](mailto:services@tra.go.tz)

*"Together We Build Our Nation"*

*A.J. Kidata*  
**Commissioner General**



## SADC establishes fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance coordination centre in Maputo

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) has been established in the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries in Maputo, Mozambique.

The establishment follows the entry into force of the charter establishing the MCSCC on April 8th, 2023.

Establishment of the MCSCC paves way for coordinated measures to improve fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the SADC region.

Minister for Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries in Mozambique, Dr Lídia Cardoso on April 20th, 2023, handed over keys to the offices of the SADC MCSCC to Domingos Gove, Director of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources of SADC.

The MCSCC will coordinate regional fisheries MCS data and information sharing services, including a regional fishing vessel register and monitoring system; provision of regional fisheries surveillance, observer coordination and port State measures support services, provision of fisheries law enforcement and

legal support services and help to support improvements in the capacity of national MCS systems.

The Bloomberg Oceans Fund and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has supported the MCSCC to acquire office and ICT equipment, and set up services to enable the Centre coordinate with SADC Member States.

The Centre has also received support from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through WWF, the United States (US) State Department through SADC Atlantic project and SADC-AfDB PROFISHBLUE project.

The operationalisation of the MCSCC marks a turning point for which the SADC countries and relevant actors have been getting ready for the last decade.

Land has been secured in Katembe, Maputo for the construction of the dedicated building for the MCSCC offices, following the handover of the official documentation for the acquisition of land by the District Municipality of Katembe to the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries.

The World Bank will provide financial support towards the construction of MCSCC building.



Hasnat Gervas, secretary of the CCM women's wing in Muheza District, leads an open-air sensitisation session on gender-based violence yesterday for primary and secondary school students in the district's four divisions. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## RMO urges public to continue taking precautions against cholera

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Medical Officer, Dr Rashid Mfaume has urged residents in the city to continue taking precautions against cholera outbreak by adhering to sanitation and hygiene measures.

Dr Mfaume made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the capacity building conference for journalists to equip them with various skills about Cholera and the current outbreak.

He said in 2012 a study was con-

ducted and found that around 1.8 billion people around the world suffer from diseases caused by water pollution including cholera.

He said that this rate is equal to 28 percent of all people in the world who suffer from diseases associated with dirt such as diarrhea, vomiting and stomach diseases in general.

Dr Mfaume said if people follow health rules such as washing hands before eating, they will avoid various diseases such as diarrhea and vomiting caused by viruses.

"When there is an outbreak sometimes panic happen among the community, so we thought it would be good to call you here and get information on how many patients we have and various measures the government is taking to deal with the pandemic," he said.

Dr Mfaume said there were 15 patients who were assumed to be affected during the outbreak, but so far the health care facilities are in good condition as many have been allowed to leave.

He said that 90 percent of deaths

resulting from diarrhea and vomiting are due to the use of unclean and unsafe water and that is why they have engaged the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA).

He said that the authority has continued to treat water in various tanks in Dar es Salaam Region and provided chlorine water treatment starting at the household level.

He said the government continues to provide education to businessmen with water wells to ensure that they keep them in a safe

environment before delivering them to the public.

The Regional Health Office, Enzeael Ayo said that information about cholera outbreak was issued on April 20, where there were 15 people suspected to have the disease.

She said that until now the 15 people have been discharged from hospital and no one who is hospitalized adding that 13 samples were collected for testing at the National Public Health Laboratory and seven samples appeared to

contain cholera parasites.

"Among the people who were diagnosed with the disease, nine were women and the analysis of Cholera patients showed that 13 patients were from Ilala District, which is equal to 86.7 percent," she said.

She mentioned various measures taken by the region to prevent the spread of the disease such as inspection of buildings, markets and households to check their cleanliness and surrounding environment.

## Sudanese special envoy urges rebels to put down arms

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA has received an envoy for Sudan's General Abdel-Fattah Burhan to discuss the ongoing conflict amid reports of continuing violence in Khartoum.

The special envoy said that the Sudanese government would soon put an end to the conflict.

"Shortly the government of Sudan is going to put an end to this rebellion.

I assured them that we are keen for stability the peace in the region. But more importantly, I explained that all authorities, countries, media should distinguish between the legal authority in Sudan and the rebels. These two should not be equated to each other", said Dafallah Alhaj, Special envoy of Sudan's General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Speaking in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, the Sudanese special envoy urged the rebels to put down arms.

"The other rebellion, I would say, they are still raising up arms, fighting and they didn't show any consent to heal or to give up. And we have announced more than one time that there is still a chance to pardon whoever is ready to put down arms", said the Sudanese special envoy.

Violence erupted on April 15, preceded by months of escalating tensions between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and



National Irrigation Commission experts survey land used by sugarcane farmers in Kilombero District yesterday in readiness for the implementation of an irrigation project in the area. Photo: NIRC

## Journos mark World Press Freedom Day by visiting development projects in Rukwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

JOURNALISTS in Rukwa Region have marked World Press Freedom Day by visiting four development projects being implemented by Sumbawanga Municipal Council in the region.

The visit to the projects took place Wednesday this week and included the Fyengelezya Village Dispensary, two

classrooms at Mtipe secondary School, six classrooms at Lwiche Secondary School all built by funds from the Municipal Council's internal revenues and the constituency Fund.

Another big project visited by scribes is the construction of three wards and a mortuary at Sumbawanga Municipal Hospital at Isofu area.

Submitting his report on the projects, the Municipal's economist, Gwakisa Mwa-beza said they have a combined value of 1.05bn/- and when completed will have solved many challenges facing Sumbawanga Municipal residents.

Meanwhile, Hadija Dalasia, Sumbawanga Municipal Information Officer said the implementation of the projects is out of the government's good intentions

in solving existing challenges in regard to the education and health sectors.

She said some of the said schools were overwhelmed by the number of students since the time the government embarked on free education, as their infrastructures were inadequate to cope up with a large influx of students being enrolled.

In the same vein, the Chairman of Rukwa Press Club, Nswima Ernest thanked

the Sumbawanga Municipal Executive Director, Jacob Mtalitinya for providing the journalists with a vehicle to visit the projects.

However, he appealed to the Executive Director to continue working together with their club by organising similar visits to the development projects so that they can be able to inform the public, as sometimes there have been misleading reports



## RC warns against building houses in mountain areas

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Commissioner Fatma Mwasa has appealed to residents in mountain areas in the region to stop construction activities in their areas as the government will be ready to demolish their structures as such construction is part of environmental destruction.

The RC issued the warning yesterday during the tree planting exercise around Mindu dam in Morogoro Municipality in a campaign organised by the National Environment ambassador Chage Alex Chage.

She said the community is supposed to understand that construction in mountain areas degrades the environment, saying that even though

some people continue to build structures in the areas, the government will not hesitate to demolish them. "Similarly, we had also warned herders not to take their herds to Kilombero, but they did not listen now the government is auctioning off the cattle seized in the area as you have heard from media reports," she said. She stressed on the community to continue abiding by government's directives including planting five trees at every house as well as continuing with the "Soma na Miti" to make children love planting trees.

Meanwhile, the tree planting campaign coordinator, Chage Alex Chage from the Office of the Vice President (Environment) said the environmental conservation issue is a responsibility of every person in the

community. He said more than 500 trees have been planted in areas around Mindu dam and the exercise continues in other areas to spur enthusiasm in the restoration of the country's natural vegetation.

Similarly, Rehema Samuel, from Tanzania Christian Refugees Services (TCRS) who participated in the tree planting exercise stressed on the community to see the need to be at the forefront in the entire issue of environmental conservation by starting to plant trees in areas around them.

Earlier, Jacob Ole Mameo, the Bishop for the ELCT Eastern Diocese called on environmental stakeholders to support conservation efforts through tree planting, saying environmental conservation is the same as protecting human life.



Shinyanga Municipality community development official John Tesha pictured earlier this week presenting school supplies to one of the "street" children who have since been rejoined with their parents or guardians and returned to school. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Experts in energy industry urged to think of better plans for clean energy transition

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

POLICY makers, technicians and researchers in the energy industry have been advised to come up with better plans for clean energy transition.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the clean cooking and climate change workshop Senior Lecturer on environment economics and energy Mushi Cooperative University, Dr Yusuph Kulindwa said there is need for all energy experts to work together to ensure clean energy is accessible to all people in the country.

The workshop was organised by School of Economics at the University of Dar es Salaam together with

Centre for International Climate Research (CICERO), Norwegian University of Life Sciences and the University of Liverpool, in collaboration with other partners in the research project 4C Impacts.

Dr Kulindwa said the country relies on several energy resources for its power generation whereas about 45 percent of the country's electricity comes from hydro power.

"We want to have a good energy transition that is why the government is taking deliberate measure to promote the use of renewable energy technologies such as biomass, micro hydro, solar, wind, wastes, natural gas and other locally available energy sources including coal and geothermal," he noted.

Peak electricity demand in the country is expected to roughly quadruple by 2025 to 4,000 MW. To help meet this demand, Tanzania is targeting installed capacity of 10 GW by 2025. Meanwhile, the country is aiming to nearly double electrification rates to 75% by 2033.

Dr Lars Kare Grimsby Associate Professor International Environment and Development Studies Noragric Faculty of Landscapes and Society said there is need to provide knowledge on the condition that support an inclusive transition toward clean cooking in Tanzania as well as potential impact of an energy transition if not well addressed from all parties involved.

Tanzania energy sector is rapidly

changing and an energy transition toward increasing usage of non-biomass fuel is gaining pace, he said.

He pointed out that the government's intent is to foster national planned interventions and robust governance systems in the energy sector including cooking energy which constitutes between 80 and 90 percent of the country's total primary energy supply.

He said lack of access to clean cooking technology is the single largest environmental risk factor for diseases and disabilities in countries relying on traditional biomass fuel for household energy due to household air pollution where the fuels are associated with deforestation and climate change.

"In Tanzania only 2-5 percent of the population has access to clean cooking technology and the mortality burden from household air pollution is high with an estimated 33000 premature deaths per year," he noted.

Mussa Mgwadu, Director of Research and Publications from the University of Dar es Salaam said that if experts work together it will make ease the energy transition.

Joyce Msangi, clean cooking programme national coordinator from the Ministry of Energy said the industry continues to develop several projects and companies reaching milestones.

She said Tanzania is estimated to have 45 billion m3 of natural

gas reserves, enough to cover the country's domestic use and make Tanzania the next natural gas hub in Africa.

Msangi noted that the government is working hard to ensure there is a good move in the energy industry so that people are able to use clean energy in their daily activities.

She said there are nine thermal power plants that are converting natural gas to electricity: Ubungo I and II, Tegeta, Songas, Mtwara, Somanga, Kinyerezi I and II, and Dangote with a total production per year stands at approximately 650 MW. The Songas Project is currently producing around 200 MW of electricity using natural gas.

## New WHO manual meant to strengthen pedestrian safety

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) and partners have launched a revised manual to help decision makers curb the scourge of pedestrian deaths and injuries in road traffic crashes.

Walking brings health, transport and environmental benefits, but roads remain unsafe for pedestrians everywhere. Over 310 000 pedestrians were killed in crashes 2016, accounting for 23 percent of all global deaths.

The manual was launched at the network of African road safety legislators meeting in Kampala, Uganda. Per kilometre travelled, pedestrians face a nine times higher risk of death than car occupants.

The proportion of pedestrians killed compared with other road users is highest in the WHO African Region, at 40 percent, and lowest in the WHO South-East Asian Region at 14 percent.

Yet pedestrian deaths and injuries are under-reported in many countries.

Pedestrian collisions are predictable and preventable, and it is crucial that authorities put evidence-based laws, frameworks and actions in place to reduce pedestrian deaths and injuries.

The latest pedestrian safety manual offers new case studies, data and guidance for decision-makers with a focus on low and middle-income countries, where nine-in-ten of all road crash deaths occur.

Hosted by Uganda's Parliamentary Forum on Road Safety with the African Union, in collaboration with The World Bank Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Program, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the UN Environment Programme and WHO, legislators from 10 African countries met to strengthen and align national legislation to meet the United Nations global target of halving road crash deaths by 2030.

The publication is part of a series of manuals that are co-produced by WHO, the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP), the FIA Foundation and the World Bank, with financial support from Bloomberg Philanthropies.



Peter Sulle, Manyara regional chairman of the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT), pictured in Katesh township in Hanang' District on Thursday opening a meeting called to discuss developments in the region's seven councils. He is with ALAT regional secretary Anna Mbogo (L) and vice chairman Baraka Kanunga. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Zimbabwe signs pact for establishment of SADC humanitarian and emergency operations centre

By Guardian Reporter

ZIMBABWE has signed the Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the establishment of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC), becoming the fourth member state to sign the agreement after Tanzania, Mozambique and Namibia.

July Moyo, Minister of Local Government, Public Works

and National Housing who is also the Minister responsible for Disaster Risk Management signed the agreement on behalf of the government of Zimbabwe, emphasizing the importance of well-coordinated and robust preparedness and response capacities for the region.

Moyo highlighted that Zimbabwe saw it pertinent to sign the agreement in light of the impetus of disasters in the SADC region, particularly the

Tropical Cyclone Idai and other disasters which devastated the SADC region, compounding the economic challenges and making it harder for member states to recover and build back.

The Minister said Zimbabwe strongly advocates the notion of member states supporting each other, citing the support that SADC member states, including Zimbabwe, provided to Malawi's response efforts in the aftermath of the recent Tropi-

cal Cyclone Freddy in March 2023.

He applauded the gesture by the leadership of Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe for convening a national indaba which included the government, the private sector and national and international non-governmental organisations to coordinate Zimbabwe's support to Malawi.

The SADC Council of Ministers meeting held in August 2019, in Dar es Salaam, Tan-

zania directed the Secretariat to develop regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Mechanisms including the establishment of the SHOC to coordinate regional disaster risk preparedness, response and early recovery to support member states affected by disasters.

Tanzania was the first SADC member state to sign the agreement on February 23rd, 2023. Namibia became the second member state to sign on March

14th, 2023. The third Member State to sign the Agreement was Mozambique and it was signed by Veronica Nataniel Macamo Dlhovo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Minister responsible Disaster Risk Management in the Republic of Mozambique.

The establishment of SHOC comes against the background of destructive cyclones in the SADC region which have occurred in the face of food insecurity situation, lack of house-

hold income and increasing commodity prices, thereby worsening people's vulnerabilities.

The SHOC which is hosted by Mozambique in Nacala, Mozambique was launched on June 21st, 2021 by Filipe Nyusi, President of Mozambique and the then Chairperson of SADC and Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi, President of Botswana and Chairperson of SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation at the time.



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SATURDAY 6 MAY 2023

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Investment projects rise, with counterfeits debate persisting

MIXED feelings are being heard in parliamentary discussion concerning the performance of the Investment, Industry and Trade portfolio as it delivered its budget estimates Thursday. While there is sharp growth in registration of new industrial projects, local producers yawn at counterfeit products taking portions of the local market. It is at times difficult for the government to find the policy equilibrium, between protecting consumers and listening to local producers.

There was a time, and indeed there are still voices, often coming up to state the case for local producers, intimating that their manufacturing work is identical with the national interest. This kind of thinking is based on the import substitution idea, that producing goods by local labour make them cost less than imports, an idea predominant in developing countries' development thinking after independence. Later it was proved to be false, as local clothing became impossible to produce and sell for the local market; cheap imports took over.

But then local production and using the national market to industrialise had already become part of the policy fabric of African governments, especially as subsidies to state firms charged with such activity, or local private firms, keeps afloat large numbers of producers and other stakeholders. The last time this policy error came out in broad daylight was early 2016 when a plethora of nationalistic interests stopped sugar imports. Prices spiralled from 1,800/- per kilo in Dar es Salaam to 3,200/- by the time prices stabilised, and upwards of 5,500/- per kilo in far off regions, one case of such price level being Simiyu.

But as ordinarily men are long on sensitivity to private or group interests and short on memories of policy errors, there is plenty of

complaint over counterfeit products in the local market. Those pushing this line of thinking want genuine clothing or such other products, not second hand materials or cheaper versions of comparable materials. Most imports come through the main ports and are duly checked by customs authorities, while clothing has multilateral treaties.

Just for the background, during the same 2016 feisty policy period, a ministerial resolution was adopted among East African Community member states to phase out clothing imports (except for raw fabrics) to facilitate the growth of local industries. This would have been a devastating blow to poor people in the region, for instance an unemployed youth buying a good jacket at 1,000/- in offroad markets. Produce it locally and it would sell at not less than 20,000/-.

Thus registering projects to enter in such spheres shows there is a market, even with inflows of so-called counterfeits, for the poor. The secret is producer price and technology margins, where a cheap producer seeks to set foot in the local market to make the product even cheaper. But a local producer with capital that wasn't obtained in a competitive manner, and with production layouts which are bureaucratic and costly, can't expand production. Thus some producers will go.

That is why it is interesting too figure out what is involved in counterfeits worth 1.13bn/- at an inspection at the Dar es Salaam port involving 7,918 containers - indicating 206 containers with products "that violate the Trademark Act 1963." As the country struggles to remove non-tariff barriers to trade, such reports raise eyebrows as to what trademarks are infringed. Let us wait and see.

## We can arrest chronic hunger facing Africa

POVERTY remains one of the most significant causes of hunger in Africa. More than half of all Africans live below the poverty line and more than three quarters reside in rural areas. It is this lack of money or other resources to purchase food that results in hunger, both chronic and hidden.

In Africa, one in five people faced hunger in 2020. The number of hungry people continues to rise. Conflict, drought, and economic woes triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic are reversing years of progress. As of 2020, more than one-third of the continent's population was undernourished. In the whole of Africa, 282 million people were experiencing hunger, more than double the proportion of any other region in the world.

Conditions are deteriorating across East Africa, where 72 million people are at risk of starvation and another 26.5 million face acute food insecurity. At least 12.8 million children in the region are acutely malnourished.

It's heartbreaking that the lives of millions of children in East Africa are at risk due to a perfect storm of conflict, changing or unpredictable weather patterns, and the after-effects of COVID-19. The long-term harm of malnutrition on children's development hinders their ability to achieve their God-given potential.

World Vision has launched an emergency response for Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda to help feed 71 million people, including 34 million children.

African countries should marshal resources to support vulnerable communities across East Africa to avert the catastrophic effects of hunger, starvation, and loss of livelihoods. It is not too late to avert the crisis, but

it will be soon, if we don't act quickly and decisively.

Further south, successive crop failures and poor harvests in Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe are taking a toll on agriculture production, and food prices are soaring. In recent growing seasons, parts of southern Africa experienced their lowest rainfall in decades. Africa economies recurring drought, conflict, and instability have led to severe food shortages. Many countries have struggled with extreme poverty for decades, so there is a lack of government and community support systems for families. In particular, repeated drought cycles plunge communities into a new food crisis before they have a chance to recover sufficiently from the last one.

The secondary economic and social impacts of the pandemic have driven millions worldwide deeper into poverty, and these impacts persist for children and their communities throughout Africa. A decline in income opportunities, lost livelihoods, diminished purchasing power, and limited access to basic food and services are all continuing into 2022.

Recurring failed rainy seasons have made it impossible for many African farmers and herders to keep up their livelihoods. Cyclones, floods, and swarms of desert locusts also increased humanitarian needs in eastern and southern Africa.

In its latest "Global Risk Report Quarterly Update" which evaluated 56 countries in the region, two countries were identified in the very low risk zone, four countries in the low-risk zone, 11 countries under manageable risk, 21 countries under high risk and 18 countries in the very high-risk zone.

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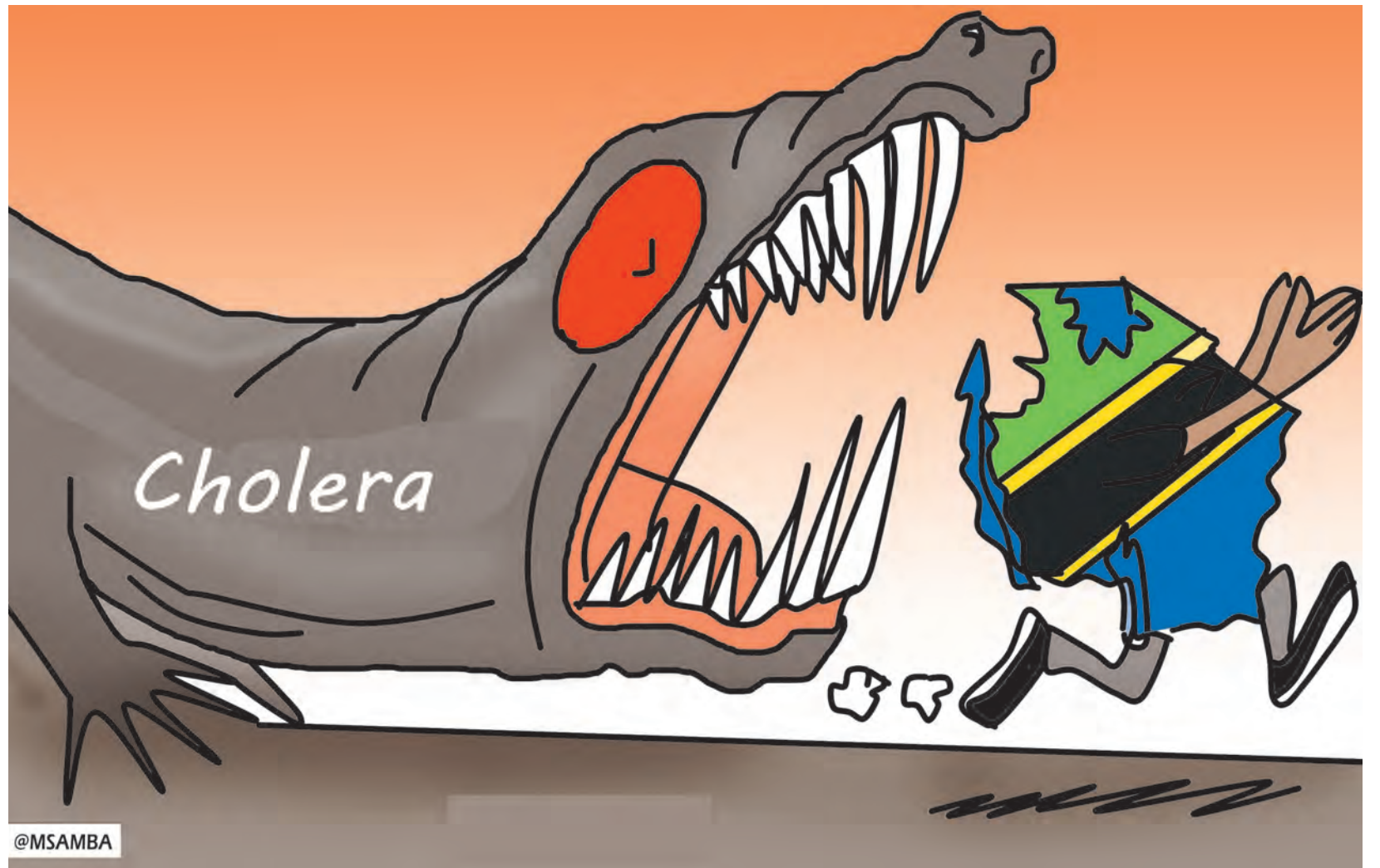
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## 'Defending human rights is a crime in some countries and a deadly activity in others'

By Bibbi Abruzzini and Clarisse Sih

IN today's world, human rights defenders face immense challenges, with threats, attacks, and repression being rampant in many countries. According to the latest report by Front Line Defenders, killings of rights defenders increased in 2022, with a total of 401 deaths across 26 different countries. Despite the adoption of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders 25 years ago, the threats faced by defenders persist globally.

One striking example of the dire situation is in Bolivia, where violations of freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly, and the right to defend rights have been recorded by the Observatory of Rights Defenders of UNITAS, with the Permanent Assembly of Human Rights of Bolivia (APDHB) being a longstanding victim of attacks and delegitimization. A total of 725 violations of the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, democratic institutions and the right to defend rights have been recorded by the Observatory of Rights Defenders.

Gladys Sandova, a human rights and environmental defender in the Tariquia Flora and Fauna National Reserve in Bolivia, reveals how the state often aligns with oil businesses instead of protecting communities. "Tariquia is the lung of Tarija," Gladys explains, yet this vital source of wa-

ter for southern Bolivia and home to over 3,000 people, is at risk due to the state-owned Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos (YPFB) seeking to revive oil exploration in the reserve.

"Oil companies are here, we are going to lose our natural richness, they are going to affect the lives of families, and contaminate our water and our air," says Gladys, reflecting the urgent need to defend human rights and the environment.

Her story is similar to that of several other human rights defenders across the globe: they are victims of hostilities, interference, threats, and harassment. The campaign, Refmágina La Defensa de Derechos, by UNITAS collects the testimonies of human rights defenders and indigenous leaders across Bolivia raising awareness about the challenges they face.

Stories from human rights defenders from across the globe are also featured in the #AlternativeNarratives campaign, which seeks to amplify the voices of civil society organizations and grassroots movements that work towards social justice, human rights, and sustainable development. The campaign encourages the use of storytelling, multimedia tools, and creative expression to highlight alternative perspectives, challenge stereotypes, and advocate for positive change while fostering a more inclusive and equitable narrative space that reflects the diversity of human

experiences and promotes solidarity, empathy, and mutual understanding.

Human rights defenders, including women defenders, continue to mobilize against repressive regimes and occupying forces in countries like Afghanistan, the DRC, El Salvador, Iran, Myanmar, Sudan, and Ukraine. Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, highlights the underreporting of human rights violations against defenders, particularly women, and outlines "disturbing trends" in relation to civic space worldwide.

Repongac, representing over 1,200 NGOs in Central Africa, states that "human rights in Central Africa are no longer guaranteed," with civil society actors, journalists, and defenders facing repression, prosecution, and arrests. Recent campaigns organized by Repongac in Central Africa and Repaoc in West Africa, supported by Forus and the French Development Agency, brought together diverse stakeholders, including human rights defenders, political parties, parliamentarians, journalists, and security personnel, to initiate a dialogue and protect civic space and fundamental freedoms in the region.

To support activists and defenders globally, the Danish Institute for Human Rights has launched a monitoring tool that assesses whether an enabling environment for human rights defenders exists across five critical

areas. Developed in collaboration with 24 institutions and organizations, including the United Nations and civil society networks, the tool not only tracks the number of killings of human rights defenders but also analyzes the presence of appropriate legislation and practices to protect defenders.

As Carol Rask, a representative of the Danish Institute for Human Rights, explains, defending human rights is a crime in some countries and a deadly activity in others. It is a call to action for change, urging individuals, organizations, and governments to prioritize and protect the crucial work of human rights defenders worldwide.

Griselda Sillerico, human rights defender in Bolivia for over 30 years, quotes Ana María Romero and says "human rights are seeds that we continue to plant and that over the years we harvest." Griselda Sillerico's quote echoes the enduring spirit of human rights advocacy, where the work of human rights defenders like her is a constant effort to sow the seeds of justice, equality, and dignity for all. Despite the challenges and setbacks, human rights defenders across the world continue to plant these seeds, often at great personal risk, with the hope of reaping a future where human rights are universally respected and protected.

IPS UN Bureau

## The making of billionaires in oil-rich Nigeria: Who is powering their rise?

By Zuhuman Dapel

IN periods of oil prices hovering around \$100 per barrel, Nigeria scoops approximately \$200 million per day in revenues from the global oil market. Who are the major beneficiaries of these proceeds?

Roughly two decades ago, 58 per cent of Nigerians were living in absolute poverty. That was equivalent to about 70 million people unable to spend N98 (1.25 adjusted for cost of living across countries i.e., purchasing power parity) per person per day on food items and other basic needs, enough to buy a light lunch, pay for two haircuts or half a gallon of petrol in Nigeria, but not a medium-sized Starbucks cup of coffee in the United States or Costa coffee in the United Kingdom.

Then, there was no Nigerian on Forbes' global list of billionaires.

Cut to 2010, these figures have risen: the number of poor rose from 69 million in 2004 to more than 100 million and arguably, the number of billionaires from zero to two; and by 2020 the billionaire figure has raced to five with roughly half of the country's population size subsisting underneath the poverty threshold. In 2010, 7 out of 10 Nigerians were considered poor by this standard.

The combined net worth of these billionaires is approximately \$24 billion or \$4.6 billion per person. Given that Nigeria's average income - amend-

ed for the wealth share of the billionaires - in 2020 was \$1,300, the monetary worth of one billionaire is nearly the total income of over three million Nigerians.

That means that for every Nigerian that made it to the Forbes' list, there were about 22 million citizens that slipped into poverty. Could this be a coincidence? That the cost of producing or making a billionaire in the country is equivalent to shoving over 20 million people into poverty? Tellingly, it can be asserted that the poorer the poor, the richer the rich: billionaires, powered by rigged government policies, riding on the back of the poor to amass fortunes?

Three of these billionaires mentioned are in the oil business and one telecommunication as their main/only source of fortune. Yet, the oil industry is not performing as expected, e.g., over 80 per cent of gasoline (or petrol) consumed in the country is imported. This is in addition to sporadic supplies and queues at local pump stations. Damningly, internet services are not robust, let alone the availability of broadband connections.

The question is: How do these billionaires make their profits? When the system (or the market environment is not operating efficiently, and the rules are being rigged?) Or is something not adding up?

This question reminds me of George Stigler's claim in "The Theory of Economic Regulation": "that the state has one basic resource which, in pure principle, is not shared with even the mightiest of its citizens: the power to coerce". The government uses this power to compel its subjects to pay taxes and follow rules. That power of coercion can be deployed in such a way as to help some individuals and industries at the expense of others.

By trying to influence how the state uses its coercive authority, businesses seek to "buy" one or more of the government's four main products: subsidies; control over competitive entry; regulation of product substitutes or complements; and the fixing of prices."

It should, however, be noted that it is not a crime to be a billionaire provided that the economic rules and policies that govern the making of billionaires are not twisted - the use of the heavy hand of the government in tipping the balance of the scale - in favour of the super-rich.

In a fairer society, when the pie gets bigger and the income of the richest increases, the level of inequality should not be rising fast. That means billionaires are getting richer not through rent-seeking but by contributing to expanding the size of the national pie and by so doing the poor will be breaking free from the iron grip of poverty.



# Safety of journalists is still not guaranteed in many countries

By Telesphor Magobe

**L**AST week, we reflected further on the plight of schoolchildren in relation to public transport to and from school and how it impacts on learning processes. Since the problem still exists, we may still have time to talk about it in the future.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the World Press Freedom Day which is marked each year on May 3. In relation to this, we will also briefly and generally look at the 2023 World Press Freedom Index prepared by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

On Wednesday, the world marked the 30th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day after its inception in 1993.

This year's theme was "Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of expression as a driver for all other human rights". Basically, World Press Freedom Day serves as a reminder to world governments of the need to respect their commitment to media freedom and also to media practitioners about issues of media freedom and adherence to professional ethics.

There seems to be some progress towards achieving media freedom, including freedom of opinion and expression, across the world. An increase in the number of mainstream and digital media outlets in many countries is indicative that there is space for media freedom or freedom of opinion and expression.

Yet, when it comes to the safety of journalists, things are quite different, of course not in all countries, but certainly in many countries. This makes media freedom or freedom of opinion and expression, still far-fetched in many countries around the world.

World Press Freedom Day was given fresh impetus by the Windhoek+30 Declaration (2021), which regards information as a public good. The Declaration starts by recalling Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948): "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Many national constitutions embody this Article. For instance, Article 18 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977 as amended until 2005) states that: "Every person - (a) has a freedom of opinion and expression of his [her] ideas; (b) has a right to seek, receive and, or disseminate information regardless of national boundaries; (c) has the freedom to communicate



and a freedom with protection from interference from his [her] communication; and (d) has a right to be informed at all times of various important events of life and activities of the people and also of issues important to society."

Although Article 19 of the UDHR (1948) is embodied in many national Constitutions, in practice it is not very much adhered to as shown below. In countries in which this Article is not adhered to information can hardly be a public good!

This year's World Press Freedom Index, which was published on Wednesday, evaluates the environment for journalism in 180

countries and territories across the world. According to this report, "the situation is 'very serious' in 31 countries, 'difficult' in 42, 'problematic' in 55, and 'good' or 'satisfactory' in 52 countries."

From the above figures, the report summarises that, the situation of journalism is 'bad' in seven out of 10 countries and good or satisfactory in only three out of 10 countries. This means that in many countries and territories media freedom or freedom of opinion and expression, is not fully protected and so the journalists' safety is at great risk.

Africa has a few countries that

have climbed the ladder of media freedom. Botswana in particular shines in this year's report as it ranks 65th after rising 35 places. "Journalism overall has become more difficult on [the African] continent and the situation is now classified as 'bad' in nearly 40 per cent of its countries (against 33 per cent in 2022)," reads part of the report.

It further says in some African countries local retransmission of international broadcasters has been banned and some journalists have been deported, while others have been killed.

Giving a general picture of the situation of journalism across the

world, RSF Secretary-General Christophe De-loire is quoted to have said: "The World Press Freedom Index shows enormous volatility in situations, with major rises and falls and unprecedented changes..."

He goes on "This instability is a result of increased aggressiveness on the part of the authorities in many countries and growing animosity towards journalists on social media and in the physical world. The volatility is also the consequence of growth in the fake content industry, which produces and distributes disinformation and provides the tools for manufacturing it."

Thus, as this report shows there is still a lot to be done to make media freedom or freedom of opinion and expression, a reality in our countries. Since journalists are a key link between world governments and their people, they need social and legal protection and enable them to work in an enabling and friendly environment.

**Today's proverb:** "Curses are like chickens, they come home to roost."

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



# Samia's yearly salary rise: Every employee has a debt to repay



President Samia Suluhu Hassan arrives at the venue for the commemoration of International Workers' Day in Morogoro Region last Monday where she announced that government employees' salaries will henceforth be raised

By Mark Mapambano

**G**OVERNMENT employees are a happy lot. This year's Labour Day came with good news for them after President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced that their salaries will henceforth be raised annually. As an icing to the cake, the President added that clearing of all pending arrears will be finalised in the next financial year.

Addressing the nation on International Workers' Day rally in Morogoro Region last Monday, President Samia said annual salary increments had been restored. The catchword here is 'restored'. In case you are not in the know, for the full five years that Samia's predecessor the late John Magufuli was at the helm, not a dime was added to government employees' salaries.

For the first time in seven years, President Samia in May last year approved salary increment which saw lowest earners—minimum wage group—get 23.3 per cent rise. A year later, the President has pleasantly surprised civil servants with the good news that salary rise will now be an annual ritual.

But there was a catch this time around. The President declined to cite any amounts for fear of provoking a price spiral, saying that salary raises will be done silently to limit the possibility of profit seekers to use visible change

of earnings among public and civil servants to raise prices of various commodities.

This is a brilliant move by the President. Traders in the country—and by extension elsewhere in the world—are not known for caring about the interest of the public but their own super profit. Traders, including middlemen, can take advantage of any situation, including tragedies of all sorts and religious periods of fasting to make a killing.

Let's not forget, previous salary increments which revealed actual rates brought little—if any—relief to workers and the general public because they were immediately followed by hiking of prices of essential goods and services. I hope that this kimya kimya style introduced by Samia will outsmart unscrupulous traders and profiteers.

But I would like to remind all government employees something while they are still in happy mood. You people have a debt to repay. Yes, you have to reciprocate the President's good intention with hard work, dedication and humility.

Both rumours and scientifically adduced facts such as audits by the Controller and Auditor General have it that public and civil service

is an opportunity for looting, lethargy and indifference. I know that there are people who serve diligently but there are many who serve themselves.

It will be seditious of sort for the thieving of public resources and poor service to continue after this good gesture by the President meant to motivate government employees. The plundering and slothfulness should stop.

Mind you, this comfort of government employees does not come easy; it has a cost paid by us taxpayers. For, the government's wage bill is expected to increase by a staggering 1.051trn/- to 10.882trn/- in the 2023/24 fiscal year. This is a 10.7 per cent increase from the 9.83trn/- of the current financial year. So, have mercy on us taxpayer and show some respect to President Samia.

In particular, folks in public parastatals have their work cut out for them. Most state-owned companies and corporation are a disappointment. A recent CAG report stated that a total of 298 commercial and service provision parastatals lack adequate capital to operate and make profits.

Treasury Registrar Nehemiah Mchechu during his meeting with chairpersons and heads

of various government and public institutions recently revealed that a total of 1.1trn/- is needed to support these institutions.

Also, CAG Charles Kichere in his report released last month revealed that the operations of 16 government entities rely on loans because they have low capital compared to their actual needs. When these entities request recapitalization, it is us taxpayers who make that happen through treasury as their custodian.

Furthermore, statistics show that the number of government entities and agencies, and public institutions that issued dividends to the government decreased to 150 in the 2021/22 financial year compared to the preceding year's 218.

That is why I encourage Mchechu to implement to the letter a parastatals transformation plan he unveiled last month which seeks to enhance performance and efficiency.

Mchechu said the plan will see capital uplift for parastatals reaching more than 3trn/- in the next three years to make institutions, declining in recent years, be placed on a new footing as some institutions had completely failed to conduct viable operations.

Also, the plan involves evaluation of businesses undertaken by these entities to see if they are commercially viable as well as restructuring to give them the power and freedom to make decisions.

Importantly, the plan will allow established investment boards to have special funds for reinvestment should some institutions suffer financial challenges. I wish Mchechu all the best and I remind every government employee to pay their fair share of President Samia's debt, namely annual salary increment.

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



# Theatre used to dispel polio immunisation myths in Pakistan

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

**P**AKISTAN, one of two polio-endemic countries in the world, has started staging theatrical dramas to promote immunisation in an attempt to encourage parents who refuse to allow their children to be vaccinated.

"Pakistan recorded 20 polio cases in 2022 and has detected one infected child this year. Most of the diagnosed polio kids haven't been vaccinated mainly reluctance by the parents against oral polio vaccine," Dr Jamshed Khan, a medical officer in Lakki Marwat district, told IPS. This region reported the first case in 2023.

Khan said the virus was identified in Pashto-speaking districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Now the medical teams are looking at different strategies to counter opposition to immunisation and inoculate all target kids to eradicate the crippling disease.

In 2022, all 20 polio cases were reported from three districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one of Pakistan's four provinces. He said most cases were identified on unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children.

Parents' hesitancy to administer vaccines to their wards is based on unfounded propaganda that polio drops were a ploy used by Western countries to render recipients impotent and infertile and cut down the population of Muslims.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has been trying innovative approaches to tackle the increasing incidents of refusals due to misconceptions

and creating demand for vaccination.

The latest in the series is holding theatrical events to do away with parents' hesitancy against polio immunisation and protect the kids. Theatres organised in collaboration with the VOA Deewa (Pashto) service aim to convey that vaccination was to safeguard children and prevent disabilities.

"Today, we got a very positive message about vaccination. The drops administered to the children have been approved by the government and the World Health Organisation, are safe for human consumption," Farman Ali, 16, a 10th grader in Swat district.

Ali, who attended theatre in his school in Swat, where viruses have been found in sewerage water, said that formerly he was opposed to inoculation, but now he wants to scale up awareness about the significance of vaccination in his neighbourhood.

"Prior to Swat, we have also held dramas in other districts. The impact of that is encouraging as the parents who previously refused drops are now willing to allow immunisation of their kids," writer Noorul Bashir Naveed said.

"During the dramas, we show the people to the audience who had got disabilities due to non-vaccination and prevail upon them that immunisation is significant to protect their kids from preventable diseases," Naveed said. "We aimed to promote vaccination among students and highlight the role of teachers as spiritual parents in mobilising students and



Dramas, using professional actors and compelling storylines, are used to persuade reluctant parents to have their children immunized against polio. Credit: Ashfaq Yusufzai/IPS

society in general about the significance of essential immunisation, including polio, to prevent the spread of infectious diseases."

Pakistan has been administering polio shots to 35 million children every year in four door-to-door campaigns, but 500,000 missed the drops due to hesitancy by parents.

Noted actors of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa perform The Journey of Hope.

These senior artists perform the roles of teachers, students, vaccinators and affected kids who warn the parents against refusals, Naveed said.

Vaccination benefits children, and parents must fulfil their religious and moral obligation by vaccinating them against all preventable diseases.

"We have tried our level best to brush aside all misconceptions and myths about vaccination and pave the way for smooth sailing of the immunisation," he said.

The plays include messages from religious scholars that according to Islam, the parents are bound to safeguard children against diseases, Naveed added.

A Grade 9 student, Muhammad Qabil, said that after watching the theatre,

he was confident that many people who staunchly opposed vaccination would now opt for giving drops to their kids below five years.

"Before attending the theatre, I was against immunisation and thought that it was a tool by the Western countries against Muslims, but that was incorrect," he said. Qabil said he had heard from religious scholars that vaccination was in accordance with Islam.

Dr Rashid Khan, a child health expert, said that the plays with strong performances by professional actors with powerful dialogues, script and background music

keep the participants engaged for two hours, during which the focus remains on the significance of immunisation.

Khan said that Pakistan is also coordinating with neighbouring Afghanistan, another endemic country, to ensure the immunisation of children crossing the border.

Afghanistan, which reported two cases last year, is inoculating 9 million children, with less than 1 percent unimmunised due to refusals or hard-to-reach children.

Polio has been virtually eliminated globally through a decades-long inoculation drive, but insecurity, inac-

cessible terrain, mass displacement and suspicion of outside interference have hampered mass vaccination in Afghanistan and some areas of Pakistan.

Nek Wali Shah Momin, director of Afghanistan's National Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication, told IPS said many more areas could now be reached since the Taliban took over and the fighting stopped.

"Taliban are very cooperative and want to eliminate polio," he said.

IPS UN Bureau Report

By Humberto Márquez

## Workweek remains long in Latin America amid hour cut calls

**T**HE reduction in the workweek recently approved by the Chilean Congress forms part of a trend of working fewer hours and days that is spreading in today's modern economies, but also highlights how far behind other countries in Latin America are in this regard.

Latin America "has legislation that is lagging in terms of working hours and it is imperative that this be reviewed," said the director of the International Labor Organization (ILO) for the Southern Cone of the Americas, Fabio Bertranou, after Chile's new law was passed.

The workweek in Chile will be gradually reduced from 45 to 40 hours, by one hour a year over the next five years, according to the bill that a jubilant President Gabriel Boric signed into law on Apr. 14.

"After many years of dialogue and gathering support, today we can finally celebrate the passage of this bill that reduces working hours, a pro-family law aimed at improving quality of life for all," said Boric.

The law provides for the possibility of working four days and taking three off a week, of working a maximum of five overtime hours per week, while granting exceptions in

sectors such as mining and transportation, where up to 52 hours per week can be worked, if the worker is compensated with fewer hours in another work week.

Chile is thus aligning itself with its partners in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in some of which, such as Australia, Denmark and France, the workweek is less than 40 hours, while in others, such as Germany, Colombia, Mexico or the United Kingdom, the workweek is longer.

### The range in Latin America

According to ILO data, until the past decade two countries in the region, Ecuador and Venezuela, had a legal workweek of 40 hours, while, like Chile up to now, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Guatemala were in the range between 42 and 45 hours.

Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay had a workweek of 48 hours.

According to national laws, the maximum number of hours that people can legally work per week under extraordinary circumstances

for specific reasons is 48 in Brazil and Venezuela, and between 49 and 59 in Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

In Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras the maximum is 60 or more hours, and in El Salvador and Peru there is simply no limit.

But in practice people work less than that, since the regional average is 39.9 hours, more than in Western Europe, North America and Africa (which range between 37.2 and 38.8 hours), but less than in the Arab world, the Pacific region and Asia, where the average ranges between 44 and 49 hours per week.

ILO figures showed that in 2016 in Latin America, male workers worked an average of 44.9 hours a week and women 36.3, 1.7 hours less than in 2005 in the case of men and half an hour less in the case of women.

Among domestic workers, the decrease was 3.3 hours among men and more than five hours among women (from 38.1 to 32.9 hours a week), which is partly attributed to the fact that after 2005 legislation to equate the workweeks of do-

mestic workers with other workers made headway.

### Health and telework

A study by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the ILO attributes the death of some 750,000 workers each year to long working hours - especially people who work more than 55 hours a week.

The study showed that in 2016, 398,000 workers died worldwide from stroke and 347,000 from ischemic heart disease - ailments that are triggered by prolonged stress associated with long hours, or by risky behaviors such as smoking, drinking alcohol and eating an unhealthy diet.

María Neira, director of the WHO's Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, said in this regard that "working 55 hours or more per week poses a serious danger to health. It is time for all of us - governments, employers and employees - to realize that long working hours can lead to premature death."

On the other hand, the telework trend boomed worldwide during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching 23 million workers in Latin America

and the Caribbean, mainly formal wage-earners with a high level of education, stable jobs and in professional and administrative occupations.

Access to telework has been much more limited for informal sector and self-employed workers, young people, less skilled and lower-income workers, and women, who have more family responsibilities.

ILO Latin America expert Andrés Marinakis acknowledged in an analysis that "in general, teleworkers have some autonomy in deciding how to organize their workday and their performance is evaluated mainly through the results of their work rather than by the hours it took them to do it."

But "several studies have found that in many cases those who telework work a little longer than usual; the limits between regular and overtime hours are less clear," and this situation is reinforced by the available electronic devices and technology, explained Marinakis from the ILO office in Santiago de Chile.

This means that "contact with col-

leagues and supervisors is possible at any time and place, extending the workday beyond what is usual," which raises "the need to clearly establish a period of disconnection that gives workers an effective rest," added the analyst.

### The other face

Argentine labor activist Francisco Iturraspe told IPS by telephone that on the other hand, in the future it appears that "non-human work, that of artificial intelligence, can massively reduce employment and make 40 hours a week seem like an immense amount of work."

Iturraspe, a professor at the National University of Rosario in southeastern Argentina and a researcher at the country's National Scientific and Technical Research Council, said from Rosario that the reduction in working hours "responds to criteria typical of the 19th century, while in the 21st century there is the challenge of meeting the need for technological development and its impact on our countries."

He argued that "to the extent that abundant and cheap labor is available, and people have to work longer hours, business owners need less investment in technology, which curbs development."

# 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	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMUJAWYO 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



# UN says child marriage in decline but will take 300 years to eliminate

By Haroon Janjua

THE number of child marriages is declining worldwide, but at too slow a pace for any hope of eliminating the practice this century, Unicef, the UN children's agency, has said.

In a new report, Unicef tentatively welcomed the reduction but warned that it was nowhere close to meeting its sustainable development goal of ridding the world of the practice by 2030.

"The good news is that child marriage has been declining all over the world," said Claudia Cappa, the lead author of the report. "In the last 10 years, the percentage of child marriages has dropped from 23% to 19% [of all marriages]. However, this isn't fast enough to achieve the goal of eliminating child marriage by 2030, with more than 12 million girls under 18 still getting married every year. So, if things don't change, we'll need around 300 more years to eliminate child marriage completely."

The UN estimates that 640 million girls and women who are alive today married before they were 18, and that 12 million girls become new child brides each year.

"Child marriage has different causes in different places, but there are often commonalities linked to poverty and limited opportunities for girls," said



Cappa. "Gender inequality, stereotypes, weak laws and the fear of pregnancy outside of marriage also contribute."

The report warned that the climate crisis could leave families with few options but to marry off their children.

"Health crises, conflict and natural disasters increase the risk to girls as they interrupt their education and add financial stress to households," said Cappa. "Some families in these difficult situations falsely view (marriage)

as a way to protect their girls financially, socially and physically. While we can't always predict these crises, we can look back to understand how they might affect girls," Cappa added.

Declining rates of child marriage in

south Asia, home to 45% of the world's underage brides, underpinned the overall trend. India in particular is making progress in reducing child marriage.

But in sub-Saharan Africa, one in three girls are marrying before the age of 18. Child marriage rates are highest in west and central Africa, home to seven out of the 10 countries with the highest prevalence globally.

"Despite some progress over 25 years, it only benefited the wealthiest, as child marriage increased among the poorest," said Cappa. "[Sub-Saharan Africa] also faces a particular challenge: in addition to conflict, climate shocks and Covid, it's seeing its population grow faster than anywhere else in the world, outpacing its progress to end child marriage."

Child marriage and having sex too young causes myriad health problems and carries increased risks of death during childbirth and serious complications in pregnancy.

"But we know progress is possible in Africa, and the report lists Rwanda and Ethiopia as examples. Ending child marriage is possible with income and economic interventions," said Cappa.

# Scientists sail on research vessel to find marine species

By Elizabeth Alberts

A team of scientists sailed on a research vessel to the chilly waters of the Barents Sea in the Arctic on April 29th, 2023 aiming to find new marine species around cold seeps – cracks on the seafloor from which hydrogen sulfide, methane and other gases bubble up.

Near these fissures, species, including soft corals, glass sponges, sea pens and crustaceans, could be waiting to be discovered.

Scientists estimate that only about 10 percent of marine species have been formally described, and about 2 million species have yet to be identified. A new global initiative

called the Ocean Census aspires to change this.

The Ocean Census has set an ambitious goal of finding 100,000 new marine species within a decade. It intends to do this by sending scientists on dozens of expeditions to marine biodiversity hotspots and using advanced technology like high-resolution imagery, DNA sequencing and machine learning.

The initiative will undertake seven expeditions in its first year of operation but plans to do even more in the years to come, according to Nekton, a marine science and conservation institute in the U.K that co-founded the initiative with the Nippon Foundation, a nonprofit philan-

thropic organization in Japan. The first expedition is already underway in the Barents Sea, in partnership with the University of Tromsø.

The Ocean Census seeks to bring together many partners from science institutes, businesses, civil society organizations and media to achieve its goals.

The aim of the Ocean Census is to build upon past efforts to document marine life, such as the Challenger Expeditions, a foundational marine scientific program that took place between 1872 and 1876, as well as the more recent Census of Marine Life, a project that took place between 2000 and 2010. T

The Census of Marine Life

launched 540 marine expeditions, but scientists found and formally described about 1,200 new marine species; other organisms are still awaiting identification.

Alex Rogers, the science director of Ocean Census who also acts as the director of the research initiative REV Ocean, said that technological revolutions will "make it possible to discover ocean life at speed and at scale."

"It currently takes one to two years to several decades to describe a new species after it is collected by scientists but utilising new technologies and sharing the knowledge gained using cloud-based approaches, it will now only take a few months," Rog-

ers said in a statement.

Yohei Sasakawa, chair of The Nippon Foundation, said the knowledge gathered during this expedition is necessary to advance our understanding of the ocean.

"We can't protect what we don't know exists," Sasakawa said in a statement. "We have a race against time to discover ocean life before it is lost for generations to come. Ocean Census will create an immense wealth of openly accessible knowledge that will benefit and sustain all life on Earth, for humankind and our planet. Ocean Census is full of dreams and wonder, and cannot be accomplished by the Nippon Foundation and Nekton alone."

The ocean is critical in regulating the Earth's climate while providing food and livelihoods for billions of people. However, the ocean faces a torrent of threats, such as overfishing, pollution and the impacts of climate change, including ocean warming and acidification.

As the threats to the ocean become increasingly clear, decision-makers are working to implement marine conservation efforts. For instance, the Convention on Biological Diversity's post-2020 global biodiversity framework has a goal of protecting 30% of both terrestrial and marine areas by 2030. U.N. member states also recently approved a treaty that could help pro-

tect high seas' biodiversity in marine areas outside of national jurisdiction.

"We have a short window of opportunity, perhaps the next ten years, when the decisions we all make will likely affect the next thousand or even ten thousand years," said Oliver Steeds, the director of the Ocean Census and chief executive of Nekton, in a statement. "Some people are saying 'it's time to go big or go home.' We've chosen to go big, and we hope the giant leaps in knowledge we can make with the discovery of ocean life, can help put us on a better track towards a positive future for people and the planet."

# Protect your digital life: Strong passwords matter

By Guardian Reporter

EVERY year, on the first Thursday of May, the world observes World Password Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of strong and secure passwords and their role in protecting our personal and professional data. In today's digital age, where we are increasingly reliant on online services for our communication needs, strong passwords have become more crucial than ever as they are the first line of defense against unauthorized access to our sensitive information.

The primary purpose of a password is to prevent unauthorized access to our online accounts and ensure our data remains secure.

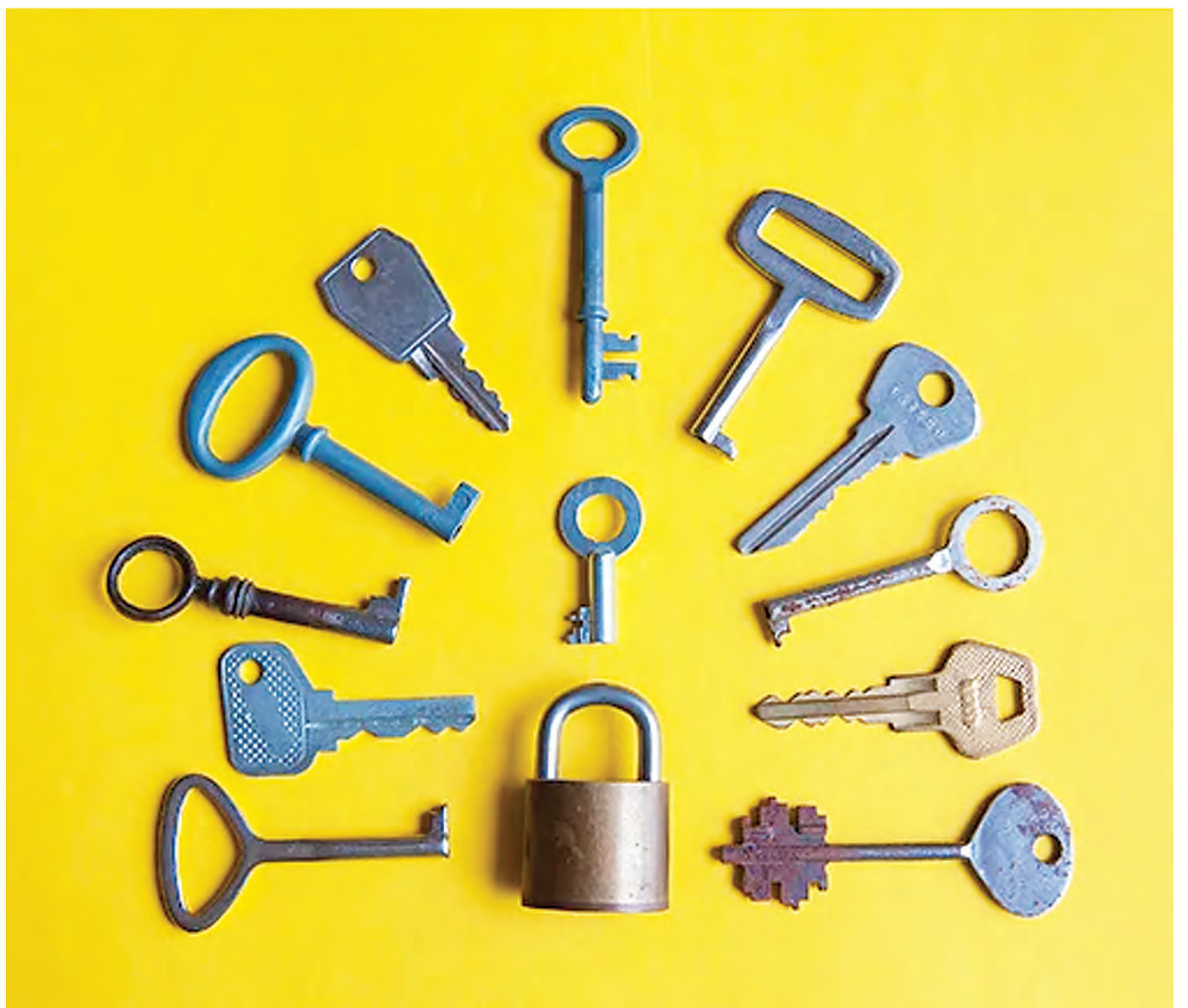
However, many people still use weak and easily guessable passwords, such as "123456" or "password," which makes their accounts vulnerable to hacking and cyber attacks.

It is essential to use strong passwords that are at least 12 characters long and contain a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. Additionally, passwords should not contain any personal information, such as your name, birthdate, or address. It is also critical to use a unique password for each of your online accounts, as this ensures that if one password is compromised, your other accounts remain secure. While remembering multiple passwords can be challenging, using a password manager can help you keep track of all your passwords securely and encrypted.

Lucy Mbogoro, Head of Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) 's Communication and Public Relations Unit emphasized the importance of using strong passwords to secure communication equipment and recommended the need to update passwords regularly. In addition to using strong and unique passwords, she emphasized the importance of enabling two-factor authentication (2FA) wherever possible. 2FA adds an extra layer of security to your accounts by requiring a second form of authentication, such as a fingerprint or a verification code sent to your phone, in addition to your password.

The communications regulator's PR leader highlighted that the importance of World Password Day lies in raising awareness about these best practices and encouraging people to take password security seriously. "By using strong and unique passwords, regularly updating them, and enabling 2FA, we can all do our part in keeping our personal and professional data safe from cyber threats," she added.

According to the country's communications regulatory authority, adhering to cybersecurity best practices is critical to safeguarding users' data and systems. Users are strongly advised to follow certain guidelines, such as using strong passwords, avoiding the use of the same passwords for multiple accounts, exercising caution when dealing with system-generated passwords, unknown or dubious sources, and suspicious email addresses. It is also recommended that users be careful when using



public Wi-Fi networks, such as those found in hotels, airports, and coffee shops. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

According to Benedictor John, a resident of Dar es Salaam, many users resort to weaker passwords because they are easier to remember.

However, TCRA insists that using strong passwords is imperative for securing communication equipment and user data, and recommends storing them in a secure location for reference in case of for-

gotten passwords.

According to TCRA, passwords are a vital part of our online communication, and their importance cannot be overstated. World Password Day serves as a reminder to us all to take password security seriously and adopt best practices to keep our data safe. By doing so, we can protect ourselves from cyber threats and ensure that our online communication remains secure and private.



# King Charles III can help undo a colonial crime

By Clive Baldwin

**I**N 2022, Charles III became king not just of the United Kingdom, but of 14 other states, and Head of the Commonwealth. He now heads a monarchy that is starting to face questions about its role in British imperial atrocities, such as slavery, and, as he has said, it is time to “acknowledge the wrongs that have shaped our past.”

There is an ongoing, colonial crime that he could acknowledge, help rectify and apologise for today. That crime is the forced displacement of the entire Chagossian people from their homeland in the Indian Ocean by the UK and US governments in the 1960s and 70s. This colonial crime continues to this day as the UK government still prevents the Chagossians from returning home.

It is a crime in which the monarchy has played a significant role. Queen Elizabeth II issued, on behalf of the UK government, the Orders that have forced the Chagossians to remain in exile and that remain in force. A British court said in 2019 that the orders “extinguished” the legal rights of the Chagossians in UK law, including their right to return.

The Chagossians are an Indigenous people, the descendants of enslaved people and indentured labourers, who lived, under British colonial rule, on the Chagos islands in the Indian Ocean until the 1960s. The US government decided it wanted the largest island, Diego Garcia, to build a military base, and wanted it without people. After secret US-UK deals, the UK kept control of Chagos as its last colony in



Rosemone Bertin, who lives in Port Louis, Mauritius, is one of the many Chagossians who were deported from their homeland in the 1960s and 1970s. Credit: Human Rights Watch

Africa, even as Mauritius, which had administered Chagos, obtained independence.

Over a period of years, the UK and US forced the entire population of all the islands to leave, through deception, force, and threats including rounding up and killing people's dogs. Senior UK officials wrote about the Chagossians in blatantly racist and disparaging terms, such as calling them “Man Fridays”, treating them as a people who didn't matter. The Chagossians were left to live in abject poverty in Mauritius and Seychelles; some have since moved to the UK.

Chagossians described to Human Rights Watch, in our recent report, the

misery of their forced exile, which left them without adequate food or homes for years. Many Chagossians have died without ever being able to return to their homeland. We found that the abuses against the Chagossians amount to crimes against humanity – forced displacement, the prevention of their return home, and persecution on the grounds of race and ethnicity.

The UK monarchy has been involved in this colonial crime, especially through the use of “Orders-in-Council,” an arcane method in which the monarchy issues an order, with legal effect, on behalf of the government through the Privy Council, the centuries-old body of advisers to

the monarch. Issuing Orders-in-Council through the monarch has been a convenient way for the government to bypass parliament.

The UK has used such Orders against the Chagossians. The orders were used in 2004, after Chagossians had won a stunning legal victory against the UK government, quashing earlier orders used to keep them in exile. Robin Cook, the UK foreign minister at the time of the court ruling, acknowledged the wrongs done to the Chagossians and for a brief moment it appeared they would be able to return home. Although the US had built its military base on part of Diego Garcia, the rest of that island and the other islands were

empty.

But the UK and US decided that they would block Chagossians return to any island, on dubious grounds of security and cost. Prime Minister Tony Blair's government used Queen Elizabeth II and the Privy Council to do this. In 2004 Elizabeth II issued the orders, still in force today, that legally prevent Chagossians from returning to all the islands. Meanwhile US military and civilian personnel along with UK officials live on Diego Garcia and people can visit Chagos on luxury yachts. The arcane colonial orders continue to have a very real and negative impact on the lives of thousands of people.

And yet, the Chagossians never gave up their struggle. This June marks the 50th anniversary of the final deportation of the Chagossians. But also, extraordinarily, the UK and Mauritius governments have recently begun negotiations on the future of Chagos, although, so far, without meaningful consultation with the Chagossians themselves. Any settlement on the future of the islands needs to be focused on the rights of Chagossians, above all their right to reparations from the UK and US, including the right to return. Reparations for such abuses also mean a guarantee that such crimes could never again take place.

And this is where King Charles can play a key role. He could mark his coronation on May 6 by issuing a full and complete apology for the crimes against humanity committed against the Chagossians, and acknowledging the monarchy's role. As many Chagossians have urged, he should call for them to receive full reparations, including the right to return to live in their homeland, after meaningful consultations with them. And he should guarantee that never again will the monarchy be used to take away fundamental rights from a people or be used in crimes against humanity, especially through the misuse of Orders-in-Council.

For Charles, who has spoken to the Commonwealth of his sorrow at the “suffering of so many” in history, such action would show how he can help right the wrongs of the monarchy's past and present.

*Clive Baldwin is the London-based senior legal advisor at Human Rights Watch and lead author of the Human Rights Watch report on UK and US colonial crimes against the Chagossians*

# Of Africa and the magic formula of Italian taxi driver

By Baheer Kamal

**S**OME days ago in Rome, the Italian taxi driver switched on the radio during a longish ride through the usual traffic jam. Music, gossip, and the hourly news bulletin. All of a sudden, the man strongly hit the steering wheel. “They are stupid, those bastards...,” he shouted.

“These useless politicians speak every now and then about the need for solidarity with Africa... blah, blah, blah,” he added. “But the solution is easy, very easy, even the most stupid can see it.”

According to the taxi driver, “the solution is that the government sends to Africa our retired engineers, agronomists, university professors... to teach Africans how to farm.”

The man was so furious that you would not dare to comment that African farmers already know how to farm... far more than many foreign academicians.

History tells us that Africans were among the first farmers on Earth, and that they knew – and still know – what to plant, when, where and how. And that one of Africa's biggest deserts, the Sahara used to be one of the greenest areas in the world.

Now that this vast continent – the second largest after Asia – home to around 1.4 billion humans, is experiencing unprecedented hunger, malnutrition, undernourishment and death, outsider technology moguls have now come out with another “easy solution”: the digitalisation of farming...

Those moguls, and the world's largest organisations, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations, insisting that what poor farmers need is to use devices such as smartphones and computers, and download apps that tell them what to farm, when, where, how, and with which inputs. They call it “transformation.”

Meanwhile, they do not hesitate to attribute to the condemnable war in Ukraine the tsunami of poverty and famine that have been for years and even decades striking the most impoverished humans, saying that that proxy war stands behind such a horrifying situation, or at least that it heavily contributes to dangerously worsening it.

## Africa before Ukraine's war

Here are some key factors to be taken into consideration: hunger in Africa started around four decades ago, amidst a striking shortage of the most basic preventions and social services, like education and health, leading to the surge of diseases that were given for eliminated in other parts of the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) warns that the Horn of Africa hunger emergency sparks surge in disease.

WHO also alerts that “life-threatening hunger caused

by climate shocks, violent insecurity and disease in the Horn of Africa, have left nearly 130,000 people “looking death in the eyes.”

The world leading health body also reports “exponential rise in cholera cases in Africa”.

Several African regions have been facing the impacts of the hardest-ever weather extremes, with unprecedented absence of precipitation and record droughts now for the fifth consecutive year.

This and the previous factors have led to massive migration waves, in addition to millions of internally displaced people, let alone tens of thousands of homeless,

Conflicts, fights for water and fertile lands, have pushed 33 African nations high in the ranking of the Least Developed Countries,

Africa is the continent that has contributed the least (just 2 to 3%) to the causes of the current climate emergencies while bearing the brunt

of 82% of the devastating consequences,

As many as 45 African countries fall further under what the International Monetary Fund calls: “The Big Funding Squeeze,” as funding shrinks to lowest ever levels,

Indebtedness: The external debt of the world's low and middle-income countries at the end of 2021 totalled 9 trillion US dollars, more than double the amount a decade ago. Such debt is expected to increase by an additional 1.1 trillion US dollars in 2023. A high number of those countries are located in Africa.

International trade barriers, dominance of mostly Western giant private chains of food production and distribution, price fixing and market speculation, “vulture funds” intensive and extensive land grabbing, armed conflicts, are factors standing behind such a gloomy situation, Add to the above the unstoppable rush for Africa's precious minerals, in particu-

lar those which are indispensable for the production and worldwide sales of electronic devices, like the smartphones and computers African farmers are now told to use. Let alone all other natural resources,

Africa's oil resources have been exploited over long decades, now more than ever,

Then you have the excessive use of chemicals, such as fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides, as well as Genetically Modified Organisms and the cultivation of non-autochthonous commodities by the dominant industrial intensive agriculture systems,

The concentration of key commodities production, such as grains and cereals, in a reduced number of countries (See the case of Russia, Ukraine, let alone major producers such as the United States, Europe, Canada, India...)

Such concentration is so intense that, in his recent article: The War in Ukraine Triggers

a Record Increase in World Military Spending, IPS journalist Thalif Deen reported that “The United Nations has warned that the February 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine has threatened to force up to 1.7 billion people – over one-fifth of humanity – into poverty, destitution and hunger.”

And that “Long before the war, Ukraine and Russia provided about 30 percent of the world's wheat and barley, one-fifth of its maize, and over half of its sunflower oil. But the ongoing 14th-month-old war has undermined – and cut-off – most of these supplies.”

Also that “Together, the UN pointed out, their grain was an essential food source for some of the poorest and most vulnerable people, providing more than one-third of the wheat imported by 45 African and least-developed countries (LDCs), described as “the poorest of the world's poor.”

# RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Increasing demand for cement in Tanzania and EA spurred strong performances of Twiga Cement in 2022. File photo

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By Guardian Reporter

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According to the public notice issued by the company secretary yesterday, shareholders will receive, consider and if thought fit, approve the declaration of dividend for 2022 and approve the appointment of statutory auditor.

The board has proposed for year 2022 of 390/- per share to be paid on, or about 30th June, this year. The register of member will be closed on May 29 and the last day of trading cum dividend will be 24th May, 2023.

The AGM will be held in a time when Twiga Cement parent company plans to acquire struggling Tanga Cement Company Limited, producer of Simba cement, is surrounded by uncertainties.

The results show, during last year a net profit of 92bn/- was recorded in 2022, compared with 88.4bn/- recorded in 2021.

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AMSTERDAM

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The first-quarter net loss narrowed to €344 million (\$380 million) from €552 million a year earlier, Air France-KLM said, while revenue surged 42 percent to €6.33 billion, slightly exceeding analyst expectations.

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"This increase was due to the continued increase demand for cement products within Tanzania and outside Tanzania. The high availability and efficiency of the plant and machinery has contributed to the improved performance compared with 2021, all within an environment where health and safety of our employees and contractors is paramount," commented Hakan Gurdal, the company's board chairman.

"The company continues to focus on delivering excellent customer service, selling of high quality products and maintain strong customer relationship to enable TPCPLC to demonstrate its strength as leading player in the industry."

Commenting on the prospects, Gurdal says the cement demand in Tanzania and East African region has been growing steadily in recent years and the company is well placed to meet this growing demand and will continue to work on improving efficiency and operating performance.

The company total assets increased to 418.9bn/- last year from 379.3bn/- in 2021 due to increased right use of assets, inventories, trade receivables, and other short-term operating receivables.

Inventories increased to 83.99bn/- last year, compared with 52.9bn/- in 2021 while trade receivables increased to 53.6bn/- compared with 46.3bn/- respectively. Retained earnings went up to 296.1bn/- compared with 268.6bn/- respectively.

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Deutsche Lufthansa AG this week provided an upbeat preview of the early summer months – the crucial travel period for the aviation industry.

# BoT maintains cautious monetary policy stance

By Guardian Reporter

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) says has maintained a cautious liquidity reducing monetary policy stance, which aims at attaining a balance between low and stable inflation and promoting economic expansion.

Money supply (M3) grew by 15.9 percent compared with 11.9 percent in the year ending March 2022, primarily driven by expansion in credit to the private sector, according to Monetary Policy Statement for April this year.

Credit extended to the private sector recorded an annual growth of 22.9 percent in March 2023, higher than 13.4 percent in the corresponding period in 2022.

The growth was largely on account of improvements in the business environment, and supportive monetary and fiscal policies.

Disaggregation of credit by economic activities revealed that the agriculture sector continued to register the largest growth of credit backed by policy measures that were taken by the Bank to promote cost effective credit intermediation, coupled with ongoing interventions by the Government in



supporting the sector.

The personal loans which consists of sole firms and individual undertakings continued to contribute a lion's share in the overall growth of credit to the private sector, followed by agriculture, trade and manufacturing.

In terms of share, personal loans accounted for the largest share of the total credit, followed by trade, manufacturing and agriculture.

Interest rates charged by banks

on loans remained broadly unchanged compared with rates registered in February 2023 and March 2022.

Specifically, the overall lending rate averaged 15.83 percent in March 2023 compared with 15.96 percent in the preceding month, and 16.25 percent in the corresponding month in 2022.

Similarly, negotiated lending rates averaged 13.59 percent, down from 13.75 percent and 13.80 percent in February 2023

and March 2022, respectively.

Deposit rates declined, with overall deposit rate averaging 6.78 percent in March 2023, compared with 7.18 percent in the preceding month and 7.02 percent in March 2022.

Negotiated deposit rates averaged 9.31 percent, slightly below 9.37 percent and 9.68 percent in February 2023 and March 2022, respectively.

Accordingly, the short term interest rate spread increased.



Ilemela district commissioner Hassan Massala (2nd R) hands over toolkit to Halima Chacha (L) at the graduation ceremony for 295 youths who have completed VETA training in Mwanza region financed by KCB and GIZ fund. 3rd R is the KCB Bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Christine Manyenye and right is VETA principal Lupakisyo Mapamba. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

## DSE all share index gains after KCB price increases

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange all share Index (DSEI) gained by 7.61 points to 1,844.46 points on Thursday close from 1,836.85 points on Wednesday close, thanks to an increase of KCB Bank share price.

The market report shows the cross listed bank share price increased by 7.41 percent, after closing at 580/- on Thursday, higher than 540/- recorded on Wednesday close pushing its market capitalization to 1.7trn/-.

The Kenya top bank on Wednesday declared a final dividend of Ksh1 per ordinary share payable, net of withholding tax, or on about 26th May this year, one day after its 52nd Annual

General Meeting (AGM) scheduled on May 25th.

The lender posted a 19.5 percent rise in 2022 after-tax profit to Ks40.8 billion (\$314.57 million), driven by a similar revenue increase.

The bank, which also operates in neighboring Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan, said income from transactions surged 39.8 percent, driven by trade finance and other commissions.

Costs rose by almost a quarter, KCB said, mainly due to increased undertakings within the business and the integration of acquisitions like Trust Merchant Bank of the Democratic Republic of Congo, which was completed in December.

KCB Group paid Ksh25.1 billion to acquire an 85 percent stake in DRC lender, Trust Merchant Bank (TMB), in a deal that has given it a foothold in the vast mineral-endowed central African country.

Meanwhile, the Tanzania Share Index (TSI) remained flat at 4,144.26 points during the reviewed days, as there were no changes of share prices among locally listed companies.

Top movers according to the market was CRDB Bank Plc, which also obtained license to operate in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) this week after transacting 15,946 shares valued 8.3mn/- at a price ranging from 510/- to 530/- per share in 22 deals.

Second top mover was NMB

Bank Plc, which transacted 7,688 shares valued 26.5mn/- at a price ranging from 3,400/- to 3,500/- per share in 11 deals, followed by Tanzania Portland Cement Company Limited (TPCC) which transacted 447 shares valued 1.7mn/- at a price of between 3,900/- and 4,080/- per share in six deals.

Total DSE market capitalization amounted 37.04mn/- on Thursday, following the transaction of 24,863 shares traded in 45 deals.

Top loser was East African Breweries Limited (EABL), the cross listed, which its share price fell by 2.75 percent to 2,480/- on Thursday, compared with 2,550 recorded on Wednesday close.



# Investors satisfied with reforms in business environment

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

Investors say they are satisfied with the improvement of business environment and implementation of strategic projects by the sixth phase government, as this have helped to create more business opportunities among local investors, specifically manufacturers of construction materials.

This was said by the General Manager of ALAF steel and roofing equipment manufacturing company, Paul Raj at the launching of the company's new branch in Iringa region on Wednesday.

He said that they have experienced growth of their activities due to the cooperation they get from the Tanzanian government, which is currently implementing hundreds of strategic projects, many involving construction activities.

Raj the company was established in October 1960 with an initial objective of developing the 'Aluminum and Steel Industrial Complex' in Tanzania. Since then, ALAF (formerly called Aluminum Africa Limited) has established itself as a leading producer of steel roofing and related products in the country.

Speaking on behalf of the Regional Commissioner of Iringa, the Business Officer at the Regional Commissioner's office, Ng'wani Nyanza said the launch of the ALAF branch in the Iringa region will



ALAF Marketing Manager, Isamba Kasaka speaks during the launch of the firm's branch in Iringa Region (Photo by Friday Simbaya)

increase the availability of construction and roofing products, especially in areas where various government projects is being implemented.

And, the Acting Director of Iringa

Municipality Charles Mwakalila has said that the investors in construction in the municipality should take advantage of the boost project that aims to strengthen and improve primary and basic education,

where Iringa Municipality has been allocated with 1.2bn/- to repair and build infrastructure.

Last year the Minister of Education, Science and Technology Prof. Adolf Mkenda

launched a project to strengthen primary and early school learning funded by the World Bank for 1.15trn/-.

Prof. Mkenda said the implementation of the five-year project will improve the learning and teaching environment, the skills and quality of teachers in teaching, as well as strengthen the availability of resources for service delivery at the council level.

"In these three areas, the program will focus on various interventions, one of which is to improve the infrastructure of primary schools based on the needs, especially the construction of classrooms, the strengthening of the safe school program, strengthening the ratio of enrollment of students in early education, improving equipment and methods of teaching early education, as well as strengthening and continuing the program of training teachers at work," said Professor Mkenda.

On her part, the Marketing Manager of ALAF Company, Isamba Kasaka has said that in addition to moving the service to the people of Iringa, it is important that the government at the regional level and the municipality continue to use local bidders in the supply of construction materials for the implemented projects.

The launch event, which was attended by leaders of the Iringa regional government, municipalities, carpenters and construction stakeholders, was accompanied by a special seminar for carpenters.

## Kigoma implements PM's directives on illegal measurements

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

WEIGHT and Measurement Agency (WMA), has started to implement the directive of the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa to stop illegal measurements in the region, so as to encourage the cultivation of palm trees.

During the visit he made last year, the Prime Minister ordered the eradication of illegal measurements, popularly known as bidoo, in the oil palm business because they are cheating farmers of the crop.

In the implementation of the order, WMA has held a meeting with various leaders of Kigoma Region where at the opening of the meeting, the official guest, who is the Buhigwe District Commissioner, Michael Ngayalina, said it is true that the use of measurement and its control, especially in the palm business, have many challenges.

He mentioned some of the challenges as the lack of official markets/centers for palm trading in many areas, a situation that gives light to buyers to buy palm from production mills and sometimes at farmers' homes.

"This situation not only makes the task of controlling the use of measurements difficult, but also

make the government to miss tax as well as failing to obtain accurate data on the production and sale of palm oil," he said.

Either, Ngayalina praised WMA for continuing to manage the use of measurement in various areas of business and services as well as the steps they have taken so far to control the use of illegal measurement in palm oil trade in various areas of Kigoma region.

He said they must ensure that the business is done fairly and equitably without any compromise and he asked WMA to support the availability of affordable measurement that will be used to measure palm oil.

WMA Kigoma Region Manager, Laurent Kabikiye, said the agency regularly provides education about the effects of using illegal measurement (bidoo) to protect the palm farmer and the buyer as well.

"Apart from the knowledge we provide, the is making efforts to find correct measurements that will be available at a low cost that will have different volumes to help oil palm traders sell their products using the correct measurement to help get profit," he said.

The meeting was attended by various leaders and executives of Kigoma Region including District



Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa

Commissioners, Assistant Administrative Secretaries of the region, District Administrative Secretaries, District Executive Directors, Divisional Officers, Business Officers from all councils of the Region,

Manager of SIDO and TBS as well as the staff of WMA.

The participants of the working session together have agreed that the Councils should establish markets for selling and buying palm oil

as well as buying measurements verified by the WMA to encourage oil palm sellers to buy measurements so that they can be used to buy and sell oil palm and eliminate the use of illegal measurements.

## Oil price rebounds following 10 percent slumping

TEXAS

Oil rose but the benchmark is still headed for a weekly loss of almost 10 percent as the outlook for demand faltered amid an uncertain global economic outlook.

West Texas Intermediate advanced above \$69 a barrel on Friday. The US crude benchmark is still down for a third week in its longest run of losses this year.

Prices have been battered by concern over instability among regional US lenders and fears the economy will slide into a recession.

Futures have slumped 13 percent this year even after a decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies to cut production from this month. Trading was marked by a brief-but-dramatic plunge early Thursday, when prices collapsed to touch the lowest intraday level since 2021.

Signs of strength in the physical oil market suggest the selloff may have been excessive. Shell Plc's Chief Executive Officer Wael Sawan also said this week the market was actually "pretty tight."

His view is validated by a firming market structure. The prompt spread for global benchmark Brent – the gap between the two nearest contracts – was 19 cents a barrel in backwardation. The figure was 37 cents a barrel in backwardation a month ago.

"To be sure, there is good reason to be bullish – the trouble is that oil traders are a fickle bunch," said Stephen Brennock, an analyst at PVM Oil Associates Ltd. "It will only be a matter of time before OPEC production cuts, lackluster supply from non-OPEC+ and the constructive demand picture in China take center stage once more."

In the Middle East, Iraq said it's yet to strike a deal with Ankara that would allow for the resumption of almost half a million barrels a day of Iraqi oil exports via Turkey. The standoff between Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Government has halted shipments from the port of Ceyhan since late March. OPEC+ leader Saudi Arabia lowered prices to Asia.

## Kenya's new vehicle sales drop 14pc on prices surge

NAIROBI

Sales of new motor vehicles dropped 13.9 percent to 2,758 units in the quarter ended March, signalling another down year for the industry, which has raised prices in response to multiple challenges, including the weakening of the shilling.

The dealers, including Isuzu East Africa, Simba Corp and Toyota East Africa, had sold 3,203 units in the same quarter the year before, according to data from the Kenya Motor Industry Association (KMIA).

Simba Corp, whose brands include Proton and Mitsubishi, registered the largest decline in sales among the major dealers of 26.8 percent to 248.

Orders at Isuzu declined 3.3 percent to 1,174. CFAO Motors, whose brands include Hino and Toyota, bucked the trend to grow its sales by 2.9 percent to 793.

Sales in the industry have been hurt by a confluence of factors such as higher vehicle prices and rising interest rates.

Most purchases are financed by banks, which have raised the cost of loans in recent months amid high inflation and monetary tightening by the Central Bank of Kenya.



"For the [rising dollar] strength, we are responding through price adjustments. The changes have been upwards of 10 percent," Gabriel Kanyingi, general manager for commercial finance at Isuzu, told the Business Daily in a recent interview.

The weaker performance in the first quarter comes after the formal dealers posted a 6.3 percent sales decline to 13,352 units last year.

The industry's recent sales peak was seen in 2015 when 19,253 units were sold. The sector is witnessing significant changes in the passen-

ger car segment which constitutes about 15 percent of annual sales.

CMC Motors has announced its exit from the segment to focus on agricultural equipment, opening an opportunity for rivals to take over the Ford, Mazda and Suzuki brands it has been selling.

"Ford will be moving to Salvador Caetano in the third quarter of 2023 and Suzuki will be supported by CFAO [Toyota dealer] from the second quarter of 2023," said CMC recently.

Mazda will announce the new distributor in the coming months," CMC said in a recent statement.

The takeover of Ford will add to Caetano's existing dealerships in Renault, Hyundai and Kia cars in the Kenyan market.

CFAO, which was the second dealer of Suzuki, will now sell the Japanese brand on an exclusive basis. The Mazda brand is still up for grabs.

Ford was the most important franchise for CMC in the passenger vehicle business, having accounted for 78.7 percent of its total vehicle sales last year according to industry data.

The company sold 388 units of Ford pick-ups and sports utility vehicles in the year ended December 2022, representing a 13.1 percent growth from 343 units a year earlier.

Data from KMIA however shows that the company's sales of the American vehicles have more than halved from highs of 927 units in 2015.



## BUSINESS



Increasing demand for cement in Tanzania and EA spurred strong performances of Twiga Cement in 2022. File photo

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# BoT maintains cautious monetary policy stance

By Guardian Reporter

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) says has maintained a cautious liquidity reducing monetary policy stance, which aims at attaining a balance between low and stable inflation and promoting economic expansion.

Money supply (M3) grew by 15.9 percent compared with 11.9 percent in the year ending March 2022, primarily driven by expansion in credit to the private sector, according to Monetary Policy Statement for April this year.

Credit extended to the private sector recorded an annual growth of 22.9 percent in March 2023, higher than 13.4 percent in the corresponding period in 2022.

The growth was largely on account of improvements in the business environment, and supportive monetary and fiscal policies.

Disaggregation of credit by economic activities revealed that the agriculture sector continued to register the largest growth of credit backed by policy measures that were taken by the Bank to promote cost effective credit intermediation, coupled with ongoing interventions by the Government in



supporting the sector.

The personal loans which consists of sole firms and individual undertakings continued to contribute a lion's share in the overall growth of credit to the private sector, followed by agriculture, trade and manufacturing.

In terms of share, personal loans accounted for the largest share of the total credit, followed by trade, manufacturing and agriculture.

Interest rates charged by banks

on loans remained broadly unchanged compared with rates registered in February 2023 and March 2022.

Specifically, the overall lending rate averaged 15.83 percent in March 2023 compared with 15.96 percent in the preceding month, and 16.25 percent in the corresponding month in 2022.

Similarly, negotiated lending rates averaged 13.59 percent, down from 13.75 percent and 13.80 percent in February 2023

and March 2022, respectively.

Deposit rates declined, with overall deposit rate averaging 6.78 percent in March 2023, compared with 7.18 percent in the preceding month and 7.02 percent in March 2022.

Negotiated deposit rates averaged 9.31 percent, slightly below 9.37 percent and 9.68 percent in February 2023 and March 2022, respectively.

Accordingly, the short term interest rate spread increased.



Ilemela district commissioner Hassan Massala (2nd R) hands over toolkit to Halima Chacha (L) at the graduation ceremony for 295 youths who have completed VETA training in Mwanza region financed by KCB and GIZ fund. 3rd R is the KCB Bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Christine Manyenye and right is VETA principal Lupakisyo Mapamba. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

## DSE all share index gains after KCB price increases

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange all share Index (DSEI) gained by 7.61 points to 1,844.46 points on Thursday close from 1,836.85 points on Wednesday close, thanks to an increase of KCB Bank share price.

The market report shows the cross listed bank share price increased by 7.41 percent, after closing at 580/- on Thursday, higher than 540/- recorded on Wednesday close pushing its market capitalization to 1.7trn/-.

The Kenya top bank on Wednesday declared a final dividend of Ksh1 per ordinary share payable, net of withholding tax, or on about 26th May this year, one day after its 52nd Annual

General Meeting (AGM) scheduled on May 25th.

The lender posted a 19.5 percent rise in 2022 after-tax profit to Ks40.8 billion (\$314.57 million), driven by a similar revenue increase.

The bank, which also operates in neighboring Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan, said income from transactions surged 39.8 percent, driven by trade finance and other commissions.

Costs rose by almost a quarter, KCB said, mainly due to increased undertakings within the business and the integration of acquisitions like Trust Merchant Bank of the Democratic Republic of Congo, which was completed in December.

KCB Group paid Ksh25.1 billion to acquire an 85 percent stake in DRC lender, Trust Merchant Bank (TMB), in a deal that has given it a foothold in the vast mineral-endowed central African country.

Meanwhile, the Tanzania Share Index (TSI) remained flat at 4,144.26 points during the reviewed days, as there were no changes of share prices among locally listed companies.

Top movers according to the market was CRDB Bank Plc, which also obtained license to operate in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) this week after transacting 15,946 shares valued 8.3mn/- at a price ranging from 510/- to 530/- per share in 22 deals.

Second top mover was NMB

Bank Plc, which transacted 7,688 shares valued 26.5mn/- at a price ranging from 3,400/- to 3,500/- per share in 11 deals, followed by Tanzania Portland Cement Company Limited (TPCC) which transacted 447 shares valued 1.7mn/- at a price of between 3,900/- and 4,080/- per share in six deals.

Total DSE market capitalization amounted 37.04mn/- on Thursday, following the transaction of 24,863 shares traded in 45 deals.

Top loser was East African Breweries Limited (EABL), the cross listed, which its share price fell by 2.75 percent to 2,480/- on Thursday, compared with 2,550 recorded on Wednesday close.



## WORLD

## Sunak's Conservatives lose seats in early election results

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives lost dozens of seats in local elections in England with voters punishing his party over political scandals, sluggish economic growth and high inflation, early election results showed yesterday.

While governing parties often struggle at mid-term elections, the results will be the largest, and possibly last, test of voter sentiment before the next general election which is expected to be held in 2024.

The Conservative Party suffered a net loss of 88 seats on local councils that were up for re-election, the early results showed. The main opposition

Labour Party, which is hoping to gain hundreds of seats in a mid-term vote, added 64 seats.

The Liberal Democrats had a net gain of 24 seats.

The results will decide more than 8,000 council seats in 230 local government authorities who are responsible for the day-to-day provision of public services such as bin collections and schools.

John Curtice, Britain's best-known pollster, said based on the results so far, the Conservatives could face a net loss of about 1,000 seats, which would be one of the party's worst performances in local elections in recent memory.

Sunak has tried to restore the credibility of the Conservatives since he



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak comes out from 10 Downing Street to welcome Rwanda's President Paul Kagame, in central London on Thursday ahead of a meeting. AFP

was made prime minister in October following months of economic chaos, strikes, and political scandals.

The Conservatives changed prime ministers three times in the past year after Boris Johnson was ousted partly over parties held in government buildings during COVID-19 lockdowns, and Liz Truss was brought down following a gamble on tax cuts that shattered Britain's reputation for financial stability.

In the local elections, the Conservatives were facing a fight on two fronts: with the main opposition Labour Party seeking to reclaim seats in the so-called Red Wall areas in north and central England, and the Liberal Democrats attempting to make gains in the south.

In early results, Sunak's party lost control of three councils Brentwood, Tamworth and North Leicestershire. Labour won Plymouth in a key battleground area regarded as important to the party's hopes of winning the next general election.

Johnny Mercer, a member of parliament for the area, said it had been a "terrible" night for the Conservatives.

The Labour leader Keir Starmer visited Plymouth early in the local elections campaign as the party threw resources into winning back control of the council.

A full picture of the state of the parties will not become clear until later on Friday when most of the councils will announce their results. **Agencies**

## King Mohammed VI declares Amazigh New Year as national holiday

RABAT

MOROCCO'S King Mohammed VI issued a decree on Wednesday to declare Amazigh New Year's Day a national holiday, according to the royal court in Rabat.

The Amazighs, also known as Berbers, had campaigned for years in Morocco for the first day of their calendar - which falls on 13 January - to be officially acknowledged.

Morocco's royal court on Wednesday said that King Mohammed VI "decided to declare Berber New Year's Day an official paid national holiday, equal to the Mu-

harram Fatih of the Hijri year and the Gregorian New Year," in reference to the Islamic and Christian calendars.

Amazighs believe that the date marks the first day the Libyan king Sheshonq, who they venerate as a prince, ascended to the throne of Egypt 2,973 years ago.

The Amazigh calendar, dictated by the changes in seasons, is also celebrated by Arabic-speaking Moroccans, who call 13 January the beginning of the agricultural year.

The royal court's statement said that Amazigh was "an essential component of the authentic



MOROCCO'S King Mohammed VI

Moroccan identity, enriched by the plurality of its tributaries, and shared heritage to all Moroccans without exception".

"It is also part of the constitutional consecration of the Amazigh language as an official language of the country, alongside the Arabic language," it added.

Countries with major Amazigh populations include Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and western Egypt, with a population of 32 million people. They can also be found in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso.

In 2019, Moroccan lawmakers confirmed the Amazigh language's

official status eight years after it was preliminarily recognised in a new constitution. Since 2010 a Moroccan public television channel has been devoted to the promotion of Amazigh culture.

But some Amazigh activists have criticised the slow acceptance of their language, particularly in education.

The government has increased the 2023 budget to support the Amazigh language by 50 percent this year, to 300 million dirhams (\$30m) and promised to hire hundreds of official clerks for the language in public services. **Agencies**

## UN: Heavy fighting in Sudan's capital, children caught in crisis

KHARTOUM

FIERCE fighting persisted in Sudan on Thursday despite a truce agreement as US intelligence said rival forces were trying to gain the upper hand ahead of possible negotiations and the UN warned of the violence's devastating toll on children

Despite multiple ceasefire declarations, the two sides appeared to be battling for control of territory in the capital Khartoum ahead of proposed talks, though the leaders of both factions have shown little public willingness to negotiate after more than two weeks of fighting.

The Sudanese army on Thursday sought to dislodge the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary force from its positions near central Khartoum in intense battles.

"Both sides believe they can win militarily and have few incentives to come to the negotiating table," US Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines told the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington.

With fighting having continued despite ceasefire deals, the White House said it may sanction those responsible for destabilising Sudan.

The sudden collapse into warfare has killed hundreds, triggered a humanitarian disaster, sent an exodus of refugees to neighbouring states and risks dragging in outside powers, further destabilising an already restive region.

"The situation in Sudan is teetering toward catastrophe, and children are increasingly caught in the crossfire," Catherine



A Sudanese evacuee carries her son as they disembark from the USNS Brunswick at Jeddah port, Saudi Arabia, on Thursday. AP

numbers were difficult to obtain due to the intensity of the violence, it said.

Sudan said on Tuesday that 550 people had died and 4,926 people been wounded.

UNICEF called on the battling factions to ensure children were not caught in the line of fire, including by stopping attacks on health centres, schools and water stations.

## Food aid looted

The conflict has dealt a crippling blow to the heart of the country's economy in the capital Khartoum, disrupted internal trade routes, threatened imports and triggered a cash crunch.

Across swathes of the capital, factories, banks and shops have been looted or damaged, power and water supplies have been failing and residents have reported steep price rises and shortages of basic goods.

Several large markets have been destroyed, said Saddam Siddiq Bashasha, who runs a solar energy and generator business in Khartoum. "These torched markets supported poor workers and farmers. Thousands of them lost their jobs, which will make conditions really difficult," he said.

The fighting results from a power struggle between two rival factions, the army and RSF, that had shared power after a coup in 2021, derailing efforts to bring democracy and civilian rule after a 2019 popular uprising that unseated strongman Omar al-Bashir.

US President Joe Biden called the violence a betrayal of the Sudanese people's demands for civilian government and said the US stood ready to offer humanitarian as-

sistance "when conditions allow".

The sound of bombardment and clashes rang out in Khartoum and its adjoining cities of Omdurman and Bahri on Thursday in violation of the latest, seven-day, truce agreement. The army was trying to push the RSF from positions around the presidential palace and military headquarters.

"Since yesterday evening, and this morning, there are air strikes and the sounds of clashes," said Al-Sadiq Ahmed, a 49-year-old engineer speaking from Khartoum.

"We've got into a state of permanent terror because the battles are around the centres of residential neighbourhoods. We don't know when this nightmare and the fear will end."

The United Nations, meanwhile, pressed the warring factions to guarantee safe passage of aid after six trucks were looted.

UN aid chief Martin Griffiths said he hoped to have face-to-face meetings with both sides within two to three days to secure guarantees from them for aid convoys.

The World Food Programme (WFP) on Thursday estimated that \$13 million to \$14 million worth of food destined to people in need in Sudan had been plundered so far.

About 100,000 people have fled Sudan with little food or water to neighbouring countries, the UN says.

The civilian toll has been exacerbated by the warring sides' use of explosive weapons including tanks, artillery, rockets and airstrikes in populated areas, Human Rights Watch said on Thursday, accusing them of reckless disregard for civilian life. **Agencies**

## Afghanistan aid donors struggle with ban on women, less money

UNITED NATIONS

THE Afghan people are in for a "very difficult year ahead," warned the top US aid official, as donors grapple with challenging a Taliban administration crackdown on women and girls, more crises around the world and overall less funding.

The Taliban seized power in August 2021 as US-led forces withdrew after 20 years of war. Last month the Taliban began enforcing the ban on Afghan women working for the UN after stopping most women working for aid groups in December.

"We can never get used to this be-

cause it is both, of course, morally deplorable, but also it is so incredibly dumb," Samantha Power, administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), told Reuters.

"We are expecting a very difficult year ahead for the Afghan people," she added.

She said that Washington would have to make some "very hard choices" this year on global humanitarian aid.

The United Nations will stay in Afghanistan to try to help millions of people in need, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres pledged on Tuesday, but he said funding is drying up

with a \$4.6 billion UN appeal less than 7 percent funded.

According to UN data, the United States was the largest donor to the UN appeal last year, giving nearly \$1.2 billion. So far the United States has given the most money to the 2023 UN appeal: \$75 million.

"It is really important this coming year that other countries step up with resources that go beyond what they were able to mobilize last year," said Power, adding that US funds were already being stretched by unexpected crises like the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria and fighting in Sudan.

When asked if Gulf countries could

do more to help Afghanistan, Power said: "That would be one obvious potential set of partners."

## 'Magic solution'

Since toppling the Western-backed government in 2021, the Taliban administration has also tightened controls on women's access to public life, including barring women from university and closing girls' high schools.

The Taliban say it respects women's rights in accordance with its strict interpretation of Islamic law. Taliban officials said decisions on female aid workers are an "internal issue."

The United Nations has been trying to carve out exemptions in some ar-

reas for women to deliver aid, particularly in health and education. It says nearly three-quarters of the country's 40 million people need humanitarian help.

Britain has slashed its international aid budget this year as it said it needs to spend more at home to help refugees, particularly from Ukraine and Afghanistan. For the year ending April 5, 2024 it has pledged nearly \$180 million in aid funding for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

According to UN data, Britain gave more than \$450 million to the UN appeal last year, making it the second largest donor behind the United

States. Britain's UN Ambassador Barbara Woodward recognized the great humanitarian need in Afghanistan.

"We are trying to fulfill that need, working with partners, at the same time as making sure that we do not give anything that would give the Taliban reason to think that they can carry on in this medieval way," she told reporters last month.

Last year Switzerland was among the mainly Western top donors, according to UN data, giving some \$35 million. Switzerland's UN Ambassador Pascale Baeriswyl described the situation in Afghanistan as a "difficult dilemma." **Agencies**

## FAO: World food prices rise for first time in a year

ROME

THE United Nations food agency's world price index rose in April for the first time in a year, but is still some 20 percent up on a record high hit in March 2022 following Russia's conflict with Ukraine.

The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) price index, which tracks the most globally traded food commodities, averaged 127.2 points last month against 126.5 for March, the agency said on Friday. The March reading was originally given as 126.9.

The Rome-based agency said the April rise reflected higher prices for sugar, meat and rice, which offset declines in the cereals, dairy and vegetable oil price indices. "As economies recover from significant slowdowns, demand will increase, exerting upward pressure on food prices," said FAO Chief Economist Maximo Torero.

The sugar price index surged 17.6 percent from March, hitting its highest level since October 2011. FAO said the rise was linked to concerns of tighter supplies following downward revisions to production forecasts for India, along with lower-than-earlier-expected outputs in Thailand and the European Union.

While the meat index rose 1.3 percent month-on-month, dairy prices dipped 1.7 percent, vegetable oil prices fell 1.3 percent and the cereal price index shed 1.7 percent, with a decline in world prices of all major grains outweighing an increase in rice prices.

"The increase in rice prices is extremely worrisome and it is essential that the Black Sea initiative is renewed to avoid any other spikes in wheat and maize," said Torero, referring to a deal to allow the export of Ukrainian grain via the Black Sea.

In a separate report on cereals supply and demand, the FAO forecast world wheat production in 2023 of 785 million tons, slightly below 2022 levels but nonetheless the second largest outturn on record.

"(The) 2023/24 prospects for rice production along and south of the equator are mixed, largely due to the regionally varied impact of the La Niña event," FAO said.

FAO raised its forecast for world cereal production in 2022 to 2.785 billion tons from a previous 2.777 billion, just 1.0 percent down from the previous year.

World cereal utilization in the 2022/23 period was seen at 2.780 billion tons, FAO said, down 0.7 percent from 2021/22. World cereal stocks by the close of the 2022/2023 seasons are expected to ease by 0.2 percent from their opening levels to 855 million tonnes. **Agencies**

## IMF chief lauds Kenya's economic recovery programme

NAIROBI

INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has expressed confidence in the Kenyan government's economic recovery program.

Georgieva, who is on a visit to Kenya, lauded the country's decision to prioritize investment in agriculture and Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) that offer quick turnaround results.

"We commend you for what you are doing on your fiscal measures. The country is certainly headed in the right direction," she said during a meeting with Kenyan President William Ruto in the East African country's capital of Nairobi on Wednesday.

According to a statement from the presidency, Georgieva said the Kenyan government's dynamism of investment, prudent fiscal measures, and transparency in governance have set the country on the path of success.

She said the IMF is ready to support the Kenyan government to fast-track the country's economic recovery programs.

Her remarks came as Kenya has kicked off a plan to raise funds in the international market through a sovereign bond in the financial year 2023/2024 which is expected to raise the public debt stock. The money raised would be used to offset a 2 billion U.S. dollars Eurobond that would be done in June 2024.

For his part, Ruto said the government is committed to managing the country's debt to sustainable levels. He said the government has cut down on new projects and stopped subsidy programs that were draining the country's resources.

"We commit to staying the course, especially on fiscal discipline and giving priority to projects that will have the circulation of money." The president thanked the IMF for its continued support pledging to work toward making the country's domestic market attractive through the management of interest rates.

He said the government has deliberately invested in agriculture and MSEs to create opportunities, income, and wealth for as many Kenyans as possible in line with the bottom-up economic transformation agenda. **Agencies**



# US Capitol attack: Jury convicts Proud Boys members

WASHINGTON

A JURY on Thursday convicted four members of the far-right Proud Boys militia group including its former leader Enrique Tarrio of seditious conspiracy, finding they plotted to attack the U.S. Capitol on Jan 6, 2021, in a failed bid to block Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's election victory.

The verdicts after a trial lasting nearly four months in federal court in Washington handed another victory to the US Justice Department, which Attorney General Merrick Garland said has secured the convictions of more than 600 people related to the Capitol rampage by supporters of then-president Donald Trump. Members of the Oath Keepers, another far-right militia, including founder Stewart Rhodes were previously convicted.

In addition to Tarrio, Proud Boys members Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs and Zachary Rehl were convicted of seditious conspiracy - a plot to oppose the government with force - under a Civil War-era law. Conviction on the charge can carry up to 20 years in prison. Dominic Pezzola, the only one of the five defendants who did not play a leadership role in the Proud Boys, was

acquitted of the charge.

The 12-member jury, which deliberated about a week, also found Tarrio, Nordean, Biggs, Rehl and Pezzola guilty of other felonies including obstructing an official proceeding, a charge that also can carry up to 20 years in prison. They also were convicted of conspiring to impede Congress from performing its duties and obstructing law enforcement during a civil disorder.

US District Court Judge Timothy Kelly declared a mistrial on a few outstanding counts after jurors said they could not reach a consensus.

Garland said the convicted men played a central role in setting into motion a "heinous attack that sought to disrupt a cornerstone of our democracy - the peaceful transfer of power to a newly elected government."

"Today's verdict makes clear that the Justice Department will do everything in its power to defend the American people and American democracy," Garland added.

The rampage occurred on the day when Congress was voting on formally certifying Biden's victory in the November 2020 election, with rioters attacking police with a variety of weapons. Shortly before the riot, Trump gave



Proud Boys members Zachary Rehl (front, left) and Ethan Nordean (front, right), walk toward the US Capitol in Washington, in support of then US president Donald Trump, on Jan 6, 2021. File photo

an incendiary speech to supporters urging them to go to the Capitol and "fight like hell" and repeated his false claims that the election was stolen from him throughout widespread voting fraud. Five people including a police officer died during or shortly after the riot. More than 140 police officers were injured.

## The longest Capitol riot trial

The trial of the Proud Boys mem-

bers was the longest of any of those arising from the Capitol attack, with the jury hearing about 50 days of testimony since January.

The jury was unable to unanimously reach a verdict on whether to convict Pezzola for conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding, though they found the other defendants guilty of that charge. The jury also did not reach a verdict for all the defendants on some other charges

related to property destruction at the Cap-

itol and assaults against law enforcement.

Attorneys for Tarrio and some of the other defendants vowed to appeal the convictions.

"We're currently working on the appellate process," Tarrio's attorney Nayib Hassan told reporters.

Rehl's attorney Carmen Hernandez said of her client, "He's got a little girl. ... And his veterans benefits are on the line in a case where he did not commit any violence."

During closing arguments, prosecutor Conor Mulroe said the Proud Boys viewed themselves as a "fighting force lined up behind Donald Trump and ready to commit violence on his behalf" to overturn his election defeat.

Prosecutors told jurors that Tarrio and the other defendants, some of whom led state chapters, purchased paramilitary gear for the attack and urged members of the self-described "Western chauvinist group" to descend on Washington.

Defense lawyers told jurors their clients had no plans to attack the Capitol and had traveled to Washington merely to protest. Some defense lawyers sought to blame Trump, saying he was the one who urged protesters to descend on the Capitol.

Agencies

## Republican leaders of Australia, NZ to pledge allegiance to king

SYDNEY/WELLINGTON

THE leaders of Australia and New Zealand will pledge their allegiance to King Charles at his coronation in London on Saturday even though both are life-long republicans who do not shy away from making their positions clear.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his New Zealand counterpart, Chris Hipkins, have traveled to London, where they are due to meet Prime Minister Rishi Sunak yesterday.

They met the king earlier in the week.

King Charles is head of state in Australia, New Zealand and 12 other Commonwealth realms outside the United Kingdom, although the role is largely ceremonial.

The two countries are holding events to celebrate the coronation, from tree-planting to military flypasts, though there is expected to be less pageantry than after the death of Queen Elizabeth last year.

The death of the queen reignited debate in Australia about the need to retain a distant constitutional monarchy.

Australia held a referendum in 1999 on becoming a republic with 55 percent of voters opposed. Polls in recent years have shown varying support for a republic, with most showing a small majority of Australians in favour.

But neither Albanese nor Hipkins are actively campaigning for the British monarch to be replaced as head of state despite their republican convictions.

"I haven't changed my position on that and I've made that very clear. I want to see an Australian as Australia's head of state," Albanese said in an interview with state broadcaster ABC yesterday.

"That doesn't mean that you can not have respect for the institution, which is the system of government that we have."

Albanese said would take the oath of allegiance to King Charles at the ceremony.

"People expect me to not come to the king's coronation in order to create a controversy," he said.

Hipkins told a news conference on Monday he was on "record as being a Republican" but that "it's not something I intend to push".

Agencies

# Italy's foreign minister cancels Paris trip over French 'insults'

ROME

ITALIAN Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani called off a trip to Paris on Thursday, saying the French interior minister had offended Italy and its Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni with unacceptable "insults".

Earlier, the French minister, Gerald Darmanin, told RMC radio that Meloni was "unable to solve the migration problems on which she was elected" and accused her of "lying" to voters that she could end a crisis over growing numbers of boat migrants.

News of his comments came as Tajani was preparing to fly to Paris to see his French counterpart - a trip that was aimed partly at improving relations between the two European Union countries that have grown increasingly brittle.

France swiftly issued a statement in which it sought to reassure Rome of its willingness to work closely with Italy, but it was not enough to persuade Tajani to catch his plane.

"If there is no respect for Italy I cannot take part in a bilateral meeting with a government that includes a minister who offended us for no reason," Tajani told RAI public television, calling it a "stab

in the back."

It was the latest in a series of clashes between Paris and Rome since Meloni took office last October at the head of a nationalist, conservative government which has a very different world vision to that of French President Emmanuel Macron.

Darmanin is very close to Macron and lashed out at Rome last November, accusing Meloni's government of being "selfish" for refusing to let a charity rescue ship dock in France, forcing it instead to head to France.

Italy has seen a surge in migrant arrivals since Meloni won power last year. More than 42,400 people have landed in Italy so far in 2023, against around 11,220 in the same period last year.

Meloni's Brothers of Italy party and its coalition partner, the League, pledged a tough crackdown on illegal migrant entries in last year's election campaign and on Thursday parliament approved a law that toughened prison terms for human traffickers and reduced asylum rights for new arrivals.

Darmanin compared Meloni to the far-right French leader Marine Le Pen, a political foe of Macron. "The extreme right has a vice. That of lying to the population," he said.

Agencies



Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Antonio Tajani speaks to reporters in Rome, April 26, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

# Qin urges efforts to restore steady China-India relations

GOA, India

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang has called for joint efforts with India to bring bilateral relations back on the track of stable and sound development.

Qin made the remarks on Thursday during a meeting with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar here on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting, noting that the two most populous developing countries are both at a crucial stage of modernization.

Qin said the two sides should learn from history and handle bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective.

He called on the two neighbours to respect, learn from and reinforce each other, and embark on a new path of harmonious coexistence, peaceful development and common revitalization, contributing to their respective national rejuvenation and injecting stability and positive energy into world peace and development.

China is willing to work with India to carry out bilateral consultation and exchange, enhance dialogue and cooperation under multilateral frameworks, and deepen coordination and collaboration on international and regional issues, Qin said.

He pointed out that the current situation on the China-India borders is generally stable.

Both sides should continue to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, consolidate the existing achievements, strictly abide by relevant agreements, take joint action to further ease and cool down the border situation, and maintain sustainable peace and tranquility in the border areas, the Chinese foreign minister said.

For his part, Jaishankar said India and China need to strengthen cooperation in many areas, and that India hopes to continue to seek peace and stability in the border areas with China



Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang (left) and India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar shake hands before the start of G20 foreign ministers' meeting in New Delhi, India, March 2, 2023. (PHOTO / AGENCIES)

through consultation.

Qin also said China supports India in hosting a successful SCO summit and hopes that India, as the current chair, will display the spirit of solidarity and collaboration and play a positive role in making

the summit a success.

The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern.

Agencies

# Foreign Ministry statement on the attempted terrorist attacks against the Moscow Kremlin - the residence of the President of the Russian Federation

MOSCOW

THE Foreign Ministry firmly condemns the attempted terrorist attacks against the Moscow Kremlin on the night of May 2, when it was targeted by unmanned aerial vehicles.

There is no doubt that the Kiev regime is behind these attacks. It has a long-standing record of intentionally supporting and employing terrorist methods against civilian infrastructure and civilians, including the October 8, 2022, explosion on the Crimean Bridge, strikes against non-military targets in the Bryansk, Belgorod and Rostov regions, as well as many acts of sabotage. Now comes Moscow. The terrorist activity and acts of sabotage by the Ukrainian Armed Forces have been gathering unprecedented momentum.

This crime is aggravated by the fact that the Moscow Kremlin serves as the residence of the head of state. What makes the actions of the neo-Nazi Ukrainian authorities especially cynical is that they made an attempt to assassinate the President of Russia ahead of Victory Day and the May 9 Parade, where Great Patriotic War veterans, who had shed their blood in the fight against Nazism and fascism, including on Ukrainian territory, will be present.

Crimes like this cannot go unanswered. The Investigative Committee of Russia has opened a criminal case into actions designed to intimidate and terrorise people, inflict

damage and kill people as a means of influencing the decision-making process by government agencies. We are certain that those who bear the blame for these acts will be identified. They will face imminent and inevitable punishment.

The Kiev regime's criminal actions confirm yet again that Kiev does not want peace or to settle the conflict by political and diplomatic means. This makes fulfilling all the objectives and goals of Russia's special military operation even more obvious.

There must be no security threats emanating from the territory of Ukraine and no terrorist attacks must be perpetrated from there.

It has been an open secret for the international community that the Kiev regime enjoys the support of Western countries, which provide it with weapons, intelligence data, train its fighters and assign targets. The silence on behalf of the collective West demonstrates its connivance with the terrorist methods employed by the neo-Nazi extremist regime in Kiev.

The Foreign Ministry believes that the international community and international organisations which are free from double standards and seek guidance from international law must condemn this new criminal undertaking by the Kiev regime.

Kiev must be forced to live up to its commitments as regards fighting terrorism, international humanitarian law and human rights.

The Foreign Ministry reaffirms that Russia reserves the right to take countermeasures in response to these outrageous acts of terrorism. Russia's response will hinge on the assessment of the threats posed by Kiev to the leadership of our country.

Agencies

# New Zealand's hot migration risks fanning inflation, forcing rates higher

WELLINGTON

GASTROENTEROLOGIST Wesley Kasen arrived in Hawke's Bay New Zealand in February with his wife Marnie, two kids and dog from Colorado. Their arrival filled a vacancy at the local hospital.

The Kasens are part of a migrant boom helping to ease the country's acute labor shortages - a relief for firms desperate to fill vacancies and keep a lid on wages

but which economists warn risks fanning inflation and keeping rates higher for longer.

The government, keen to plug the job shortages and make inroads in the global talent war, is facilitating the inflow of migrants drawn to the country's unspoiled, scenic landscape, relative safety and liberal politics.

"I am just constantly amazed by how friendly the people are everywhere we go, and how easy

things are," said Marnie.

However, it may not be so easy for the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, which has noted that rising long-term net migration could boost activity and inflation, with surging migration inflows highlighted in robust labor market data this week.

"There is a risk that we don't get the recession and that we keep sort of plodding in a lot stronger environment which would frus-

trate the outlook for inflation, would frustrate the central bank, keep interest rates higher for longer," said Kiwibank chief economist Jarrod Kerr.

Indeed, New Zealand's migrant numbers are tracking at a much faster pace than expected a few months back and are set to hit a record this year, which could keep demand strong and more worryingly reignite the housing market - a perennial thorn in the

RBNZ's inflation battle.

A net 51,955 migrants settled in New Zealand in the year ended February, according to Statistics New Zealand. ANZ and Westpac economists say total net arrivals could hit a record 100,000 this year if current trends persist.

## Sticky inflation

New Zealand's inflation is running at an annual 6.7 percent rate, off a three-decade 7.3 percent

peak hit in the second quarter last year, but still at historically elevated levels and well beyond the top end of the central bank's 1 percent-3 percent target despite the nation's most aggressive policy tightening cycle in a quarter century.

The benchmark cash rate is currently sitting at more than a 14-year high of 5.25 percent after a streak of hikes that began in October, 2021, yet the risk is that the RBNZ might have more work to

do, potentially even pushing the peak beyond the current forecast of 5.50 percent.

"If the demand impulse (from migration) overrules the supply effects it would take inflation longer to fall to the RBNZ's target and could even necessitate more tightening than anyone is so far bargaining on," said Stephen Toplis, head of research at the Bank of New Zealand, in a note to clients.

Agencies



# CAF to conduct Club Licensing training workshop in Dar

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

**T**ANZANIA will, at the end of this month, host the first Club Licensing Online Platform (CLOP) training workshop in Dar es Salaam.

Boniface Wambura, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Director of Legal, Media, and Marketing, said the three-day training workshop will take place from May 22-24.

The training program aims to ensure that the Club Licensing process is on track at the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Member Associations (MAs) level ahead of the upcoming 2023/24 CAF inter-club events' season.

"We will host the training program for Club Licensing Online Platform (CLOP) at the end of this month in Dar es Salaam," Wambura stated in his short response.

The online platform tool system has been designed to manage the licensing process and stadium inspection for continental and domestic competitions.

After the Tunisia workshop, CAF will host the training workshop in Tanzania and the other two MAs as announced in Tunisia last Wednesday when the confederation held its first CLOP training program.

Other MAs that are expected to host the CLOP training workshop are Benin and Angola.

The main objectives of the workshops are training MAs on the use of CLOP, updating on the implementation of CAF Club Licensing regulations (2022) edition, and ensuring that the Club Licensing process is on track at the MAs level ahead of next season's inter-club competitions.



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Director of Legal, Media, and Marketing Boniface Wambura.

"The Member Associations as licensors will use the CAF Club Licensing Online Platform to operate their licensing system every season and the clubs will also be submitting the required information through the system," CAF revealed on its website.

CAF said it will use the opportunity to engage and provide CLOP training to local clubs in the host nation.

The continental football governing body said this initiative is in line to accelerate the implementation and use of the CLOP in the African football

landscape, starting with CAF inter-club competitions.

The confederation introduced CLOP in July last year and the project is regarded as a tool for developing professional football in Africa and raising the standard of clubs and competitions.



Special Olympics Tanzania (SOT) Director, Charles Rays.

## Special Olympics Tanzania unveils 20 athletes for Summer Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Special Olympics Tanzania (SOT) has unveiled 20 athletes forming the country's national team set to enter camp in Arusha at the end of this month to start preparations for the coming Special Olympics Summer Games to be held in Germany.

The Special Olympics Summer Games are set to take place from June 12-26 and Tanzania's athletes will compete in mixed unified volleyball and athletics.

Charles Rays, SOT Director, who will also double as the country's leader of delegation in Germany, said the 20 Special Olympics athletes are expected to enter the residential camp at Sibusiso Foundation in Arusha on May 21.

He thanked Sibusiso Foundation for the gesture of hosting the national team at the center.

Rays mentioned the 20 athletes as Sheha Hassan, Abdulrahman Salim, Neverson Minja, Herith Suleiman, Mathias Makanyange, Duncan Luciano, Luquman Salum, Ali Juma, Oswald Kipoto and Ibrahim Mabeche.

The national team's female athletes are Fatuma Omari, Shakira Miduma, Johari Ng'ombe, Rebecca Mtwendeti, Elizabeth Kisaka, Aziza Mtamila,

Dorcas Msapu, Rachel Siwambe, Maimuna Ali and Salah Bwege.

The SOT Director said the athletes will be accompanied by four coaches-head coach Deogratus Mdemu, volleyball coaches Stephen Oloo and Augustino Mohamed, as well as athletics coach Saada Ali that also serves as matron.

"Our athletes will start camp at Sibusiso Foundation in Arusha later this month, volleyballers will be training at the foundation as there is good equipment for volleyball while athletes will be training at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium," he said.

Tanzania's team is made up of 27 delegates, the others are assistant leader of delegation Abdulkarim Nurdin, and team doctor Juma Mwankemwa.

The national team's trip to Germany is partly sponsored by the government and the athletes were selected from SOT subprograms/regions that battled it out in the National Special Olympics Games that took place in Mwanza last year.

This will be the first time that Germany is hosting the World Special Olympics Games and more than 700 athletes with intellectual disabilities from 170 countries will compete in the showdown.

## Tanzania set to defend CECAFA U-23 tourney trophy in Ethiopia

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**T**ANZANIA will defend the 2023 CECAFA U-23 Championship that will be held in Ethiopia, the Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) has confirmed.

Ethiopia will be hosting the tournament, set to be held in Addis Ababa from late July through to August, for a consecutive time having done so during the last edition in 2021.

In 2021, Tanzania beat

Burundi in a penalty shootout of the final after playing to a barren draw in regular time.

Auka Gecheo, CECAFA Executive Director, confirmed the decision during the meeting with the officials of the council's member associations across the region.

"We are happy that Ethiopia will once again host the U-23 Championship as they did in 2021," Gecheo said on CECAFA-online.

According to Ethiopia Football Federation's Secretary-General Ba-

hiru Tilahun, they are all set to hold the zonal event starting in late July through to August in Addis Ababa.

In the same meeting, it was agreed that this season's CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Zonal qualifiers will be held in Uganda from August 12-26 2023 while the CECAFA U-15 Boys' Championship will take place in the same country from November 4-18 2023.

Kenya will host the CECAFA U-18 Championship for both boys and

girls, with the girls' event slated for June 3-17 2023 while the boys' competition will be played from November 26-December 9 2023.

It was further agreed that with the current political turmoil in Sudan, an alternate standby host ought to be identified for the 2023 CECAFA Kagame Super Cup that had been slated to take place in the country with Tanzania and Kenya confirming their interest.

The CECAFA U-23 Championship will have

something for Tanzania to fight for after it missed out on the 2023 Africa U-23 Cup of Nations, suffering a 3-1 aggregate loss to Nigeria in the qualifiers.

The Africa U-23 Cup of Nations to be held in Morocco in November 2023 will determine Africa's representatives in the men's football tournament of the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

Tanzania has never participated in the Africa U-23 Cup of Nations since the showdown's inception in 2011.

## Tanzania Forestry Service Agency targets promoting tourism through rally



Tanzania Forestry Services (TFS) Agency's Conservationist and Head of Tourism Promotion, Anna Lawuo.

By Correspondent Jenifer Gilla

**T**ANZANIA Forestry Service (TFS) Agency in collaboration with Iringa Motor Sports Club has announced a new tourism activity, dubbed CMC Automobile Sao Hill Forest Rally of Iringa.

The event is set to involve a car rally slated to take place in the Sao Hill Forest located in Iringa.

Conservationist and Head of Tourism Promotion at TFS, Anna Lawuo, told journalists in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday that the rally will be held on May 14, adding the participants from in and outside the country have already registered for

the showdown.

She said the rally aims to support efforts initiated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to promote tourism in Tanzania.

"We have come up with a new tourism activity involving car rallies in the forest. We have about 24 forests that are suitable for rallies such as motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians and we also have 20 forests suitable for eco-tourism," Anna said.

She said they hope the showpiece will attract a lot of motorsports followers because people have shown an urge to visit the forests and watch the race.

"It is a place where many people can come and find various investment opportunities, we have many roads and we can do long, short races and even walking," she said.

She added that Sao Hill Forest moreover has a good climate that allows other activities such as camping, and welcoming entrepreneurs who will invest in food and accommodation during the rally.

Iringa Motor Sports Club's Chairman, Amjad Khan, said they are grateful to TFS for giving them places to coordinate the showdown which will help in promoting tourism in the

country.

He said it is a good opportunity for them to collaborate with the government, adding they aim to develop the sport and promote tourism through the Iringa forests.

Khan said they have so far registered 15 participants from across East Africa, adding they will race 20 kilometers and 26 kilometers and the winner will walk away with a prize.

He moreover said that the competition is expected to attract various visitors who will be out to savour the forest and watch the rally drivers battle it out in the showdown.



## Could troubled PSG throw away French title?

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain are a club in turmoil, where the coach was already under pressure before this week's suspension of Lionel Messi and a protest by fans outside Neymar's home.

The season is already widely seen as a failure for the Qatar-owned club, after they were dumped out of the Champions League by Bayern Munich in the last 16 and from the French Cup at the same stage.

Even though they are top of Ligue 1, five points clear of Marseille with five matches remaining and on course to retain the crown and become French champions for a record 11th time, the campaign seems to be plumbing new depths.

Last Sunday's insipid 3-1 loss at home to Lorient means Christophe Galtier's team have lost six of 17 Ligue 1 matches in 2023, a veritable collapse for a side who did not lose a game in any competition before the World Cup.

The day after the Lorient loss, Messi did not turn up for training, instead travelling to Saudi Arabia without PSG's permission to fulfil commitments as part of a contract with the country's tourist office.

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner has since been suspended by the club and is set to play no part this weekend against Troyes.

Another slip-up, against opponents who have not won in four months and are heading for relegation, is unthinkable for PSG and could seal Galtier's fate.

In any case, the coach appears unlikely to be in charge next season with sweeping changes expected over the summer.

Events are being followed closely by disaffected supporters. Several hundred protested on Wednesday outside the club's offices as well as in front of Neymar's house in the Paris suburb of Bougival.

"We have had enough of mercenaries," they chanted.

PSG dismissed those events as the "intolerable and insulting actions of a small group of individuals", but it all adds to the sense of a club in disarray.

Their closest challengers, Lens and Marseille, two captivating teams who play with an intensity PSG come nowhere close to matching, face each other this weekend.

The priority for both is securing second place and automatic Champions League qualification.

PSG's next two opponents -- they play Ajaccio after facing Troyes -- are both certainties for relegation and will surely not be able to handle Kylian Mbappe.

This stumbling, crisis-ridden PSG will surely, despite everything, be Ligue 1 champions again.

Player to watch: Lois Openda

The livewire 23-year-old Belgian international striker has been in outstanding form for a Lens side headed for Champions League qualification. His winner against Toulouse in midweek was his 18th Ligue 1 goal this season, meaning he has matched his tally from last year at Vitesse Arnhem, when only Sebastien Haller scored more goals in the Dutch Eredivisie.

"The level of Ligue 1 is much higher than in the Netherlands or Belgium, but I expected to score at least 15 goals. Now I can aim for 20," Openda, who has nine goals in the last seven games, told sports daily L'Equipe this week.

AFP

## Bayern and Dortmund enter final straight of title battle just a point apart

BERLIN

AFTER returning to the top of the table, title hopefuls Bayern Munich turn their focus to their traditional whipping boys Werder Bremen on Saturday.

One point clear of Borussia Dortmund, Bayern can guarantee an historic 11th straight Bundesliga title by winning their final four matches.

If Thomas Tuchel's side defeat Bremen, they can go four points clear of Dortmund, who host Wolfsburg a day later.

Bremen's last win over Bayern in all competitions came 30 matches ago, a 5-2 drubbing in Munich when a 20-year-old Mesut Ozil was pulling the strings in midfield.

Since then, Bayern have won 26, with four draws, a period which has included 11 Bundesliga titles for Munich. In comparison, Bremen have not collected a single piece of silverware and spent one season in the second division.

To motivate the men in green even more, a win against Bayern would ensure another season in the top division, with 12th-placed Bremen still in mathematical danger of relegation.

Bremen's task got even harder on Thursday, with news that their top scorer and Germany number nine Niclas Füllkrug has failed to recover from a calf injury and will miss the clash.

Bremen manager Ole Werner said of Füllkrug, who leads all Bundesliga scorers with 16 goals this season, "we're trying to get him fit week by week and build him back up gently".

Despite Bayern sitting top, the Bavarians are enduring a rough phase of their own -- and unlike most recent Bundesliga seasons, have an opponent breathing down their necks with the end in sight.

Dortmund's opponents on Sunday, Wolfsburg, also fall into the category of whipping boys, at least in their record against Dortmund.

AFP

# Napoli emulate Maradona after ending long Serie A title wait

MILAN

**N**APOLI finally ended their long wait to win Serie A on Thursday, joining late club icon Diego Maradona in the history books by being crowned Italian champions with a record-equalling five matches to play.

A 1-1 draw at Udinese gave Napoli the point they needed to end 33 years of waiting and spark wild celebrations among the thousands of fans in Udine, at the Stadio Maradona in Naples and all around southern Italy's biggest city.

Supporters streamed onto the pitch at the Dacia Arena to celebrate after a season dominated by Luciano Spalletti's side, creating moments of tension with home fans not happy at such open partying on their ground.

Victor Osimhen scored the decisive goal in the second half as Napoli's current stars came back from trailing to Sandi Lovric's opener at half-time and emulated the teams led by Maradona which won the league in 1987 and 1990.

"To be compared to him, to be the captain after Maradona to lift the Scudetto, I just have no words," said skipper Giovanni Di Lorenzo.

"This isn't my title, it belongs to every player and the people who worked to make our dream come true."

Spalletti and his squad will receive an emotional welcome when they return to Naples, where the city-wide partying is set to continue to until at least their next home fixture against Fiorentina on Sunday evening.

"Seeing Neapolitans



Napoli fans celebrate after the Italian Serie A football match between Udinese and Napoli on May 4, 2023 at the Friuli stadium in Udine. Napoli ended a 33-year wait to win Italy's Serie A on May 4 after a 1-1 draw at Udinese secured their third league title and emulated the great teams led by Diego Maradona. (Agencies)

happy is enough to give you a sense of that joy they are feeling," Spalletti told DAZN on the verge of tears.

"These people will look to this moment when life gets hard, they have every right to celebrate like this. You feel a bit more relaxed knowing that you've given them this moment of happiness."

It was appropriate that Osimhen was the man to take Napoli over the line as the Nigeria striker has had the best season of his career and been key to Napoli's historic charge to glory.

Osimhen's title-deciding strike was his 22nd goal in 28 league appearances and rightly caused bedlam among the massed ranks of away fans who took over Udine.

Napoli's 16-point lead over second-placed Lazio leaves them with a month-long parade between now and the end of the season which will allow their long-suffering supporters to fully unload more than a generation of frustration.

- Osimhen seals deal - Napoli were straight on the front foot but

looked worryingly bereft of ideas in the final third, and the away side were stunned in the 13th minute following the first spell of play in Udinese's favour.

Lovric was given the freedom of the penalty area after being fed by Destiny Udogie, and the Slovenia midfielder took advantage by placing a lovely shot in the top corner.

Lovric stung the fingers of former Udine youth product Alex Meret in the Napoli goal just after the half-hour mark, by which point Napoli hadn't created a single goalscoring opportunity.

Seconds later Osimhen, who looked like Napoli's only hope of scoring in the opening period, headed a deep cross just the wrong side of the post.

However, in the 52nd minute the 24-year-old stepped up as so often he has this season to unleash a wave of relief and blue smoke from the stands with his 27th goal in all competitions.

Osimhen was on hand to ram home the leveller when, after a corner, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's low shot was blocked and fell to the clinical striker.

He had the ball in the net again in the 67th minute but was denied by referee Rosario Abisso who rightly whistled for a foul by Eljif Elmas.

But by that point the fans grew ever more sure that Thursday night would be the night, chanting victory songs in Udine while flares billowed and fireworks were set off at the other end of the country.

While fans had to be cleared from the pitch in Udine to avoid clashes with home supporters the Stadio Maradona was lit up by phones held by teary-eyed Neapolitans singing along to songs by late local singer-songwriter Pino Daniele.

Meanwhile, Luciano Spalletti said Thursday that Diego Maradona was watching over Napoli and helped his old club finally secure a Serie A title which had been missing since the Argentine icon's playing days.

Maradona, who died in 2020, is considered by many the greatest ever footballer and he spent his peak years at Napoli, where he won two league titles and the 1989 UEFA Cup.

Homages to Maradona

can be found all over Naples and he is considered a patron saint by a football-mad city whose team had never reached the same heights since his departure in 1991.

"They (the fans) have seen great coaches and great players, they're supporters who watched Maradona play, and probably some kind of protection from him has led to this result," coach Spalletti told DAZN.

Napoli won their third Scudetto after a 1-1 draw at Udinese which gave them a 16-point lead over Lazio with five matches to play.

It is the first Italian league title of Spalletti's long and eventful coaching career, and the charismatic Tuscan was almost overcome with emotion as he can no longer be considered Italian football's nearly man.

He dedicated the win to his family and in particular to his brother Marcello, who died four years ago, almost bursting into tears when thinking about his late sibling.

"I dedicate this to the players, who deserved this moment of happiness. Then to all the fans

-- Naples, this is for you!" he shouted to the fans who had found their way into the bowels of the Dacia Arena.

"And finally for everyone at Napoli, to my staff, (sporting director Cristiano) Giuntoli, the club. And Matilde, my daughter, my whole family for pushing me forward. My friends and my brother Marcello..."

At the same time, Napoli owner Aurelio De Laurentiis said that the team's first Serie A title in over three decades was just the beginning for the club he took from bankruptcy to the top of the Italian game.

Film mogul De Laurentiis took control of Napoli in 2004 when the club were forced to restart from the third tier and since then has made Napoli consistently one of the best teams in Italy while keeping the club's finances in decent shape.

"This is a starting point, not an ending," said De Laurentiis in a packed Stadio Maradona in Naples after his club secured the Scudetto.

"We are going to go again with (coach Luciano) Spalletti. It's a title that we have built towards over the years."

De Laurentiis said that he is now looking for European glory to add to the triumph in Italy which came following Thursday's 1-1 draw at Udinese.

"When I came here I said that it would take 10 years to get the team back in Europe, and I kept that promise," added De Laurentiis.

"It's the same thing for the Scudetto, what's missing now is to retain the title and win the Champions League."

AFP

## City host Allardyce's Leeds as Arsenal face Newcastle test

LONDON

MANCHESTER City can take a decisive step towards a third consecutive Premier League title this weekend as they face struggling Leeds while Arsenal make a daunting trip to Newcastle.

Veteran Sam Allardyce takes charge of his first match in charge of Leeds against a City side that have won their past nine league games.

Second-placed Arsenal still have hopes of a City stumble but Newcastle have a huge prize of their own to play for, knowing victory at St James' Park would put them on the brink of Champions League qualification for the first time in two decades.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key talking points ahead of the action:

- Big Sam's big challenge -

Sam Allardyce boasted he is "as good as" City boss Pep Guardiola in an extraordinary press conference to announce his return to the Premier League.

The 68-year-old has just four games to prove it and pocket a reported

£2.5 million bonus (\$3.1 million) for keeping Leeds in the top flight.

Javi Gracia paid the price for a run of one point from five games, during which Leeds conceded 18 goals, as he was sacked on Wednesday.

Allardyce's reputation for keeping sides up against the odds has persuaded Leeds chairman Andrea Radrizzani to gamble on the former England boss.

But Allardyce faces a huge task with the trip to treble-chasing City followed by clashes against Newcastle, West Ham and Tottenham.

"It's probably only the biggest challenge (of my career) because of the shortness of games that are left," said Allardyce.

Another victory would take Guardiola's men four points clear at the top, at least until Sunday, but he is wary of the impact Allardyce could have.

"It will be tough because he has the charisma," said Guardiola. "He will put out the pressure to the players and he knows exactly what to do in this kind of situation in a relegation battle."

- Arsenal eye Newcastle revenge -

To have any chance of winning their first league title for 19 years, Arsenal must win where their challenge for a top-four finish integrated last season.

Mikel Arteta's men had a return to the Champions League in their own hands with two games to go a year ago, only to be well beaten in a 2-0 defeat by the Magpies.

"We don't forget the game we had there last season," said Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka.

"I have to be honest, they destroyed us. They were much, much better, they wanted it more. We have to go there and show them we are ready and why we are where we are."

Newcastle have won eight of their past nine league games to

close in on a top-four finish.

Given their healthy goal difference, Eddie Howe's men likely need just six points from their remaining five games to join Arsenal and City in next season's Champions League.

- Survival Monday -

The coronation of King Charles III on Saturday has had an impact on the Premier League's fixture schedule.

With Monday a public holiday in the UK as a result, there are three games with huge significance at the bottom of the table.

Southampton will be virtually relegated should they lose at Nottingham Forest, who also start the weekend in the bottom three.

Everton's 69-year stay in the top flight is under severe threat ahead of their trip to Brighton, who are

pushing to qualify for Europe for the first time in the club's history.

Leicester sit outside the relegation zone only on goal difference and need to make the most of a visit to Fulham, with Newcastle and Liverpool still to come.

Fixtures

**Today** (1400 GMT unless stated) Bournemouth v Chelsea, Manchester City v Leeds, Tottenham v Crystal Palace, Wolves v Aston Villa, Liverpool v Brentford (1630)

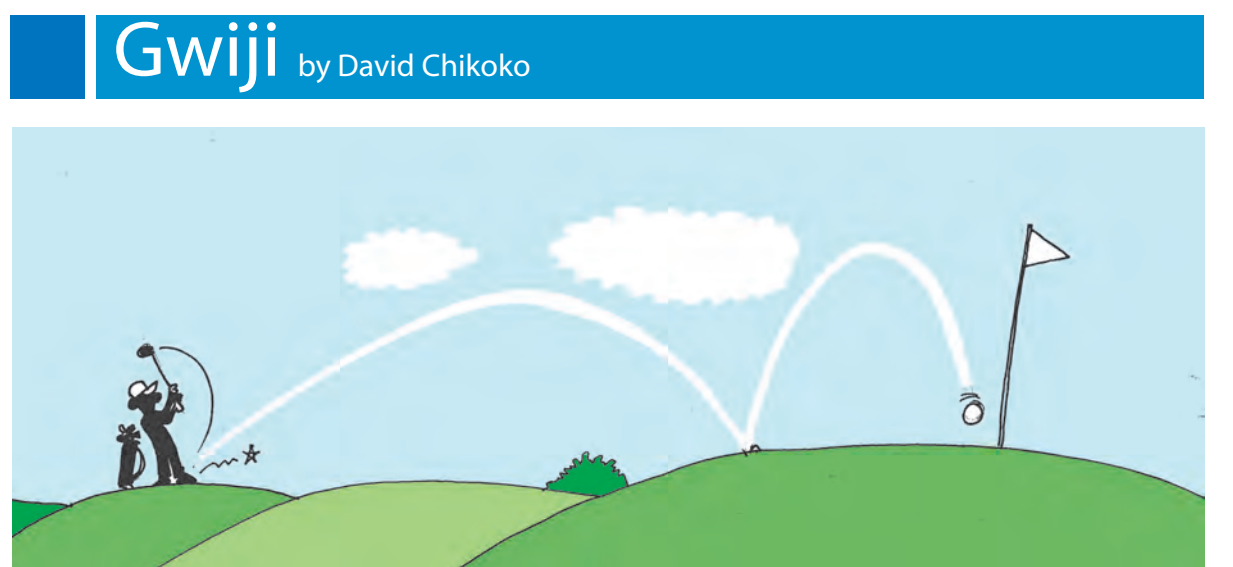
Tomorrow

Newcastle v Arsenal (1530), West Ham v Manchester United (1800)

Monday

Fulham v Leicester (1400), Brighton v Everton (1630), Nottingham Forest v Southampton (1900)

AFP



Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Napoli emulate Maradona after ending long Serie A title wait**

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## Company ready to continue supporting tennis in Tanzania

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE CPS Zanzibar Limited says it is willing and ready to continue its support of tennis promotion in the country.

The company is one of the major sponsors of tennis tournaments and activities in the country, bankrolling the sport under Fumba Town by CPS.

Sebastian Dietzold, the company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), hinted at the continued romance with tennis in the country.

Dietzold said in an interview CPS is generally interested in supporting different sporting activities in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, adding he has a passion for tennis.

He said so about a query on his firm's readiness to continue sponsoring Tanzania's men's tennis team, which will compete in the Davis Cup tournament in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the country's women's team set to battle it out in Billie Jean King Cup in Rwanda next month.

He assured TTA of his interest in supporting the sport in the country, revealing CPS's commitment remains unwavering in supporting tennis in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Dietzold said discussions with TTA on new sponsorship for the teams and also hinted at plans for sponsoring tennis events and tournaments this year and next year.

The official noted: "We are currently discussing plans with Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) for hosting various events and competitions this year and having a budget for next year."

He insisted: "Our goal is to reach out to potential sponsors, in addition to CPS, to provide support for both TTA and Tanzania's team for Davis Cup."

"We are focusing on securing long-term support that will allow the team to grow and improve, our support will cover travel expenses for the team to the tournament, providing regular professional coaching, and cutting-edge equipment, our ultimate aim is to develop the team, and achieve a higher international ranking," Dietzold said.

He also challenged TTA to organize more tournaments and events, saying they help in the visibility of the game.

"There are always opportunities to do more and developing a diverse group of sponsors to support the sports is crucial, TTA must recognize the significance of organizing events that create chances for sponsors to showcase themselves," he said.

Apart from sponsoring the national squad set to compete in the Davis Cup tournament, the company has been bankrolling various tennis tournaments.

Fumba Town by CPS had early this year sponsored a junior tennis tournament at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) courts with more than 137 juniors battling it out in the tournament.

Through the company's sponsorship, five players represented Tanzania in the Davis Cup Africa Qualifiers in Rwanda last year.

The players are Omari Sulle, Abubakar Risasi, Frank Menard, Dofuu Saleh, and Rashid Saleh, with Salum Mwamvita serving as the side's coach.

Dietzold also disclosed that the company, apart from dishing out sponsorship to tennis is actively involved in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in both Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania.

He said Fumba Town by CPS's primary focus is to assist the local communities in the areas they operate in and this includes the creation of jobs for locals and providing health services.

The CEO disclosed that Fumba Town, situated in Zanzibar, is the first sustainable, equitable housing development in the East African region.

The project has been praised for its innovative approach to developing efficient, accessible buildings for the African residential market and is the country's fastest-growing urban investment.

"Our primary focus in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is to assist the local communities surrounding our ambitious and flourishing projects in Zanzibar and soon in Mainland Tanzania."

"This includes job opportunities and our clinic known as Urban Care and construction of necessary infrastructure, among others," he revealed.

# Singida Big Stars' players created own downfall against Yanga- coach



Yanga's Zambian attacker, Kennedy Musonda (R), dribbles past Singida Big Stars' midfielder, Yusuf Kagoma, when the two sides locked horns in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League match in Singida on May 4. Yanga defeated Singida Big Stars 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SINGIDA Big Stars' head coach Hans van der Pluijm said they contributed to their downfall after they were beaten by Yanga for the second time when the two sides took on each other in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League tie held in Singida on Thursday.

First-half goals netted by Burkinabe attacking midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki and promising striker Clement Mzize condemned Singida Big Stars to a 2-0 loss at Liti Stadium in an afternoon that witnessed the outfit seeming second best to Yanga.

Reacting to the poor performance, Pluijm said his Singida Big Stars team made it too easy for Yanga suggesting his players did not heed his tactical instructions in such a big game.

The Dutch disclosed: "Tactically, I think we did not play well in the first half. We didn't play according to instructions and I said before the match, you can't give away too much space, and

the way we conceded the second goal. If you concede in a short time a goal like that, it breaks the morale." mistake like that but it is happening in football, it has happened. We had to try to

make some changes in the second half, there was a bit more spirit in the team but not the levels we expected," the gaffer noted.

Asked how the poor performance can affect them in their rescheduled Azam Sports Federation Cup semi-final match against the same opponent, Pluijm said he does not think Yanga would have such an easier game again.

The coach pointed out: "In the Federation Cup semi-final, it will not be easier than this for Yanga. We had prepared very well for the league match, but the training is for the coaches and the game is for the players."

The Dutch stated: "It was too slow, not aggressive enough, we didn't close fast enough and we gave too much space."

Singida Big Stars are now under pressure to bounce back in their remaining three matches in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League in the battle for third place with Azam FC. They find themselves two points behind Azam FC.

Their next league assignment is away to relegation-threatened Kinondoni Municipal Council FC on May 12.

Their penultimate game of the season is also against a relegation candidate in Ruvo Shooting. They will sign off their campaign with a trip to Namungo FC on May 28.

Having been guaranteed a top-four finish in Premier League and making it to the last four of the Azam Sports Federation Cup, the ambitious debutants have already secured a continental ticket for next season. They will play in the CAF Confederation Cup.

## Majaliwa appeals to AUSC Region 4 to promote sports

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 4 Council of Sports Ministers to put more emphasis on the promotion and development of sports in the zone.

Majaliwa said so at the official opening of the council's Region 4 Council of Sports Ministers meeting that was held in Arusha on Thursday.

He said the ministers should invest in building capacity to produce more players to bring about transformation in the sector through sports, stressing the body not should dilly-dally over fulfilling duties.

Majaliwa said every country's target is to see its teams clinch the trophies, especially in high-profile tournaments like the World Cup.

"If we invest in sports infrastructure and skills, and collaborate we can achieve the bigger target in the sports sector," he said.

"We need to see that if Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, or any other wins, we have all won. Let us collaborate to be an exemplary point to other zones of the African Union Sports Council," he said.

In another development, Majaliwa urged members of the meeting to se-



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa

lect Tanzania as the head of the council's Region 4 secretariat in the election scheduled for Thursday.

He said Tanzania has every reason to be elected due to efforts made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government to give the sports sector high

status.

He said there is a need for transformation in international sports diplomacy and added that during President Samia's leadership, national teams and clubs have performed well in international tournaments.

"Huge investment has been made by the government in sports infrastructure including construction of stadiums such as Benjamin Mkapa Stadium which meets FIFA and CAF criteria, the venue has once been used by Brazil's national team and Everton FC of the English Premier League," he said.

During the meeting, President Samia sent a special message to the ministers, appealing to the latter to select Tanzania as the headquarter of the secretariat of the African Union Sport Council Region 4.

Samia noted: "Let me assure you that Tanzania has vast experience to be the headquarters of most international organizations because it has all the necessary infrastructure that can enable the council to function."

Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pindi Chana said that the sports sector is among the sectors that create many jobs for the youths.

"Member countries have enacted laws to develop talents in the sports sector because sports connect Africa as one," she said.

She said they will review laws, regulations, and procedures to develop and improve the sports sector because of its business and ability to create employment.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

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