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Pinda recalls day of appointment

I told them I have been working in the President's Office for years, this means I will still work with the president in a different manner," he had affirmed

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda yesterday opened up on his "humble beginnings" like working as a prosecutor in various regions, behind-the-scenes happenings prior to his top-level appointment, and hiccups in holding to that position. Appearing for a wide ranging interview with a local radio yesterday, the former premier said one of the tasks that gave him headaches as PM was the Thursday spontaneous questions by MPs in the legislature. "We tried very much to have the questions be known before they are raised on the floor, at least a day before, so that we prepare psychologically," he said, which in all appearances failed, but he affirmed that on the spot questions format is interesting as it would lose its shine if the premier was prepared. Then it would not attract the kind of attention it now gets, he stated.

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It's loading time for Air Tanzania Company Limited's 767-300F cargo plane at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on Thursday night pending onward flight to Dubai. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

BoT skips reserve money, adopts interest rates mode

By Francis Kajubi

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has adopted an interest rate-based monetary policy framework, replacing foreign exchange reserve criteria in setting the central bank rate to bring down inflation further. Emmanuel Tutuba, the BoT governor, told a gathering of bankers and other financial institutions in launching the new policy setting, that for the past 28 years, BoT applied a monetary policy framework using total money supply (linked with releasing foreign exchange into the market) as an intermediate target for halting inflationary pressures and realise growth objectives. The BoT monetary policy committee set at 5.5 percent the policy rate (central bank rate for lending to banks) for first quarter of 2024, he stated, asserting that it is intended to enable commercial banks to acquire more loans at BoT thus stabilise onward lending liquidity.

The committee's decision on the policy rate considered the need to contain inflation within the medium-term target of 5.0 percent, while supporting economic growth to reach 5.5 percent or higher in 2024, while seeking to halt incessant depreciation of the local currency.

This initiative is part of BoT reforms in financial sector operations to improve effectiveness of monetary policy, he said, noting that the use of monetary mass was adopted earlier owing to the level of economic development at the time.

The new framework is appropriate in a situation of low development in financial markets and data availability, he stated, noting that the framework is a forward-looking instrument where the central bank uses short-term interest rates to regulate money supply.

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Taifa Stars plot next 2023 AFCON hurdle against Zambia

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JKT ballers eye better preparations for BAL

ATCL's cargo plane in Dar, Nairobi, Dubai round trip

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

IT was business as usual at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) on Thursday night as an Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) cargo plane Boeing 767-300F land-

ed, after foreign ministers of the two countries cancelled reciprocal flight bans pointing to a sterile trade war.

The plane picked up cargo at the JKIA and proceeded to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), adding to other cargo already load-

ed from Tanzanian international airports.

Ladislous Matindi, the ATCL executive director, said in an interview the ATCL cargo plane arrived in Nairobi from Dar es Salaam and loaded cargo weighing 51 tonnes, transporting the cargo to Dubai on

its first trip.

The plane left Nairobi at 3:30 p.m. on January 18 and arrived in Dubai at 8:28 p.m., and is expected to fly back today, January 20, he said, pursuing round trips since ar-

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Recently installed CCM Secretary General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi (4th-R) and various other leaders of the ruling party hold prayers at the grave of former Zanzibar President Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume at the premises of the party's sub-headquarters in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Nchimbi in full praise of the Zanzibar national unity government

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BoT skips reserve money, adopts interest rates mode

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In Africa the framework is used in Rwanda, Kenya, Zambia, Uganda, Ghana and South Africa, while there are also cases like New Zealand, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom, among others, he said.

"We have also adopted the new framework to fulfil our commitment to the East African Community, particularly regarding the implementation of the monetary union protocol," he declared, underlining that interest rates in specific lending facilities in banks and other financial institutions "will still be market-determined."

Following the shift the policy committee will be meeting on a quarterly basis to set the policy rate, he said, explaining in his other remarks that the performance of the economy was satisfactory in the past year.

Growth in the third quarter stood at 5.3 percent, projected at around 5.4 percent in the fourth quarter, thus showing a likelihood of attaining above five percent overall growth for 2023, he said.

The Zanzibar economy grew at 7 percent, with chances of attaining 7.1 percent overall growth for 2023, while the domestic economy was reinforced by public investment and an improved business environment, he said.

In the first quarter of 2024, growth in the Mainland is projected at 5.2 percent, with inflation on the decline, reaching 3.0 percent last month from 3.2 percent registered in December 2022, he elaborated, hinting that in Zanzibar, inflation decreased to 5.5 percent from 8.1 percent. Monetary and fiscal policies, adequate food supply and a stable exchange rate drove inflation to lower levels, while it is projected at around 3.2 percent in the first quarter of 2024.

Potential risks to the inflation outlook include the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, the Ukraine war and the OPEC+ decision on cuts in oil production, he asserted.

Geoffrey Mchangila, the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) vice chairman, said that the policy rate will guide banks and other financial institutions in the determination of interest rates, with better chances of realising the goals of monetary policy.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa attends the just-ended 19th Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Kampala, Uganda, yesterday. He filled in for President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Photo: PMO.

ATCL cargo plane in Dar, Nairobi, Dubai round trip

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last year.

Certain air transport observers say it is the first such plane in Africa at present, operating mainly from the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) and making round trips especially to the Dubai global marketplace.

Other flights on its schedule are Dar es Salaam to Mumbai, the Indian commercial capital, the Zambian capital of Lusaka, Bangui in the Central African Republic, Harare (Zimbabwe) as well as Lubumbashi and Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Early this week, the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) notified the public of the revoking of Kenya Airways (KQ) landing rights in flying to third and fourth destinations after landing at JNIA from JKIA, starting from January 22.

The January 15 notice signed by the TCAA director general Hamza Johari stated the reason as reciprocating the decision by the aeronautical authorities of the Republic of

Kenya to refuse the Tanzanian request for all-cargo flight operations by Air Tanzania Co, Ltd under fifth freedom traffic rights between Nairobi and third countries.

The notice affirmed that the refusal was contrary to Section 4 of the memorandum of understanding on air services between Tanzania and Kenya signed on Novem-

ber 24, 2016 in Nairobi.

The respective ministers of Foreign Affairs consulted on the issue and restored the status quo, with Tanzania lifting the ban as aeronautical authorities in Nairobi granted the fifth freedom traffic right to ATCL for all-cargo service as requested, with effect from January 16, 2024.



Stanzania People's Defence Forces Chief of Staff Lt Gen Salim Haji Othman (C) and Head of Operations and Training Maj Gen Ibrahim Mhona (L) show books lined up for use under the new curriculum for reinforcement of training package on conduct, discipline and prevention of sexual exploitation at the Dar es Salaam-based Tanzania Peacekeeping Training Centre. This was at the launch of the books held at the centre yesterday. Right is the Head of TPTC, Brig Gen George Itang'are. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Pinda recalls day of appointment

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The most relaxed time during his tenure was when he did not offend the president, he said, recalling that his being appointed was preceded by receiving a call from an individual who introduced himself as a State House officer, saying he wanted to see him.

"I was preparing to enter the debating chamber when I was informed that I am wanted at the State House. A few minutes later I saw a young man entering the building, insisting that I had to rush to the State House," he said.

He added "I thought I was not well dressed and requested that I should be given time to dress properly, I was not aware of what was coming next because being summoned by the president was not a new thing because of my position as minister for local government," he said.

When he arrived there he was ushered in to see President Jakaya Kikwete who asked him to serve as the next PM, an issue that perplexed him as there were several senior ministers with vast cabinet experience.

"Why me," he responded, and obtained an explanation that such appointments are made after consultations, "therefore when you see this, it means we have agreed to choose you," the president had explained.

Pinda said he was followed several times to join the CCM presidential candidate's campaign team before polls 2005 but refused, saying that he had not made up his mind to do so by then.

"I told them I have been working in the President's Office for years, this means I will still work with the president in a different manner," he had affirmed.

He said he had never imagined he would become prime minister one day, and even when he was called to work as a personal assistant to President Julius Nyerere he just thought he would climb through the ranks to become Attorney General one day, "not, frankly, Prime Minister."

Nchimbi extolls Zanzibar national unity government

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

CCM will stand firm to ensure that the political reconciliation reached is implemented and protected to further heighten the country's peace, a top official has declared.

Newly appointed secretary general Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi made this remark when addressing party officials and members of the public at the party's Zanzibar head offices at Kisiwandui.

He said that CCM will strengthen

supervision to ensure the government fulfills its obligations by implementing the CCM election manifesto and serving the people with zeal.

His remarks were delivered after extensively mingling with the party cadres, taking a stroll from Michezani to the party head offices. He emphasized that the ruling party, under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, is unwavering as to ensuring the serenity, stability and unity of the country.

"That is why it will continue to

support the existence of a national unity government in Zanzibar," he said, pointing at some people born in recent years and unaware of the importance of the government of the national unity.

The structure of the government is essential and has helped uplift stability and peace, he said, elaborating that anyone who sees the government of national unity as unimportant has contempt for the well-being of Tanzanians.

"Yet we also remind ACT Wazalendo

members to support the government of national unity as well, and that's what development and collaboration are all about, even if there are some issues we should discuss," he said, insisting that respect for one another is a civic duty, "and we must recognize that we are all Tanzanians."

CCM is prepared to carry on working with ACT Wazalendo and has genuine faith in good intentions, describing this as part of honoring the revolution, as its founders did not mean to create a nation filled with hostility, hatred and

disharmony.

"The founders of our nation, our party, and the Revolution did not anticipate this," he said, pointing at the need to all work together and "provide our governments with the greatest amount of support."

He referred to a meeting he had with Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, where he demanded the sentiments of the president on the government of national unity. He replied that Zanzibar and Tanzania greatly benefit from it, the CCM

executive noted.

Vuai Ali Vuai, the former CCM deputy secretary general for Zanzibar, speaking after the reception, commended President Samia for recommending Dr Nchimbi to the post, saying he is an appropriate selection.

"I am saying this because he is someone I know since 1998," he said, elaborating that Dr Nchimbi was the first to be elected as chairman of the CCM youth wing, where the former Zanzibar CCM executive served as general secretary of the youth wing.

UNFPA pledges further support in youth's reproductive health

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has expressed its commitment to continue collaborating with Tanzania to achieve universal access to reproductive health rights meant to reduce maternal mortality.

Mark Bryan Schreiner, UNFPA Country Representative made the commitment in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the occasion to mark the 5th Annual the Arise Network Symposium.

He said the theme of the symposium was 'Bridging the Gap: Transforming Adolescent Health and Nutrition Research into Actionable Practice and Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa'.

"We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the government and people of Tanzania to fulfill the country's development aspirations, by putting young people at the centre, and enabling them to achieve their full potential," he said.

He said Sub-Saharan Africa is a very young region with nearly one-third of its population between the ages of 10 and 24 years.

"The health and wellbeing of young people continues to play a pivotal role in the development of this region and Tanzania," he said.

Schreiner said in Tanzania 22 percent of teenagers give birth, which is way above global estimations.

He said with the current fertility rate and drivers, the observed decline in teenage pregnancy rates is likely to take a negative turn further if immediate and effective programme, policy, and political actions are not taken.

Also, because adolescent childbearing is

concentrated among teenagers who are poor and low-income; they are at higher risk for nutrition problems, pregnant adolescents may enter pregnancy with reduced nutrient stores with increased risk of nutritional inadequacy and poor maternal outcomes.

"I am happy that this consultation focuses on adolescent health and nutrition," he said.

He said that good news is that progress has been made in improving adolescent health and wellbeing, including adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Right (SRHR).

For example, in Tanzania, teenage pregnancy has dropped from 27 percent in 2015 to 22 percent in 2022.

He said despite noteworthy progress, the SRHR outcomes of young people is still in alarming state in many settings due to stigma, lack of age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, limited access to menstrual health and hygiene education and products, early marriage and other harmful practices.

Others are limited access to family planning information and services, teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, unsafe abortion, increased maternal morbidity, low decision making power especially on SRH and economic vulnerability, among other drivers.

Speaking at the event, Health Minister Ummu Mwalimu, said the government will continue to invest in adolescent health in aspects such as nutrition and mental health as well as awareness to protect them against non-communicable diseases.

"Adolescent youth have many challenges, in-



Prof Mark Elliott (R), Chairman of the Africa Academy for Public Health's Board of Directors, presents an award to Health minister Ummu Mwalimu ward in recognition of her contribution to the health sector. This was at the 5th Annual Symposium of ARISE Network held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is AAPH Tanzania CEO Dr Mary Mwanyika Sando. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

cluding nutrition issues, reproductive health, mental health, overweight and lack of vitamin," she said.

The minister said that the symposium brought together scientists from Africa, United States and Europe to discuss how Tanza-

nian scientific research can be used in policy decision.

"In this symposium, we have seen the launching of research that shows if pregnant women are supplied with calcium, it reduces challenges during their pregnancy journey,"

she said.

She called upon Tanzanians to embrace healthy diets, including reducing cooking oil use, salts and sugar but prioritize physical exercise to avoid non communicable diseases.

By Guardian Reporterr

'Land formalisation sure way to end disputes'

THE implementation of Land Tenure Improvement Project (LTIP) has significantly reduced land disputes and improved settlements in various parts of the country, the government has said.

Speaking at a meeting which brought together civil society organisations (CSOs) in Dodoma recently, the project's assistant coordinator from the Ministry for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Dr Upendo

Matotola said the project has started to produce positive outcomes in villages and streets in both urban and rural areas, thus providing relief to citizens.

According to her, through the project, plots of land, farms and settlements are formalised, enabling people to live in peace and engage in income generating activities.

Dr Matotola called on CSOs and the private sector to support the

project by educating the public on the importance of formalising land

She said the project which commenced in 2022 will go until 2027 by issuing citizens with certificates of rights of occupancy (CROs), certificates of customary rights of occupancy (CCROs) and residential licenses issued and registered (gender disaggregated).

The project will further see increased number of land and property transactions and tenure

security in hundreds of villages and urban settings in the country.

She also said the project supports construction of regional land offices, thus bringing services close to people as well as creating more jobs.

"This project is used as a model in many countries; so, we appeal for support from you (CSOs) by educating the public to formalise their settlements. We know that by formalising our land, we help stimulate the economy due to value added in the plots and settlements," she said.

She told the participants to be good am-

bassadors of the project in order for it to achieve intended goal, namely to transform the land sector.

Innocent Jaji, a participant from Maswa District in Simiyu Region, said the project is important and has come at a right time to help citizens get relief from chronic land disputes.

He said that apart from addressing land disputes, the project increases the value of land and settlements hence enabling people to benefit from their assets.

Mariam Mohamed from Mvomero Dis-

trict, Morogoro Region, said through the implementation of the project, women, youth and persons with disabilities have been prioritised with education and support to enable them own land.

She said the project has reduced land disputes and improved settlements and the awareness campaign conducted before the project implementation has significantly reduced misunderstanding during resolution of land cases.

The \$351 billion project supported by the World Bank which began in September 2022 will cover over 5,000 villages and streets to formalize, own and utilise land for development.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister January Makamba (R) has an audience in Kampala, Uganda, on Thursday with Venezuelan Foreign Affairs minister Yván Gil Pinto (L) on the sidelines of the just-ended five-day Non-Aligned Movement Summit. The latter is reported to have hinted on the possibility of his country opening an embassy in Tanzania soon. Photo: Foreign Affairs ministry

Children suffer sexual violence than adults - report

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MORE children suffered sexual violence and harassment in Zanzibar last year compared to adults, data released yesterday show.

Sabina Raphael Daima, head of gender and labour statistics division at the office of the Chief Government Statistician in Zanzibar, told journalists here yesterday that in 2023 there were a total of 1,954 incidents of sexual violence and harassment involving 1,959 victims.

She said most of the victims were children, accounting for 83.7 percent, women 12.0 percent and men 4.3 percent, adding that girls who faced violence were 1,263 (77.1 percent) and 376 boys, (22.9 percent).

For the month of December alone, she said Zanzibar recorded a decrease in sexual harassment incidents whereby in December, 2023 there were 162 reported cases, fewer than 172 incidents in November.

She said that out of 162 incidents, those involving children accounted for 81.5 percent and women 14.2 percent. There were 31 boys, equal to 23.5 percent and 101 girls, equal to 76.5 percent of the victims.

Daima said there has been a 5.8 percent decline in the monthly incidence rate and in December, there were fewer cases of rape, pederasty and defilement.

She said that comparison of the number of incidents in the same months per year shows increase by 5.2 percent from 154 incidents

reported in December 2022 to 162 cases in December 2023.

She mentioned Mjini District as the leading with 41 incidents, equal to 25.3 percent.

"West 'A' District in Unguja followed with 33 reported incidences, equal to 20.4 percent. Mkoani District accounted for 2.5 percent," she said.

Daima said Mjini District recorded high number of rape cases than other districts, with 13 reported incidents, equal to 18.1 percent of all rape incidents that were reported.

"Of the 72 incidents of rape reported in December 2023, 11 incidents, equal to 15.3 percent, involved women and 61 girls, equal to 84.7 percent," she said.

She said of the 162 incidents, 132 incidents, equal

to 81.5 percent are being investigated by police; 28 cases (17.3 percent) are in the custody of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and two cases have been closed by the police.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
NATASHA KOBUSINGYE
P.O. Box 146
LUSHOTO
TANGA, TANZANIA

Whose Photograph provided above is applying to the Minister of Home Affairs for Tanzania Citizenship. Her nationality at present is UGANDANI. Country of origin UGANDA. She has been living in Tanzania since 2016 Lushoto Tanga as home Mother. Any one, who knows any reasons why citizenship not be granted to the applicant, should send a written and signed statement to the Principal Commissioner of Immigration Services P.O. Box 512 Dar es salaam.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Journalists training program on biodiversity conservation.
Are you a journalist aspiring to increase your knowledge on biodiversity conservation?

The Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) is looking for eligible Tanzanian journalists from different media: online, print, radio, and television to participate on a biodiversity conservation training program and learning tour.

The program aims to increase journalists' understanding on wildlife movement corridors and climate change to improve their media reports. The learning tour will involve visiting seven selected wildlife movement corridors: Amani-Nilo, Burigi- Chato, Mahale-Katavi, Nyerere-Selous, Ruaha Rungwa-Inyonga, Kwakuchinja, and Ruaha Rungwa-Katavi.

Benefits of participating in the program

- Gain a unique understanding of contemporary techniques and practices applied in securing, protecting, sustaining wildlife movement corridors.
- Meet with conservation experts for interviews and increase more sources of information.
- Expand and strengthen your network with fellow journalists.

Who is eligible?

- Journalists with strong interest in covering biodiversity conservation and climate change stories.
- Minimum of three years of professional experience as a journalist.
- Good command in writing, listening, and speaking English.
- Preferred: Previous field experience including identifying sources, conducting interviews, building a story plan, and documentation of best practices.

How to apply

All applications should be submitted in English and sent to jetassociation@gmail.com with the subject captioned as Application For JCEP. The deadline for this application is **4:00pm Friday, January 26th 2024**. Women are encouraged to apply

Application should include the following:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV) detailing experience and education.
- A short essay with 500 words explaining your background and interest in the opportunity, and what story you would be interested in pursuing during the learning tour.
- Evidence of your previous work: two examples of published reports on conservation issues in any available format: online, print, audio, video, radio, and television.
- Letter from your editor committing your participation in the program, including pursuit and publication of the story on conservation and your participation in meetings, trainings, and trips within Tanzania.
- To download the application form visit: www.jet.or.tz

If you have questions about the application, please submit them to John Chikomo through jstanchiko@gmail.com no later than **25th January 2024**.

Government all set to conduct integrated labour force survey

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government is set to conduct an Integrated Labour Force Survey (ILFS) to obtain comprehensive data on the status of the labour market in Tanzania.

Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), made the sentiment yesterday during a meeting with experts in Morogoro.

The minister said the move follows the growth of science and technology which calls for the need to have a clear picture of the labour market in the country.

She said the study will involve 139 experts of which 26 are administrators and statistics managers for a period of 12 months.

The minister said the government needs to get exact data on the state of employment in the country by ensuring that there are experts who are well trained to perform needed tasks.

Prof. Ndalichako said the aim of the study is to get employment sources, the state of joblessness, the size of available labour and the kind of jobs being offered.

"The information from this study will help us

understand the labour market in the country, especially in areas where the country has done better and where it is lagging behind," she said.

Prof. Ndalichako said the idea is to help the government understand the challenges facing the labour sector as well as put in place strategies to achieve goals as set out in the 2020-25 CCM manifesto which aims at producing eight million jobs.

"This shows that the government is committed to ensure that it plans and sets out development goals using data to promote inclusive economic growth and expand the labour market," she said.

Prof. Ndalichako said the results of the new ILFS will be used to measure and monitor implementation of national, regional and international development plans.

She added that the results of the study will help measure implementation of National Development Vision 2025 for Mainland Tanzania and implementation of various programmes and creation of employment opportunities.

Dr Albina Chuwa, Statistician General at the National Bureau of Statistics, said that the research will be conducted in all regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar whereby for the Mainland re-



Ruth Lijimbe (L), a nursing officer with the Endoscopy Unit of Arusha city's Mount Meru Regional Referral Hospital, pictured yesterday briefs journalists and officials from the Health ministry and the President's Office (Local Governments and Regional Administration) on equipment used in the screening of abdominal diseases. The team was on assessment tour of the implementation of health projects in Arusha Region yesterday. Right is Arusha Regional Medical Officer Dr Charles Mkombachepa. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

gions it will take place in 441 counting centres that have been professionally selected to represent all other areas in the country.

She commended development partners in-

cluding the World Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO) for providing financial and technical support for the study.

Anne Makinda, the 2022 Population and

Housing Census Commissioner for Tanzania Mainland who is former Speaker of the National Assembly, said data show that Tanzania has a 55.4 percent of national workforce.

CJ: E-case management system milestone in justice delivery

By Guardian Reporter

CHIEF Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma has urged institutions working in the criminal justice system to execute their duties effectively to ensure timely delivery of services to the people.

Prof Juma made this call on Wednesday when addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam ahead of the celebration of Law Week and Law Day for 2024.

According to him, the judiciary works to improve its services to the people through the Five-Year Strategic Plan Phase Two (2020/21 - 2024/25).

The plan focuses on good governance, accountability, resource management, timely access to justice

and considering the opinions of citizens, court users, stakeholders, and society in general.

He said that one of the major strides which the judiciary has done is the installation of electronic Case Management System (e-CMS) in its courts, a move meant to greatly speed up the delivery of justice.

The CJ said that strengthening information and communication and technology (ICT) infrastructure and the digitalization of case management has become essential to the effectiveness and integrity of the Judiciary.

He said that the new system provides a public portal for users to file documents electronically with access to information for all case

types across all jurisdictions while lawyers will be able to file case documents electronically, reducing the burden of paperwork.

"The system allows paperless case management after a case has been filed and follows through the life cycle of a case such as mediation, automatic allocation of case, hearing, delivery of judgment, closure and finally archiving of case in the system," he said.

He further said that the e-CMS enables registration of case identification numbers that do not repeat and can be used in other courts such as registering proceedings at the Court of Appeal.

The CJ said that the theme of this year's Law Day celebration is 'The Importance of the Concept of Jus-

tice for the Welfare of the Nation: The Role of Judiciary and Stakeholders in Improving the Integrated Criminal Justice System.'

"This theme provides another opportunity for criminal justice institutions to reflect on the recommendations of the Presidential Commission and explore ways to improve these institutions. It emphasises the need for justice to be valued in all measures, institutions, and stages of criminal proceedings," he said.

Elaborating further on the theme, Chief Justice highlighted the various important steps involved in the criminal justice process, including investigations, arrests, prosecution by the National Prosecutions Service, court hearings, and responsi-

bility of the Prison Service in keeping prisoners or detainees.

"Law Week will be used by criminal justice institutions to educate the public on various matters related to criminal justice. One of the challenges identified by the President's Commission is the lack of communication and information sharing among institutions involved in criminal justice. This hampers timely access to justice as it delays investigations and court proceedings. It also affects the operation and management of other justice institutions," he said.

Prof Juma also announced that the Judiciary will celebrate Law Week and Day at the national level from January 24th to 30th this year at Mwalimu Nyerere Square in the

capital Dodoma. Similar celebrations will also take place in all High Court Zones in regions and districts across the country.

He added that the official launch of the Law Week exhibition will be held on January 27, with a special walk starting at 6.00 at Dodoma Integrated Justice Centre and culminating at the Mwalimu Nyerere grounds.

He said the guest of honour will be the Speaker of the National Assembly who also serves as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Dr Tulia Ackson.

The climax of Law Day will be held on February 1st this year at the Chinangali grounds in Dodoma and it will be graced by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.



Melissa McNeil Barrett (L), UNFPA's Deputy Resident Representative in Tanzania, joins various other maternal and child health stakeholders at an "Arise Africa" conference held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

RC orders search as nearly of half form one no-show

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

NEARLY half of pupils selected to join form one in Mara Region this year have not reported, pushing authorities to launch a crackdown in villages and urban areas.

Reports show that since academic term began on January 8 of this year, a total of 20,572 out of the 52,784 children selected to join secondary education have not showed up.

Addressing journalists in Musoma on Thursday, Mara Regional Commissioner Said Mtanda directed district, ward and village leaders to immediately commence house-to-house operation in search of the no-show pupils and take them to school.

He said that as of that day, only 32,212 had reported to school, equal to 61.03 percent of all selected pupils.

The RC also instructed district commissioners, council directors, ward education officers and village officials to follow up on children who are required to start kindergarten and standard one and ensure that they go to school.

"We will take legal action against parents and guardians who do not ensure their children are sent to school by March 31," he said.

With regard to registration of standard one for 2024, he said that 67,061 children were enrolled in the region last year compared to 74,234 anticipated to begin the same grade this month.

"Of the pupils enrolled to start standard one so far, a total of 107 have special needs and they have already started their studies," he said.

The RC explained that a total of 65,076 pupils out of which 32,499 are boys and 32,577 girls have been enrolled in kindergartens which represents 78.7 percent of the 82,679 children who were expected.

Climate change: Study in Tanga shows birds get bigger

By David Colga

AS global temperatures rise, animals, especially birds, have been increasing in size with ecologists saying this trend may be a universal rule of climate change.

It aligns with Bergmann's rule, first described in 1847, which states that animal and bird populations of larger size are generally found in colder environments. Larger bodies have a smaller surface-to-volume ratio, which helps

animals conserve body heat and energy more efficiently.

A new UCLA-led study in the Usambara Mountains of Tanzania's Tanga Region, one of the world's tropical biodiversity hotspots, provides evidence that this trend is not absolute, finding that birds in the region increased in size by an average of 4.1 percent over the last 36 years as temperatures rose. "Our study is one of the first to find trends of increasing body mass and to find them

so pervasively across the community," said UCLA ecologist Monte Neate-Clegg, the paper's lead author. "This is the first time that's been found in the tropics and possibly in the world."

Researchers measured the bodies of 42 bird species in the region, including the dark-backed weaver, forest bats and the square-tailed drongo, and found all 42 species showed a positive trend in body mass. Smaller species had proportionally larger in-

creases in size, but trends across species did not find these changes related to the birds' survival.

It's uncertain what is causing the unusual changes.

One possibility is that as temperatures rise, plants experience longer growing seasons, thus providing more food and other resources to the birds. Another possibility is that declines in species' populations give them larger territories, again providing them with greater resources. There is

also a long-term legacy of habitat fragmentation in the region, perhaps necessitating larger wings to travel among sections of forest.

Most studies on ecology and climate change in the tropics have focused on low-lying areas, particularly in the Amazon basin. Much less is known about how climate change affects mountainous tropical regions. The area studied in this paper is about 3,000 feet above sea level, where temperatures are cooler and the terrain is

more varied.

More studies are needed to understand how climate change affects birds in such mountainous regions, said Neate-Clegg, who is part of a team of UCLA ecologists studying the effects of environmental stressors on bird species in the region. "This research cautions against making sweeping assumptions about the mechanisms by which climate change affects birds," he said. "It points to the importance of understanding

how birds are affected by things like food, rather than things like direct heat tolerance."

Knowing how climate change affects species is critical to conservation efforts. Understanding the factors that contribute to population declines, such as heat, food, habitat availability and additional causes, could enable tailored approaches that could be more effective at protecting birds in the Usambara Mountains and beyond.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience at Zanzibar State House earlier this week with a TCB Bank delegation comprising CEO Adam Mihayo (L) and Board of Directors acting chairman Dr Isaack Shimba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

New curriculum offers learners vocational skills path - experts

By Guardian Reporter

THE new curriculum being developed for secondary schools is meant to equip learners with vocational skills they can use to earn a living upon completion of studies or pursue the same in further studies.

Dr Aneth Komba, Director General of Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE), said at the new document's evaluation session in Dar es Salaam on Thursday the approach will give secondary school leavers an option which is not available under the current curriculum.

In the proposed document, she said that from form one to form four (basic education), there will be two compulsory streams of ordinary and vocational education with the latter offered under the readily available National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET) curriculum and upon graduation, every learner gets two certificates.

"The main aim of education is to build competence in communication, collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving, digital skills, ethics and patriotism," she said.

The expert added that they have improved the curriculum by adding new material and removing out-dated content as well as eliminating repetition in various subjects.

In addition, she said that they have reduced the size of content in each lesson to match teaching time to meet the needs of the nation by considering best practices from other countries. "We have also considered reducing the num-

ber of compulsory subjects at the lower secondary level from seven to six," she said.

Dr Komba said other improvements are to make subjects such as Biology and History optional, noting that the important content of Biology is included in Science in primary education and that History will be taught as a subject under the new name 'History of Tanzania and Morals'.

However, she said another step is to increase the number of subjects from the current four to 11 at secondary level, including Arts, Language, Music, Food and Nutrition, Cooking, Sports and Information Technology.

Dr Komba said that in order to ensure that the new education curriculum is implemented properly, pre-primary and primary education teachers will only be form six leavers with a two-year diploma in teaching.

In the case of secondary school trainee teachers, she noted that they will be holders of education degrees, adding that this means that diploma training for secondary teachers will no longer be accepted.



We have also considered reducing the number of compulsory subjects at the lower secondary level from seven to six

South Africa seeks to block auction of Mandela items

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's government is trying to stop a controversial auction of 70 personal items belonging to anti-apartheid hero Nelson Mandela.

They include a set of hearing aids, an ID card, gifts from world leaders and some of the first democratic president's clothing, such as his statement "Madiba" shirts.

His eldest daughter, Makaziwe Mandela, is auctioning the items in the US.

But the South African government says the items belong to the nation.

Under the country's law, items considered to be of national heritage cannot be taken out of South Africa.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), a government body charged with protecting the country's history and culture, said it had filed an appeal to block the sale.

The appeal has been supported by the sport, arts and culture ministry. Minister Zizi Kodwa said it was

backing the case "for the sake of maintaining the country's rich heritage."

He added that blocking the sale was necessary as Mandela "is integral to South Africa's heritage."

"It is thus important that we preserve the legacy of former President Mandela and ensure that his life's work experiences remain in the country for generations to come."

The government opposed the auction when it was first announced in 2021, arguing that some of the items

proposed for sale were national artefacts.

As a result, the initial auction, which had been planned for 2022, was cancelled and a two-year legal battle ensued.

Last month, the High Court in Pretoria finally gave Ms Mandela the go-ahead to sell the items, disputing the government's argument that they were of national heritage.

Kodwa now says the auction should not proceed as SAHRA and the culture

ministry last month filed a request to appeal against the judgement, citing "the unpermitted export for exhibition or sale" of the items.

The auction is set to begin on 22 January, but it is unclear if the government's appeal will halt it.

The items have already been listed for sale by the New York-based Guernsey's auction house. It says the hearing aids, for example could fetch up to \$20,000 (£16,000) and one shirt might sell for up to \$70,000.

Mandela has not responded to the government's latest opposition and neither have other members of the Mandela family or the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

She had earlier said that proceeds from the auction will go towards setting up a memorial garden in Mandela's honour, near his burial site.

The planned auction has caused a storm in South Africa with some people saying the government should stop the sale of the "priceless" items.

Zambia plans new railway to spur trade in Great Lakes

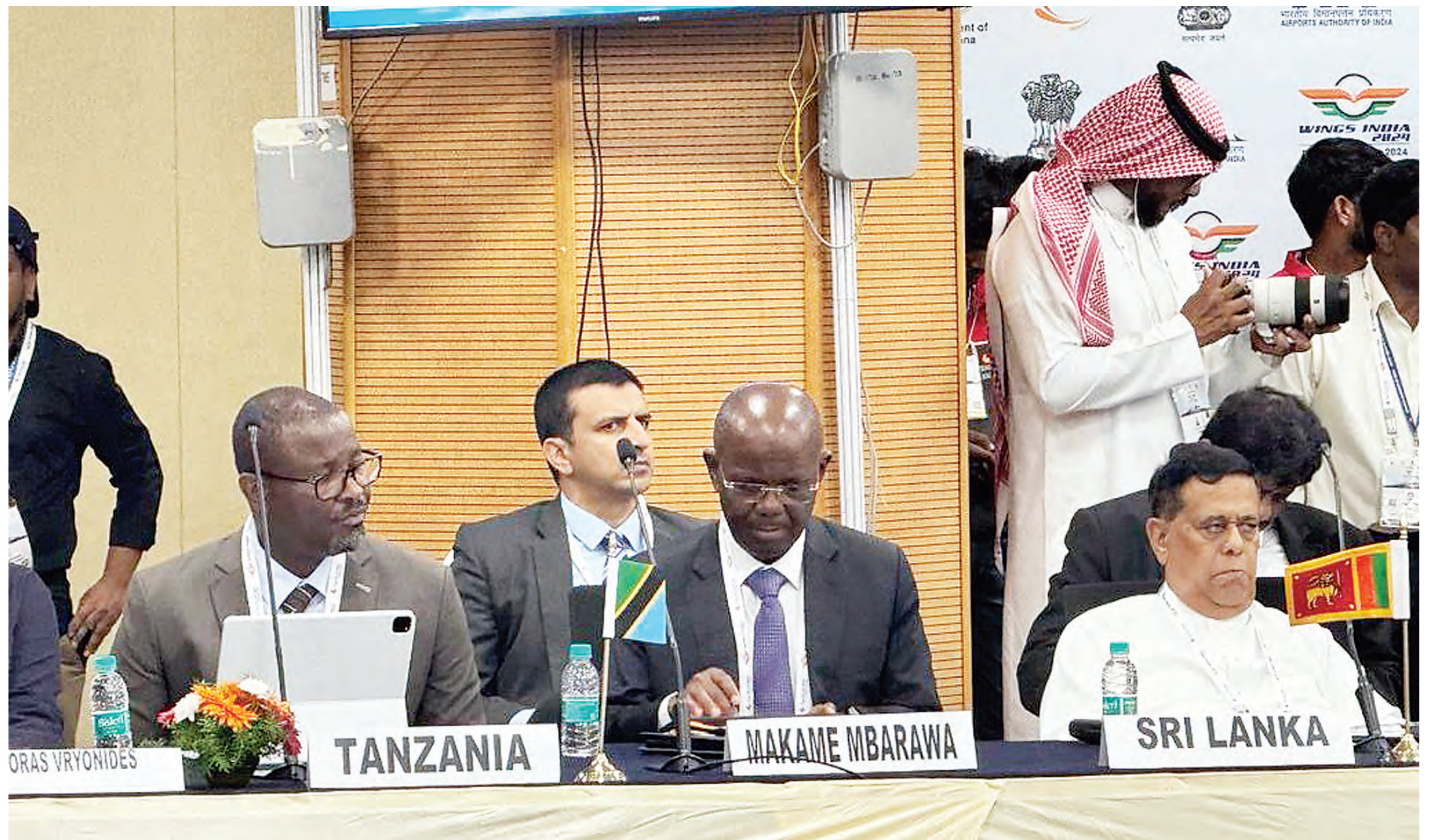
LUSAKA

ZAMBIA plans to build a new rail connection to link Lake Tanganyika harbour to an existing line that runs to neighboring Tanzania to boost trade with three other nations that share borders with the world's longest freshwater lake.

The southern African nation's Transport and Logistics Ministry asked companies to express interest in financing, building and running the concession that will be about 192 kilometers (119 miles) long. The tracks will connect to the Tanzania Zambia Railway (TAZARA) at Nseluka in northern Zambia and run to Mpulungu harbour on Lake Tanganyika, the ministry said in a statement published Thursday in the state-owned Times of Zambia.

Separately, Tanzania and Zambia plan this year to award a concession to a state-owned Chinese company to revitalize the TAZARA concession and operate it on a commercial basis.

That 1,860-kilometer line, which China financed and built in the 1970s, connects Zambia's copper-mining region to the Indian Ocean port of Dar es Salaam. It's fallen into a state of disrepair and operates at a fraction of its design capacity.



Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (2nd-R) pictured in Hyderabad, India, yesterday attending an international ministerial conference on opportunities and challenges in the global aviation industry. Left is Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority director general Hamza Johari. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

Utilise capital markets for safe investment - call

THE Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) has called on individual Tanzanians and institutions to use available capital markets as safe platforms to mobilize long-term savings and raise capital.

Stella Anastazi, CMSA public relation officer made the call yesterday at the closure of the 10th Zanzibar International

Trade Fair in the isles.

She said that the government's vision is to make Zanzibar a strong centre of blue economy in western part of the Indian Ocean.

"The development vision 2050 has clearly indicated that blue economy is the main source of income and promotes Zanzibar globally," she said.

Anastazi said that a capital market is the main stakeholder to ensure different institutions get capital to invest in various economic activities in Zanzibar. "Sectors given priority in blue economy are tourism, energy, transport, fishery and sea management, adding that all interested stakeholders can get capital by investing in blue bonds available at capital mar-

kets," she said.

The PR managers called on financial institutions to issue and promote the blue bonds to enable Tanzanians invest and build the economy.

According to her, the move aims to enable the government to reach its development vision 2050 of making Zanzibar center for blue economy.

She said the international

trade fair has enabled CMSA to register new investors in different products, including shares.

"It is our hope more Tanzanians will continue utilising CMSA to get capital markets knowledge and eventually invest," she said.

This year, Zanzibar International Trade Fair took place concurrently with the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolu-

tionary.

CMSA is mandated to supervise, develop and regulate commodity exchanges in Tanzania. It upholds the capital markets sector in Tanzania through both market development and supervision initiatives. Market development initiatives include development of capital market products and services, conducting investor and pub-

lic awareness programmes and professional certification programmes for market intermediaries.

Market supervision initiatives involve surveillance of trading operations at exchanges namely Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) and Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX) as well as close monitoring of the conduct of all market players and intermediaries to ensure transparency and fair dealings.



Mara regional commissioner Said Mtanda updates journalists in Musoma municipality on Thursday on the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress in the education sector in the region. The activity began at the start the new school year - on January 8. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AfDB empowers Burundian officials on budget execution

By Special Correspondent, Bujumbura

THE African Development Bank has supported the capacity building of 50 managers from Burundi's public administration to consolidate implementation of the budget currently under deployment.

Held recently here, the training sessions covered the preparation of work plans and the annual budget, quarterly progress reports, and annual performance reports in addition to developing a results-oriented public investment programme.

Training also covered the identification of public-private partnership projects, pre-assessments and contract negotiations.

Course participants welcomed the great opportunities for exchange and knowledge-sharing with the trainers, which will help them to improve public management governance and effectiveness, put public financial management on the path to international norms and standards, operationalize the programme approach and strengthen the planning, programming, budgeting and monitoring, and evaluation chain.

Dieudonné Sakubu, Controller of Expenditure Commitments at the Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Burundi at the Prime Minister's Office and at the Independent National Electoral Commission, hailed the training. "This new knowledge will allow me to better serve the administrations whose expenditures and commitments I control," he said. He thanked the ministry of finance and economic planning, which had organized this training with the support of the African Development Bank through its project to support the improvement of resource mobilization and the business climate.

Several attendees expressed satisfaction with the utility of the training. "Many of the challenges we used to face will be resolved thanks to this training," said Rose Kelly Nahishakiye, a support officer at the Burundi Development Agency.

Gérard Manariyo, an officer at the Agency for the Support of Public-Private Partnership Contracts, said that he had learned how to prepare tender documents and better develop public-private partnership contract award documents.

One dead, six injured in Comoros post-election protests

MORONI

A SECOND day of unrest in the Indian Ocean island nation of Comoros on Thursday left one person dead and at least six others injured, a health official said.

The protests came after incumbent President Azali Assoumani was declared the winner in an election held over the weekend that was denounced by the country's opposition parties as fraudulent.

The announcement late Tuesday that Assoumani had won a fourth term triggered violent protests that

started Wednesday, when a government minister's house was set on fire and a car at the home of another minister was burned.

People also vandalized a national food depot. Several roads in and around the capital, Moroni, were barricaded by protesters who burned tires. Riot police clashed with the demonstrators.

On Thursday, a curfew was in force from 7pm-6am in Moroni (the capital), the Bambao region and Itsandra. In the rest of the country it was from 10pm-6am.

The person who died was a young

man, said Dr. Djabir Ibrahim, the head of the emergency department at the El-Maarouf Hospital in Moroni. He said that the man likely died of a gunshot wound. One of the injured was in a serious condition, he said.

U.N. human rights Chief Volker Türk appealed for calm and urged authorities to allow people to protest peacefully. His office said that it received reports of security forces firing tear gas at peaceful protesters, including on a march by a group of women earlier this week. Türk also said that he was concerned with repression in Comoros in recent years.

Opposition parties have claimed that Sunday's vote was fraudulent and say the national electoral commission is biased toward Assoumani, a former military officer who first came to power in a 1999 coup. The opposition has called for the election results to be canceled.

Comoros has a population of around 800,000 spread over three islands.

Assoumani, 65, was reelected with 62.97 percent of the vote after changing the constitution in 2018 to allow him to sidestep term limits. He has been accused of cracking down on

dissent and previously banned protests. He chairs the African Union, where his one-year largely ceremonial term will end next month.

The government said that a number of protesters were arrested, without offering specifics, and accused the opposition of finding "it difficult to accept defeat" and inciting the unrest.

"We know the instigators," government spokesperson Houmed Msaidie said. "Some of them are in the hands of law enforcement. We will continue to look for them, because there is no question of the state giving way to violence."

A coalition of opposition parties denied the accusations, saying the unrest shows that people are "fed up" with the government.

When Assoumani changed the constitution in 2018, the move triggered mass demonstrations across the nation and an armed uprising on one of the islands that was quelled by the army.

After taking power in a coup, Assoumani was first elected president in 2002. He stepped down in 2006, but returned to win a second term in 2016.

Minister directs action against contractor for 'poor' road work

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

WORKS Minister Innocent Bashungwa has expressed dissatisfaction with the construction of Kanyinabushwa-Mbale 'A' road in Missenyi district, Kagera Region, saying it has been done below standard.

He directed the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) and the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) to promptly act by filling lawsuits against project manager and the contractor for what he termed 'sabotage'.

According to him, the contractor failed to comply with the standards in construction, thus resulting in some key parts of the road such as culverts to collapse.

Minister Bashungwa made this statement yesterday after a video went viral on social media showing area residents lamenting about low quality of the infrastructure.

He said the government cannot stand by while contractors disregard guidelines for infrastructure construction, hence putting the lives of users at risk.

Bashungwa said construction project managers and contractors have been asked to make sure they work in compliance with set standards and contracts because the projects that have been and are still being implemented cost significant amount of Tanzanians' money, adding that the government suffers losses as a result of negligence.

Avith Theodory, manager of Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) in Kagera Region said that the contractor failed to supervise the project as people were allowed to use the road while it was still under construction.

He added that although the contract forbids the contractor from working without informing the project manager, the contractor broke the agreement by claiming that TARURA rejected the culverts.

The manager however said that the contractor has already been directed to return to the site and repeat the construction.

A citizen who wished to remain anonymous shared a little video clip on Thursday questioning the quality of the infrastructure.



Sotta Mining Ltd's community liaison officer John Bwana (R) pictured earlier this week presenting to Nyang'hwale District Council chairman John John desks and tables worth more than 6m/- which the firm has extended as support to the district's Nyantukuzanhwiga Secondary School Looking on is Nyang'hwale district executive director Husna Tony. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MNH eyes on beauty enhancement after feat in weight reduction

By Guardian Reporter

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has announced it is set to start offering surgical beauty enhancement services in June this year to save huge amounts of money spent by Tanzanians abroad for the same.

Prof Mohamed Janabi, MNH executive director, said in a statement on Thursday that the services will include Brazilian butt lift, breast

augmentation with fat grafting and breast reduction. The move follows the referral facility's success in its intragastric balloon services which Janabi said saved \$3 million (7.54bn/-) which would have been spent by Tanzanians abroad.

"So far, a total of 200 people have been treated since we started offering the service last year," reads the statement.

Intragastric balloon service is a medical procedure to insert an inflatable medical device

into the stomach to help reduce weight without surgery. "If these Tanzanians went to Turkey or South Africa for instance, they could have spent \$15,000 times 200 which translates to \$3 million," he said.

Prof Janabi said the hospital is now working on creating an environment to start offering the new services which he said will be regarded as non-urgent, adding that the move targets people who are not satisfied with their personal looks.

"This procedure is well known in the world; it is an elective procedure and not an emergency. This is a personal decision where an individual decides to change appearance," he said.

Prof Janabi said the service does not require a special machines but only the ultra-sound for locating where the injection goes.

He said a patient feels pain only during injection and at a place which is operated between 2 to 3 centimetres and its professional name is

Brazilian butt lift.

Prof Janabi refuted reports that have been circulating on social media that the hospital is already offering the services.

"MNH is a specialized hospital in various services; we believe that through the services we will save money which could have been spent if the services were offered abroad but also facilitate foreign currency reserve boost through medical tourism," he said.

Extreme icy weather paralyzes travel in some parts of Europe

By Agencies

FREEZING weather in Germany and other parts of Europe threatened widespread road, rail and flight disruptions as the region braced for snowfall and heavy ice build-up.

Frankfurt's airport operator cancelled more than half of the flights scheduled for Wednesday, while the country's weather service warned of "extreme black ice" in the southwest and advised drivers not to venture out. Rail operator Deutsche Bahn AG said snow and ice could cause delays and train cancellations and limited the maximum speed of its high-speed ICE trains to 200 kilometers per hour (124 miles an hour).

Icy temperatures have been dominating northern Europe for the past few days. The cold is set to intensify in Germany and parts of France until Saturday. Meanwhile, the UK experienced its coldest night of winter so far, the Met Office said in a post on X.

Milder weather is forecast to take over from Sunday. Next week, temperatures in London, Paris and

Frankfurt are expected to hit highs of more than 10C, well above usual levels for the season. A total of 66 heating degree days is seen in Maxar Technologies Inc.'s 6-10 day forecast, 14.9 heating degree days below the 10-year average.

For now, the extreme cold continues to pose widespread challenges.

Sweden's national forecaster issued orange and yellow weather warnings for parts of the west and the east coast as an "intense low pressure system" sweeps in from the west, bringing heavy snow.

An Air France-KLM flight bound for Amsterdam got stuck in the snow at Gothenburg's airport on its way to the runway, according to local media, which stated there were no injuries. Several departures were delayed or cancelled, the airport's website showed.

"It will be a difficult 24 hours weather-wise in large parts of Sweden," said meteorologist Sverker Hellstrom. In Norway, Oslo's Gardermoen airport halted air traffic due to heavy snow until 2:30 p.m. local time, it said on its website.



Zimbabwe's Information and Communication Technology minister, Tatenda Mavetera (C), in a jovial mood shortly after receiving a canvas painting for a souvenir from Selestin Kakele (2nd-R), by Deputy Permanent Secretary in Tanzania's Information, Communications and Information Technology ministry, and Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) secretary general Sifundo Moyo (L). It was during celebrations held in Arusha city on Thursday to mark the union's 44th founding anniversary. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

African states urged to partner more with private sector to boost aquaculture

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

WITH its vast water resources, including lakes, rivers and coastal areas, the African continent's capacity for aquaculture development has been identified as a promising solution to address food insecurity, as well as help in poverty eradication.

African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) Director Dr Huyam Salih on Monday said the sector can contribute significantly to meeting the growing need for food by providing a sustainable and efficient means of producing fish, shrimp, and other aquatic species.

Moreover, she noted that the controlled environment of aquaculture systems allows for year-round production, reducing the impact of sea-

sonal variations on food availability.

Speaking at the sidelines of the ongoing three-day AU-IBAR planned 2nd General Assembly Congress of Aquaculture for Africa (ANAF), the Director said a lot remains to be done, in a bid to address the existing bottlenecks.

"One of the main challenges is (lack of) financial capital and bringing of stakeholders together to collaborate and establish evolving investments to cover the requested aquaculture production," she said.

Through ANAF, however, she said the aquaculture production is set to be enhanced, in a bid to bridge the existing fish production gaps in the continent.

ANAF was officially endorsed by African Ministers at a recent meeting in Addis Ababa as African Union rec-

ognized Network to support aquaculture development in Africa with its Secretariat based at AU-IBAR.

According to the AU-IBAR Director, the original concept for ANAF is to serve as a stand-alone continental institution providing technical backing and facilitation to the African aquaculture "subsector and continue to support aquaculture development in the continent, as an autonomous and self-reliant intergovernmental organization."

To realize the objectives of ANAF, she challenged the private sector to collaborate more with governments, in a bid to develop the sector.

For small scale aquaculture farmers to thrive, she said governments should ensure there is seamless information sharing and to facilitate creation of cooperatives, for them to

access financing from financial institutions.

"There is a need to bring in more private sector players to help enhance aquaculture production," she said.

During the event, various stakeholders pointed out that small-scale fish farming can empower local communities by creating employment opportunities and generating income.

By encouraging entrepreneurship in aquaculture, the stakeholders drawn from various sectors including from the Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Kenyan government said individuals and communities can build resilience against economic uncertainties.

Additionally, they said the sector promotes gender equality, as women often play essential roles in small-

scale aquaculture operations.

Despite its potential, aquaculture in Africa faces numerous challenges.

Limited access to finance and technology hampers the development of the industry, particularly for small-scale farmers.

Also pointed out is infrastructure deficiencies, such as inadequate transportation and storage facilities, which contribute to post-harvest losses, reducing the economic impact of aquaculture.

Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa Ndiaga Gueye said ANAF objectives include efforts to maximize the utilization of scarce resources for aquaculture development in Africa, fostering sustainable growth to combat poverty, ensure food security, provide employment, and promote rural

development.

He pointed out that the objectives align seamlessly with FAO's mission of achieving, "more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, better environment, and better life leaving no one behind."

In a speech read by Dismas Mbazizi, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Africa, Gueye said "since the 2005 Fish for All Summit, ANAF has grown into a vital force driving sustainable aquaculture development in Africa."

While aquaculture holds great promise for promoting food security and poverty eradication in Africa, the stakeholders have said concerted efforts are needed to overcome existing challenges.

UK lower house passes bill to send migrants to Rwanda

LONDON

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak overcame a Conservative Party rebellion and got his plan to send some asylum-seekers on a one-way trip to Rwanda through the House of Commons on Wednesday.

Lawmakers voted 320 to 276 to back a bill intended to overcome a UK Supreme Court block on the Rwanda plan.

The vote came a day after some 60 members of Sunak's governing Conservatives rebelled in an effort to make the legislation tougher.

The bill now goes to the unelected House of Lords, Parliament's upper chamber, where Sunak's Conservatives do not have a majority.

The Lords can delay and amend legislation but ultimately can't overrule the elected House of Commons.

More than 29,000 people made the perilous journey in 2023, down from 42,000 the year before.

Five people died in the night of January 13 to January 14 while trying to launch a boat from northern France in the dark and winter cold.

In December, Last year, the UK government confirmed an additional £100 million in funding to facilitate the relocation of asylum seekers to Rwanda, following a prior payment of £140 million earlier this year.

The relocation initiative, introduced by former Prime Minister Boris Johnson in April

2022, aims to process and potentially resettles asylum seekers in Rwanda, as a deterrent for those attempting to cross the English Channel in small boats.

Despite legal challenges causing repeated delays, no asylum seekers have been sent from the UK under this scheme.

According to Sir Matthew Rycroft, the Home Office's top civil servant, the revelation of the increased funding came shortly after Chancellor Rishi Sunak's commitment to revive the plan following the resignation of the immigration minister. This move is part of the government's effort to address the policy, which was deemed unlawful by the Supreme Court last month.

Sir Matthew emphasized that the additional payments are unrelated to a new treaty signed this week between the UK and Rwanda. Legal migration minister Tom Pursglove asserted that the funds are essential to ensure the robustness of the Rwanda policy, which plays a pivotal role in reducing the government's daily expenditure on housing migrants in UK hotels, currently estimated at £8 million.

The disclosed figures were provided in response to inquiries from the Home Affairs Select Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. Dame Meg Hillier, chair of the spending watchdog, expressed concerns about transparency, stating that the government's delayed disclosure of the full costs suggested a potential lack of transparency.



Freddy Mwesiga (R), a senior tax officer with the Tanzania Revenue Authority, has a word with a trader in Kigoma on Thursday in the course of a door-to-door sensitisation drive on the importance of Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) certificates. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Initiative to manage fish waste chocking Lake Victoria

By Halligan Agade

AROUND 4 million individuals in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda collectively depend on Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa, for their livelihoods.

According to the African Great Lakes information platform, nearly 200,000 people are directly employed in activities related to the lake. However, the lake's crucial natural resources are under threat due to the

significant amount of fish waste being discarded into its waters on a daily basis.

Lake Victoria is home to a substantial population of Nile Perch, Tilapia, and sardine, which serve as a major source of income for communities residing around the lake. The processing of these fish into various products, however, generates considerable waste that ends up back in the lake and adjacent water bodies.

The Kenya Marine and Fisheries

Research Institute reports that fishing activities contribute approximately 150,000 tonnes of fish waste annually, posing a looming environmental threat to Lake Victoria.

In response to this issue, communities surrounding the lake are taking the lead in implementing environmentally sustainable methods to minimize and eventually eliminate these wastes.

One such community taking this initiative is composed of fishmongers

at Obung'a market, collaborating with the County Government of Kisumu. They have embraced circular economy principles and environmental sustainability practices to effectively manage fish waste.

Joseph Amoke, an officer from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and a coordinator at the market says their initiative involves processing fish remains, including skin, scales, fish bones, and offal, for both human consumption and as raw

materials for livestock feeds. He adds that these waste materials primarily originate from fish filleting companies specializing in fish steaks.

Amoke further explains that upon arrival at the center, individuals are assigned various tasks to deal with the waste. Some remove scales, others grind bones for animal feeds, and some are tasked with deep-frying the remaining flesh on fish skeletons, which is then sold to consumers as food.

Amoke emphasizes the significance of fish in generating livelihoods for rural communities globally, stating that the initiative has proven crucial in preventing waste products from entering water bodies, thereby averting environmental pollution. Additionally, it has created job opportunities for nearly 300 individuals involved in transportation, washing, cutting, deep-frying, and packaging.

Despite its success, the project faces challenges, particularly related

SATURDAY 20 JANUARY 2024

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

We know all we need to know about cholera, but we're ever so vulnerable!

UNICEF has raised alarm over what is reported as a rapidly spreading cholera outbreak in some African countries.

With various countries experiencing the outbreaks simultaneously, questions are being asked as to whether the trigger could be related to recent year-end festivities or the heavy rains that have lately wreaked havoc on sanitary and other infrastructure.

According to the UN agency, the cholera menace has spread to at least ten countries, with the situation in some of the states affected being described as acute or unsettling and calling for immediate rectification.

A health adviser with UNICEF's East and Southern Africa region has said that some 200,000 cases have been reported and more than 3,000 lives lost in what is now looking like an epidemic.

Cholera usually strikes most menacingly in especially degraded localities, even if not really something to describe as affecting a series of countries in the manner the likes of polio or some other viral disease would.

The crisis is essentially a failure in water supply and sewage treatment systems plus the collection and disposal of solid waste, which means that the routine level of efficacy in managing or administering such social environment facilities no longer suffices, so governments have to do a lot better at present.

While this is a running situation and other countries may still see cases rising, there is a bit of need to figure out, if possible, why there is a noticeable outbreak in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Somalia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This should also be within the broad explanation that the key drivers are long-term poor water sanitation and hygiene conditions. This factor is exacerbated by changing weather patterns expressed generally as climate change, leading to floods and droughts.

Here the problem is far less the drought than the floods, in part considering that not all countries experiencing

heavy flooding are in the cholera outbreak list.

Needless to say, there appears to be need for a growth or social provision scale for outbreaks of cholera, as many countries experienced floods.

Graphic illustrations of the situation at one instance showed a man walking past flowing sewage in Harare at the time of the outbreak - which would make think of mentally linking that image with the wider cholera situation.

A more sober note stated that there was a shortage of purified water in the Zimbabwean capital, pushing residents to depend on open sources.

Now, many such sources are wells often risking interacting with contaminated underground surfaces when pit latrines aren't adequately at some safe distance. This could relatively easily touch off an outbreak of cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases.

While glares are being directed at uncollected garbage and running sewage as being behind the major factors explaining the cholera outbreak, there will be understandable reservations.

It is not uncommon for sections of our urban areas to have piles of garbage lying uncollected for days on end or running sewage flowing into open roadside drainage canals on roadsides - sure eyesores.

Yes, such flooding would stand as a key culprit but the irresponsibility of whoever ought to arrest the situation and whoever would proceed to use such sewage, say, in domestic chores or even merely in watering vegetable gardens should also count as being in the wrong.

The bottom line here is that, with the impact of climate change and the need to forestall or mitigate the damage epidemics like cholera can wreak, plenty must change in how we source water for our various needs and in the ways we dispose of all manner of waste.

Too bad, at least in this regard, we have not learned enough from experience - and, understandably, we keep paying heavily for our recklessness.

Personal archives can be study field, with updated technology

SOCIAL biographers and political chroniclers are still trying to grasp the significance of the innovative Dr Salim Ahmed Salim Digital Archive based in Dar es Salaam.

The latest news is that the repository has been updated with fresh information on the work and life of the world-renowned former Tanzanian diplomat.

Chroniclers say the Dr Salim repository complements the President Nelson Mandela archive as the only other publicly searchable digital archive to be found in Africa.

It isn't altogether surprising that the two statesmen have their memories and reflections in public archives, as they were doubtless outstanding globally acknowledged genuine peacemakers.

Looking around the continent, it is likely that there are few other truly well-meaning leaders with little to hide from the public and who can offer their memoirs and recollections to appear in public archives.

Much similarly the same applies to those holding estates and who could make an effort to attain that level not only of exposure but also of communication and an appeal at comprehension.

If the mistakes were only human, the bearer would expect the public to understand. We thus have some recollections put into books in the past and even in modern times but it is hard for book-level memories to be lifted to a critical research level.

According to officials at the Dr Salim repository, the update is part of ongoing archive sprucing up of sorts largely meant to make the memoirs a dynamic field where readers or researchers will be accessing more information as time passes. That can be done by handing questions for updating of memories while the personality concerned is still around or as

third-party additions by searching from recollections of other people or public records.

We may not have the habit of releasing public records say 50 years after an event has taken place, as it is presumed that no antagonists of that period would still be on the public stage, and indeed about the same issues.

The archive's administrators say that they hope that the material added to what is already in hand will trigger invaluable dialogue around African and international diplomacy, alluding especially to multilateralism in an uncertain global environment.

Evidently, this discussion would have been further enriched were there similar public records belonging to that period, even if this stretched back to say 30 years ago - that is, at the height of the diplomat's career.

That remains a project for the future possibly to be decided in tandem with progress in both liberalisation and democratisation as inseparable from 'greater freedom,' as the late Dr Kofi Annan, himself also a salutary international civil servant, often declared.

While digital archives already make a difference in what is available, the rise of artificial intelligence in searching the internet and connecting whatever material that has at least been lodged on the internet could eventually make a difference.

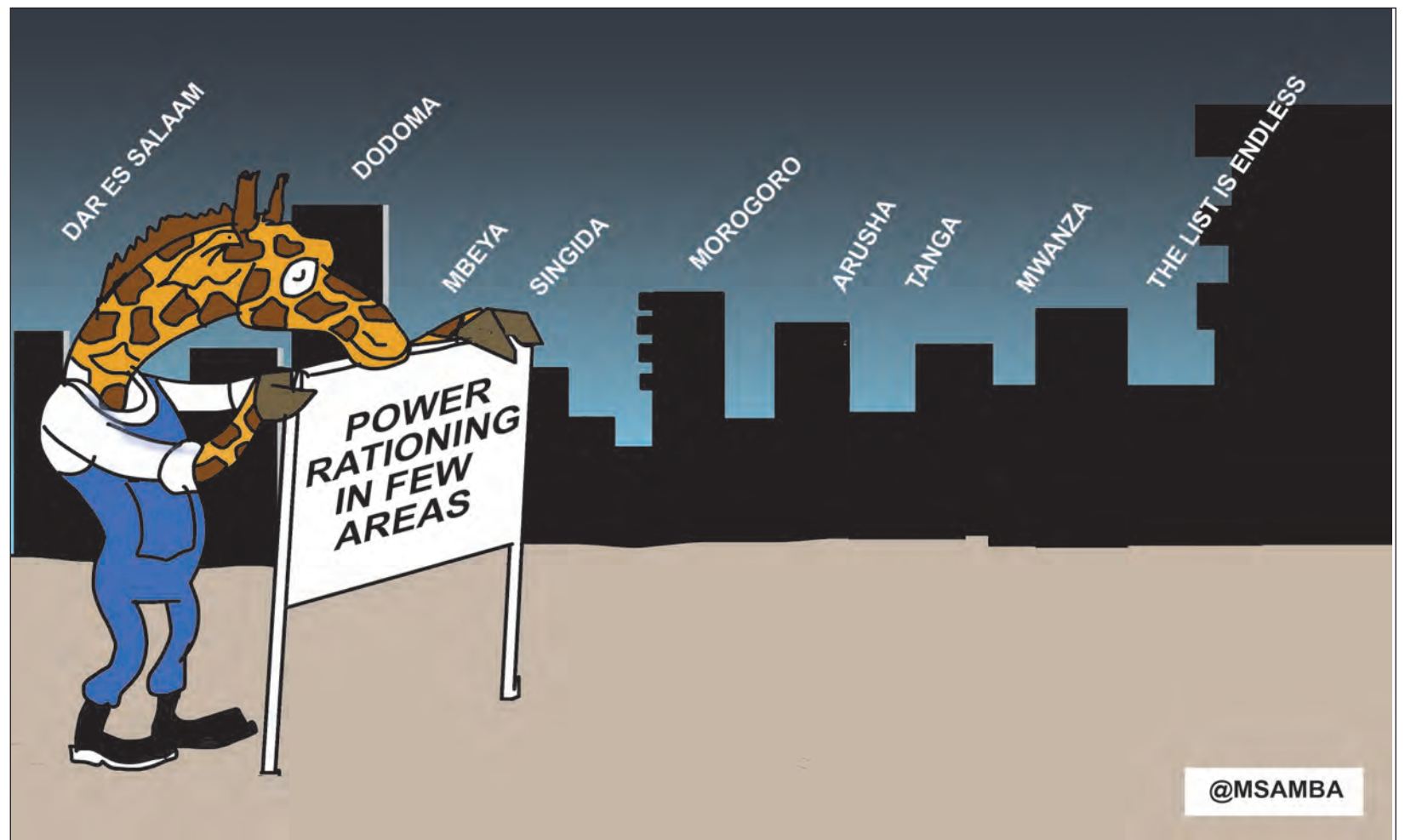
More real-life reconstruction - for instance, in the work of distinguished diplomats or top-level public administrators - will be possible.

That would make the learning of either diplomacy or public administration more direct - even more real-life. It is plainly a matter of dreaming, but the willingness to offer such material by the celebrated Tanzanian is truly invaluable.

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Promoting building of closer China-Africa and China-Tanzania communities with shared future

By Chen Mingjian

THE just-ended year saw Chinese President Xi Jinping choose Tanzania as the first stop of his first visit to Africa, during which he solemnly declared that "China and Africa have always been a community with a shared future".

He made the remarks in a speech at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Tanzania's commercial city, Dar es Salaam.

At the end of 2023, the Central Conference on Work Related to Foreign Affairs was held in Beijing, with President Xi Jinping delivering an important speech systematically illustrating the concept of building a community with a shared future for humankind.

This concept conforms to the universal aspirations of people all over the world and becomes the lofty goal pursued by major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

But just what is a community with a shared future for humankind? It means that the future and destiny of every nation and country are closely linked, and they stand together regardless of situation, sharing weal and woe (meaning in both prosperity and adversity; in good times and bad - or both in times of happiness and success and in times of sadness and difficulty) for harmonious coexistence and win-win cooperation.

Now, just how to build a community with a shared future for humankind? The goal is to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world enjoying lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

The path is through global governance of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, all underpinned by common values of humankind.

It is supported by creating a new type of international relations and guided by implementing the global development initiative, the global security initiative and the global civilisation initiative.

The platform is promoting high-quality "Belt and Road" cooperation. A decade ago, President Xi Jinping proposed the building of a community with a shared future for humankind and the "Belt and Road Initiative".

Building a community with a shared future for humankind has developed from an idea to a scientific system, from China's initiative to an international consensus, and from a good vision to abundant practice. The system has been written into the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly for seven consecutive years and has been continuously extended to various regions and fields, setting a glorious banner for human development and progress.

History always advances in twists and turns, and the historical process of building a community with a shared future for humankind cannot be smooth sailing. Given the series of major issues and



challenges facing the world today, China, as a responsible major country, calls for an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation in order to gather broader international consensus and provide more effective solutions.

Building a community with a shared future for humankind requires advocating an equal and orderly multipolar world.

An equal and orderly multipolar world is one in which all countries, regardless of size, are treated as equals, hegemonism and power politics are rejected, and democracy is truly promoted in international relations.

To keep the progress towards greater multipolarity generally stable and constructive, the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter must be observed by all, and the universally recognised, basic norms governing international relations must be upheld by all, and true multilateralism must be practised.

Accordingly, China calls for jointly abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, jointly adhering to the universally recognised basic norms of international relations, and practising real multilateralism to ensure the overall stability and constructiveness of the multipolarisation process.

Building a community with a shared future for humankind requires the advocating of a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation.

China advocates the expansion and distribution of the "cake" of economic globalisation, meets the common needs of all countries, especially the developing countries, and properly addresses the development imbalances between and within countries resulting from the global allocation of resources.

The idea is to make development adequate and balanced and promote the formation of globalisation that is conducive to the accelerated development of all countries in the world, especially developing countries. China advocates that all countries follow the development path that suits their national conditions while at the same time working together to create the common development of all humankind.

Building China-Africa and China-Tanzania communities with a shared future is an important part of building a community with a shared future for humankind.

Over the past ten years, under the guidance of the concept of building a China-Africa community with a shared future, China-Africa and China-Tanzania relations have achieved leap-forward development.

In 2022, the trade volume between China and Africa reached USD 282 billion, and China became Africa's largest trading partner for 14 consecutive years. A total of 52 African countries and the African Un-

ion Commission signed the "Belt and Road" cooperation documents with China, becoming the most active region in building the "Belt and Road".

China-Africa cooperation has played an important role in promoting Africa's economic and social development and breaking bottlenecks to Africa's sustainable development, and has become a model of South-South cooperation.

China has always supported African countries independently exploring development paths suitable to their national conditions, jointly expand the cake of global development, and promote globalisation to benefit Africa's development in a more balanced way.

China has always supported African countries striving to play a greater role in the international arena, this most especially reflected in its support for making special arrangements to give priority to solving Africa's demands on the reform of the UN Security Council, taking the lead in supporting the African Union to join the G20 and Ethiopia to become a new member of the BRICS mechanism.

In August 2023, President Xi Jinping put forward the "Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialisation", the "Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernisation" and the "Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development" at the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue to help Africa achieve development and revitalisation with practical actions.

Tanzania is an important country in Africa and plays an important role in the overall situation of China's relations with Africa. Under the guidance of the diplomacy of the two heads of state, President Xi Jinping and Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan, bilateral cooperation has achieved fruitful results and has always been at the forefront of developing countries.

In 2023, China remained Tanzania's largest trading partner and largest investor. From January to November 2023, the two volume of the two countries' bilateral trade reached USD 7.96 billion, and China is expected to become Tanzania's largest trading partner for eight consecutive years.

China's investment in Tanzania has meanwhile also achieved remarkable results, with the total investment of the Wangkang Sapphire Float Glass (Tanzania) Factory project alone reaching USD 311 million.

Important projects undertaken by Chinese companies, among them the 5th Section of the Tanzania Central Line (Standard Gauge Railway) and the Julius Nyerere Hydro-power Station, have been steadily advanced.

Pragmatic cooperation between China and Tanzania has made important contributions to Tanzania in realising trade diversification, promoting economic transformation and enhancing people's livelihood and well-being.

China firmly supports Tanzania's independent exploration of the development path suiting its national conditions and resolutely opposes interference by external forces in Tanzania's internal affairs.

For its part, Tanzania has rendered China firm support on the Taiwan question and issues related to Xinjiang (region) and human rights, illustrating the unbreakable brotherhood between China and Tanzania.

The year 2024 is an important year in the history of China-Tanzania relations, with the two countries celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them.

China is willing to work with African countries including Tanzania in implementing the concept of a community with a shared future for humankind, jointly implementing the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilisation Initiative, as well as advocating equal and orderly world multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation.

China is also willing to promote the continuous development of China-Tanzania comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership for the benefits of the Chinese, Tanzanian, and African peoples as a whole.

* Chen Mingjian (pictured) is the Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania.

By Telesphor Magobe

Making resolutions to be more law-abiding, responsible citizens

LAST week, we briefly reflected on the year 2023 to see how this column has helped us to know some legal issues or court proceedings that we wouldn't have known had we not read it.

We also reiterated the purpose of this column that it is meant to help laypersons to know what the law says on issues they are familiar with in life, but which may have legal consequences

they are ignorant of.

Today, as we are already in the first week of the New Year 2024 there are

things we can plan for this year. Thus, I invite you to plan well what we intend to do for this year to familiarise ourselves with the law we are subject to.

The idea behind this is that we want to be more law-abiding and responsible citizens. There are certainly many things we don't know yet, but which can help us solve our legal problems and we can even help others who are in need of legal help.

Since we may not know yet what the law says, the best thing to start with is to buy our copy of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania. There is a pocket size copy of the Constitution which can be very helpful to us and we can carry it wherever we go and can read it little by little at any time we want. When we finish it we may want to read it again or as many times as we need. We may also wish to buy a copy of the Constitution of Zanzibar.

The Constitution is the fundamental law and any other laws and regulations should not conflict with it, otherwise they will have no legal effect. Actually, anything (oral or written statement or any act) that contradicts the Constitution has no legal effect. Article 64(5) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania states that "...in the event any other law conflicts with the provisions contained in this Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail and that other law, to the extent of the inconsistency with the Constitution, shall be void."

It is good to remind ourselves too that any statements made by politicians which contradict the Constitution, laws and regulations do not have any legal effect. So, we should not do things based on politicians' statements which we know do not comply with the Constitution, any law or regulation.

When we have any complaint and we seek court relief we have to provide a law which we think entitles us to seek court relief or if a law has been violated and we have suffered from

that violation we have also to show how we have suffered from it. If we do, we will be on track as far as our constitutional rights are concerned.

Article 13 of the Constitution establishes equality before the law. Article 13(1) states that: "All persons are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to protection and equality before the law."

Article 13(6) explains further this equality before the law that "(a) when the rights and duties of any person are being determined by the court or any other agency, that person shall be entitled to a fair hearing and to the right of appeal or other legal remedy against the decision of the court or of the other agency concerned;

(b) No person charged with a criminal offence shall be treated as guilty of the offence until proved guilty of that offence;

(c) No person shall be punished for any act which at the time of its commission was not an offence under the law, and also no penalty shall be imposed which is heavier than the penalty in force at the time the offence was committed."

This means any person is entitled to 1) natural justice (a procedural requirement of fairness) and to the right of appeal, 2) the presumption of innocence until he or she is found guilty of the criminal offence he or she is charged with and 3) no person shall be punished for an offence which when it was committed, it was not an offence at all under the law and no person shall be subjected to any penalty which is heavier than the offence he or she committed at the time of its commission.

These are basic things to know and once we know them we will be able little by little to know our constitutional rights and how to claim them.

It is also good to keep in mind that "he who sleeps on his or her rights loses them". In other words, if you are unaware

that you are entitled to certain things or when you don't claim your rights you will certainly lose them because there is nobody who will do so for you.

You have to show that you have those rights and that those rights have been violated. It is only then you can claim them because you have the locus stand to do so. It suffices to say that we are entitled to exercise our rights and claim them when they are violated or are not respected and when we claim our rights we have the duty too to fulfil.

Today's legal maxim: "He who enjoys the benefit ought also to bear the burden; and the contrary."

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



The idea behind this is that we want to be more law-abiding and responsible citizens. There are certainly many things we don't know yet, but which can help us solve our legal problems and we can even help others who are in need of



That deserted historical Mnazi Mmoja garden in Dar es Salaam...

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

NAMES given to particular locations have certain significances in societies. Some have historical backgrounds that highlight the meaning of an area like how it started and so many other presumptions.

The Mnazi Mmoja garden in the country's commercial city—Dar es Salaam is one of those locations. The garden has for long become a typical example for being the cornerstone of community life in the country dating back during colonial era as well as post-independence time.

During the German colonialism between 1891 and 1916, the garden was used as a military base that received soldiers from Sudan—the Nubians who had been transferred to the area after the First World War.

At that time, the area had been surrounded by numerous muddy huts known as 'Tembe' in Kiswahili which were owned by poor indigenous Africans who had developed their farm settlements and planted some coconut trees.

Due to poor land preservation methods as years went by, fire broke and gutted down people's properties including structures and some coconut trees.

However, after the end of the First World War, the Tanganyika territory was handed to the British colonial government in accordance with the British Imperial laws enacted to snatch all three German colonies in the African continent including Tanganyika (Tanzania mainland).

The British introduced a city master plan aiming to have open spaces. One of the laws they applied was a Township Rule which was enacted in 1923 specifically to align measures that would enable create open spaces and the current Mnazi Mmoja garden was chosen as the most convenient sites.

Before application of this law, the colonial government prohibited renovation of dilapidated huts, ordering grand demolition of all structures that had been constructed within the restricted area.

As up to 1930, about 170 huts had been pulled down to pave way for creation of the Mnazi Mmoja garden.

In 1920, Dar es Salaam was given a town status under the influence of the British colonial government and in 1950 it was upgraded to a municipal. Since that time, the open garden of Mnazi Mmoja was used for different social celebrations.

The geographical position of this urban oasis with a rectangle shape covering approximately 20 acres of land is demarcated into four major parks with each designed to portray tales of the country's historical and political significance.

It is in this precise spot where various political gatherings flourished to foster social interactions that aimed to expound people's knowledge with a view to inform people on political matters which were taking place after independence.

The symbolic celebrations of mixing the soil of Tanganyika and that of Zanzibar to mark the union of the two countries from which the name Tanzania came about in 1964, took place at this garden. This was followed by the first announcement on the launch of the Arusha Declaration of 1967.

The idea opened up a new political dispensation that described Tanzania's destiny advocating socialism and self-reliance policies as guiding national ideological principles.

One of the parks is strategically located in south; it was set aside by city fathers to specifically preserve and maintain traditional culture of various ethnic groups and the country's history to remind Tanzanians of the inclined national cultures.

Since earlier, the garden used to be a performing ground and a dancing arena where various traditional cultural activities, local musical bands as well as artists' groups, showed their performances.

Strolling inside the park, one can take a glimpse of a dilapidated round shaped structure like a hall painted in white, this used to be a stage show for musical performers that embodied the spirit of resilience, creativity and unity that characterized those clandestine gatherings.

A recent survey by The Guardian discovered that, "the once organized traditional dances and artists performances in this garden had been stopped long time ago and declared out of bound two decades down the lane".

It is an amazing phenomenon to see that, a focal point in this garden area has been left without proper maintenance, thus putting aside the purpose for which it was earlier intended. The surroundings look dull like a deserted homestead as there is no any other activity taking place.

Almost every day the garden's main gate stay closed, prompting doubts and puzzlement from passersby as they see the presence of a famous statue painted in red colour depicting a man beating a drum. This has been left standing alone over stones amidst the unrepaired fishpond that was earlier submerged in a pool of water.

An economist with Dar es Salaam City Council, Julius Ndele, told The Guardian that, financial constraints restrain development plans set for the historical garden.

Ndele said under the Tanzania Cities Transforming Infrastructure and Competitive Services (TACTICS) project, that aims to strengthen urban management performance and deliver improved basic infrastructure and services in targeted areas, plans are afoot to revive the once coordinated national cultural performances.

The cultural park in the garden will be installed with modern facilities including construction of a new hall to replace the existing one which is dilapidated, said Ndele.

The city council has allocated 1bn/- for the general activities aimed under the



One of the statues found at the Mnazi Mmoja garden in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

beautification program to be carried out within Dar es Salaam.

He noted that a modern fencing perimeter surrounding the garden is going to be constructed under the city's beautification program to accomplish the move aimed to transform the city once known as the 'Haven of Peace' into a beautiful scenery.

Within the garden there is a park with a beautiful Uhuru Torch Monument. It is in this spot where it is said a solitary coconut tree once stood, giving its Kiswahili name—Mnazi Mmoja, meaning one coconut tree.

Unfortunately, the historical monument be-

came the venue for the National Heroes Day held in July every year, making it inaccessible to the public even after the celebrations had been relocated to the country's capital—Dodoma in 2016.

There is another park in which a police post was built to help maintain law and order in the area. This had been located overlooking the main commuter bus stand built beside the Uhuru Street.

Behind the police post is a famous municipal hospital and bordered with the office of the Ilala Municipal Mayor which is close to the headquarter office of the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan De-

velopment Project (DMDP).

The last park on the eastern side was set aside for various purposes including meetings, national celebrations, public rallies, exhibitions and many others.

Generally, the Mnazi Mmoja garden is bounded with streets bearing elite names of imminent personalities such as the famous Nkrumah Street, the name given to a renowned former Ghanaian political elite and first President—Nkrumah. To the West, the area is bounded by Lumumba Street, the name of former Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

On the northern side, the garden borders the Bibi Titi Mohammed Street, a name given to a brave and most courageous woman who fought for the independence of Tanganyika.

Agricultural nitrogen pollution is global threat, but circular solutions await

By Claire Asher

AS the world grapples with escalating climate change, policymakers remain laser-focused on CO2, with humanity striving to decarbonize energy systems, capture carbon, issue carbon credits, and plant millions of trees to absorb emissions.

But carbon dioxide is just one of several powerful greenhouse gases destabilizing the global climate, and just one of the human-produced pollutants severely impacting the natural world and threatening to push Earth out of its current habitable state.

Another substance that rarely enters the limelight, but arguably has an even greater impact on our planet's life support systems, is nitrogen.

"Nitrogen is everywhere and invisible," and its influences are many, says Mark Sutton, an environmental physicist at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. Massive imbalances in Earth's natural nitrogen cycle, brought about by humanity's agri-food, industrial and transport systems, have caused scientists to sound multiple alarms – especially over the last two decades – warnings that have gone largely unheeded. But analysts say circular economy solutions await, though they'll require sweeping agricultural and societal changes.

Nitrogen is essential. "Without nitrogen, there is no life. It's the building blocks of DNA, amino acids, and proteins. It's in chlorophyll that fuels photosynthesis," explains David Kanter, an environmental scientist at New York University.

But although this element makes up nearly 80% of the air we breathe, and is a vital stimulus for plant growth, nitrogen's availability to plants and animals is extremely restricted. As a result, nitrogen has been a limiting factor on crop yields since the dawn of agriculture. Historically, farmers had just two tools to deliver more: planting legumes to fix nitrogen into the soil, and applying livestock manure to recycle nitrogen waste.

That changed dramatically in the early 20th century, when German chemists Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch developed an industrial process to extract nitrogen from the atmosphere and turn it into ammonia, using high temperatures and pressures. Their invention was first harnessed to meet the demand for nitrate to make explosives during World War I. After the war, the chemical industry pivoted to produce large amounts of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer.

Between 1900 and 2000, the global population increased from 1.6 billion to 6 billion people, but agricultural land only expanded by 30%. This gap was largely filled by synthetic nitrogen fertilizers created via the Haber-Bosch process, enabling astronomical increases in crop yield. But by capturing nitrogen from the atmosphere and applying it to agricultural lands, Haber-Bosch also doubled the scale of the global nitrogen cycle.

"It's the most consequential invention in human history," Kanter says.

Since 1961, synthetic fertilizer use in agriculture has increased more than tenfold, but much of that nitrogen ends up not in the food on our plates, but polluting the air, land and water.

The problem arises because nitrogen applied to agricultural land doesn't stay there. "The system in all its components is leaky," explains Rasmus Einarsson, a researcher at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

Atmospheric nitrogen in the form N2 is extremely unreactive because the two N molecules are joined by a strong triple bond. But when atmospheric N2 is fixed – by lightning, by plants via nitrogen-fixing microbes in their roots, or by humans through the Haber-Bosch process – that triple bond is broken and nitrogen is converted into more reactive forms, such as ammonia, nitrate, nitrogen oxides or nitrous oxide.

Reactive nitrogen easily converts from one form to another, and this chemical dexterity allows it to rapidly cascade through the environment. "It can go on this journey of environmental destruction, where it starts off perhaps as ammonia, contributes to air pollution, and gets transformed into nitrate, contributes towards water pollution, then gets lost to the atmosphere as nitrous oxide," exacerbating climate change and ozone depletion, explains Kanter.

Nitrogen impacts on multiple planetary boundaries

As nitrogen cascades through its reactive forms, it contributes to the dangerous overshoot of many of the nine planetary boundaries that scientists say must be respected if we're to keep Earth habitable.

Today, our massive alterations of the global nitrogen and phosphorous biogeochemical cycles are so severe they've been defined as a planetary boundary in their own right – the first of the nine to be dangerously transgressed.

Nitrates seep from agricultural lands into groundwater and are washed into rivers, lakes and estuaries, where they can cause eutrophication and oxygen-depleted dead zones, suffocating aquatic life and impacting both the freshwater and biosphere integrity planetary boundaries.

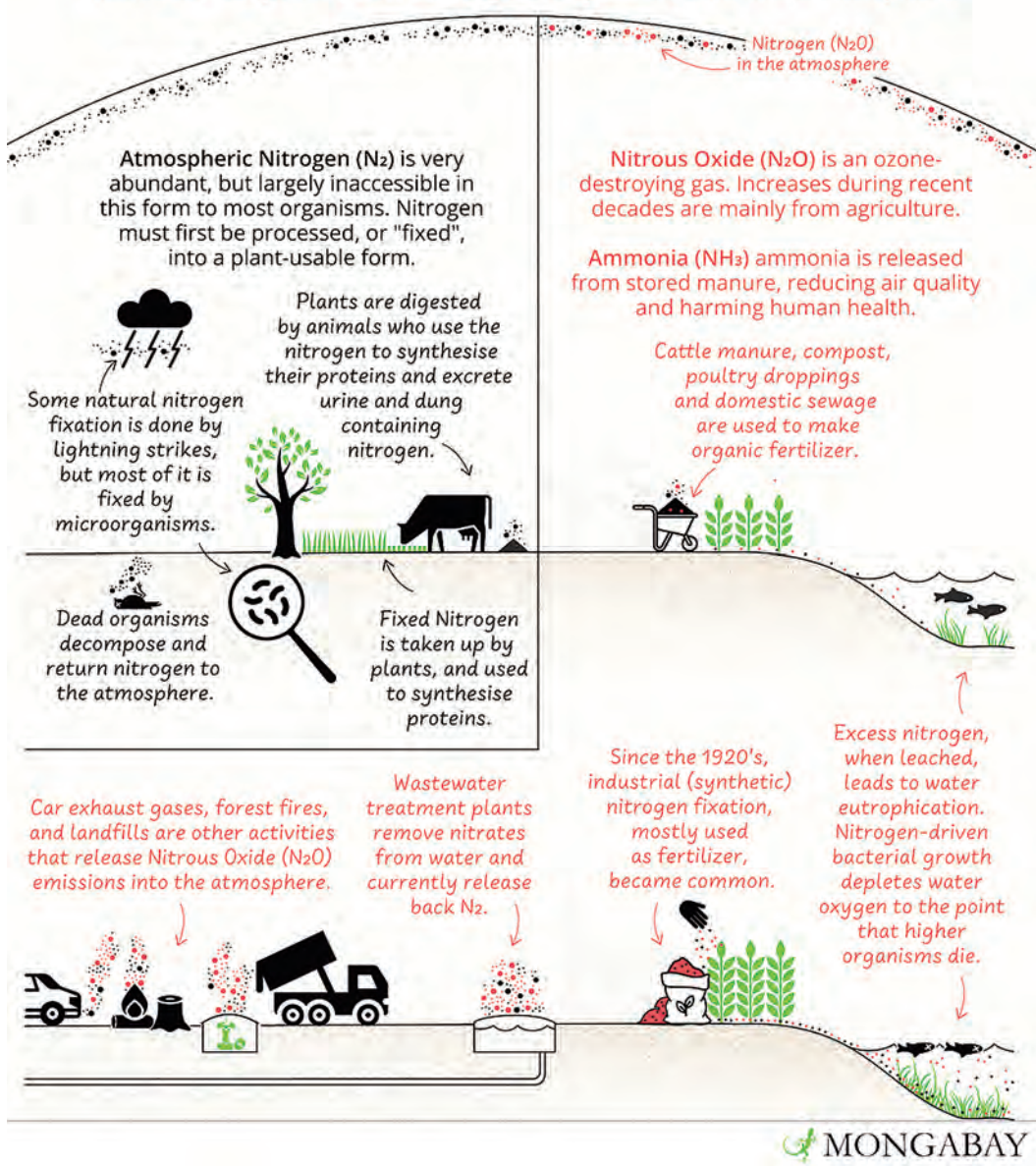
Agriculture also releases around 5 million metric tons of nitrous oxide into the atmosphere annually, impacting the climate change planetary boundary. Nitrous oxide is a potent greenhouse gas, with a life span of more than 100 years and around 275 times the climate-warming potential of carbon dioxide.

Nitrous oxide also contributes to the ozone-depletion planetary boundary. The huge reduction in chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) production achieved by the 1987 Montreal Protocol has now made nitrous oxide the dominant ozone-depleting substance emitted by humans.

A 2022 report by the World Meteorological Organization revealed that the atmospheric concentration of nitrous oxide is at the highest level ever recorded, up 125 percent over pre-industrial levels.

An additional bane: nitrogen oxides and ammonia, both reactive forms of nitrogen, are responsible for 15-30 percent of particulate air pollution, seriously

Nitrogen is an indispensable nutrient for all living things, however surpluses can damage ecosystems and the atmosphere.



affecting human health.

Nitrogen is used to make novel substances, including TNT, nylon and other synthetic products that have the potential to be long-lived environmental pollutants, linking the element to yet another transgressed planetary boundary.

On top of all this, escalating climate change is likely worsening nitrogen pollution. Extreme rainfall and flooding increase nitrate runoff, while a warmer climate enhances nitrous oxide and ammonia emissions from agriculture.

A regional problem with global consequences

The first estimate of the safe planetary boundary for human nitrogen use was set in 2009 at around 35 million metric tons per year – 25 percent of current levels – although experts admit this was a very rough first guess. Six years later, Will Steffan of Australian National University and the Stockholm Resilience Centre, along with his colleagues, revised this estimate to 73 million metric tons per year, roughly 50% of current levels.

One reason it's proved so difficult to quantify a safe planetary boundary for nitrogen is that while nitrogen pollution has global consequences, both its use and most direct effects are local.

These local effects aren't uniformly distributed across the planet. "It's a regional problem," says Wim de Vries, an environmental systems analyst at Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands. "It's more a matter of being too much here and too low there," he explains.

In 2022, de Vries and colleagues estimated regional boundaries for agricultural nitrogen losses to protect freshwater and biodiversity, which added up to a budget of 57 million met-

ric tons of nitrogen per year, or around 48% of current levels.

Local and regional boundaries, all taken together, "add up to a planetary boundary," de Vries explains, but "that total number assumes optimal distribution of the nitrogen," which is not currently the case. In some areas, crop growth is stunted by lack of nitrogen; elsewhere, fertilizer overuse is causing severe air, land and water pollution.

But the problem is the opposite in sub-Saharan Africa, where farmers are unable to afford or access synthetic fertilizer. Underuse of fertilizer there results in insufficient nitrogen in soils for optimum plant growth, severely limiting crop yields and leading to malnutrition. Intensive farming with limited fertilizer also means that farmers are inadvertently depleting soil nutrient reserves; in the past 30 years, soils in sub-Saharan Africa have lost an average of 22 kg per hectare (20 lbs/acre) of nitrogen.

In many parts of Europe and the United States, fertilizer use is more moderate, but nitrogen pollution is still a pressing issue. In the Netherlands, which has the highest livestock density in the world, excessive nitrogen pollution is devastating ecosystems. A 2011 analysis estimated that nitrogen pollution cost the EU between 70 billion and 320 billion euros annually (\$97 billion and \$445 billion at the time) – more than double the estimated value that fertilizers add to EU farm income.

Overuse worsens the leaky nitrogen cycle

The ease with which nitrogen flows from agricultural land into the environment has trapped humanity in a vicious cycle: Farmers must apply fertilizer to provide the nitrogen needed by crops, but much of that nitrogen is

lost, becoming a harmful pollutant.

And "Everything that is lost or removed from the agricultural system has to be replaced," Einarsson explains, by planting nitrogen-fixing crops, or applying synthetic fertilizer.

As little as 20 percent of the nitrogen applied to agricultural land as fertilizer makes it into our food, a metric known as nitrogen-use efficiency. "That's 80 percent being lost back to the environment, and [contributing to] a very non-circular economy," says Sutton. That's hugely inefficient and harmful.

Nitrogen-use efficiency varies greatly depending on crop variety, soil type and local climate, but there's one universal: It plummets when fertilizer is overused. For example, once crop nitrogen requirements are met and overuse ensues, nitrous oxide emissions from soil increase rapidly.

Circular economy solutions Human activities have now driven us past the safe zone for six of the nine planetary boundaries, so addressing poor nitrogen management habits has never been more urgent. "Returning to the [safe] planetary boundary for nitrogen would also make it much easier to return to [safety for] essentially every other planetary boundary," says Kanter.

That statement deserves to be underlined: Successfully addressing agricultural nitrogen overuse could positively impact many of humanity's worst environmental conundrums. Thankfully, there are solutions at hand – provided we have the political will to embrace them.

Research suggests at least one-third of lost nitrogen could be avoided through better management and better technology. These solutions fall into three categories: improving nitrogen fertilizer use efficiency so more of the applied nutrients end up in our food; enhancing natural nitrogen fixation; and recovering and reusing nitrogen that is currently wasted.

Cutting nitrogen waste in the food supply chain

Nitrogen impacts could also be slashed by reducing food waste. An estimated 30 percent of food produced globally is wasted during cultivation, processing and consumption (though some of that includes vegetable and fruit peels, animal bones, and other inedible organic matter).

Minimizing this waste could reduce demand on the agricultural system, thereby reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers. One study found that reducing food waste by 50% could lower total agricultural nitrous oxide emissions by 10-20 percent, helping curb climate change.

In our towns and cities, agricultural nitrates in the water supply could be turned into a fertilizer source. Currently, to avoid eutrophication and drinking water contamination, municipal wastewater treatment plants remove nitrates, then release this nitrogen back to the atmosphere as unreactive N₂ through a process called denitrification.

Dietary changes for a healthy planet

The circular solutions just described can play an important role in reducing nitrogen's environmental footprint. But on their own they won't be enough to bring us back into the safe zone of the nitrogen planetary boundary. Drastic cuts to nitrogen fertilizer use in Europe, for example, would only reduce nitrogen losses there by 30 percent.

But combining the technological and management solutions discussed so far with societal changes could achieve far more significant reductions.

A key nitrogen solution hinges on dietary change. At present, about two-thirds of agricultural land is used to graze livestock to feed humanity's growing appetite for meat and dairy products. But plant protein offers a far better use of nitrogen.

In 2016, the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) and INI launched the International Nitrogen Management System, gathering evidence to support international policies for better nitrogen management. INI has also developed a nitrogen footprint tool called N-print, which allows individuals and institutions to calculate their nitrogen emissions.

International organizations are taking steps to address some of the most serious sources of nitrogen emissions. The European Commission's 2020 Farm to Fork strategy set targets for reducing nitrogen pollution by 2030, including a 50 percent reduction in nutrient losses from food systems.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 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 UMUJAVYO 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

China, Africa join forces to advance modernisation

NAIROBI

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi's tour of four African countries continues the 34-year tradition of prioritizing Africa for the first overseas visits by Chinese foreign ministers annually.

The purpose of Wang's visit is to implement follow-ups of the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue held last year in Johannesburg, South Africa. China, at the dialogue, made three proposals to support Africa's industrialization, agricultural modernization, and talent development, which were well received by Africa.

During the visit, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, moreover sought to compare notes with the African side on the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), continue the traditional China-Africa friendship, and consolidate the momentum of China-Africa solidarity and cooperation.

As the world's largest developing country and home to many developing nations, China and Africa, driven by a spirit of friendship and cooperation, are joining forces to advance their respective modernization paths, building an increasingly close-knit China-Africa community with a shared future.

Boarding an Ibadan-bound train at the iconic Mobolaji Johnson Station in Lagos, Nigeria's economic hub and most populous city, a family of six took their seats in a corner of a second-class coach, their laughter filling the air; they were clearly in happy anticipation of a holiday.

"I really enjoyed the trip," Adeniyi Salaudeen, one of the family members, told Xinhua in an interview as the train's whistle blew, signaling the commencement of the journey to Ibadan, a city in southwestern Nige-

ria.

With the world's youngest and fastest-growing population, Africa is emerging as an attractive market for investment. Yet, insufficient infrastructure in fields such as transportation, energy, and communications technology hampers industrialization, limiting economic development and regional integration on the continent.

In 2021, the Lagos-Ibadan Railway, a major project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which links the southwestern cities of Lagos, Abeokuta, and Ibadan, officially started full commercial operation to facilitate public transportation and fuel goods movement in the country.

Michael Egbo, an Abeokuta-based businessman, expressed his delight at the convenience and safety of using the train, saying this would promote tourism and trade.

The Chinese-built railway is a prime example of China-Africa cooperation in infrastructure. Statistics showed that since the FOCAC was founded, Chinese companies have built or upgraded more than 10,000 km of railways, nearly 100,000 km of roads, roughly 1,000 bridges and 100 ports in African countries. They have also helped build an installed power-generating capacity of 120 million kW, a communications backbone network of 150,000 km and a network service covering nearly 700 million user terminals.

Built and operated by Chinese companies, the Eastern Industrial Zone (EIZ), located 40 km southeast of Addis Ababa, currently houses 149 enterprises in sectors like construction, textiles, garment manufacturing, automobile assembly, metal processing, and the food industry.

"Chinese companies have proved to be reliable partners to Ethiopia in its move toward industrializa-



Jobseekers talk to recruiters during a job fair at the Confucius Institute of the University of Lome in Lome, Togo

tion," said Awel Hassen, administrator of Dukem Town, where the EIZ is located.

African countries are benefiting from China's move to promote industrial advancement, said Paul Frimpong, executive director of the Africa-China Center for Policy and Advisory, a Ghana-based think tank.

"Infrastructure projects under the BRI across Africa have significantly helped propel the industrialization of the continent, which would lead to the achievement of Agenda 2063 to transform Africa into a major player in the global economy," said the expert.

Inside the China-Aid Agriculture Technology Demonstration Center in the Republic of the Congo, machines are automatically cleaning, peeling, slicing, and grinding cassava, an important staple food in Africa, turning the starchy tubers into flour.

In the central African country, cassava crops were traditionally peeled by hand, soaked in water, and then dried and ground - a process taking several days. However, a cassava flour production line introduced from China last year has been established at the center, situated in the suburb of the Congolese capital of Brazza-

ville, with the capacity to produce 4,000 tons of high-quality flour annually.

"Now we no longer worry about not being able to dry cassavas when it rains. The production is done automatically under the roof," said Paul Valentin Ngobo, Congolese minister of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries.

Meanwhile, Juncao technology, developed by China's Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, allows farmers in many African countries to grow mushrooms from dried grasses without cutting down trees. This eco-friendly approach fosters a low-cost, commercial-scale mushroom cultivation industry.

Ramiz Alakbarov, the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in Ethiopia, praised the technology, saying it "offers a much-needed potential for African farmers to improve their food security while creating income opportunities to improve their livelihoods."

Food security is a fundamental global concern. According to the 2023 edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Africa remains the worst-affected region, with one in five people

facing hunger, more than twice the global average. Over the past decade, China has set up 24 agricultural technology demonstration centers in Africa and popularized more than 300 advanced agricultural technologies, which have increased local crop yields by an average of 30 to 60 percent, benefiting more than 1 million farmers in African countries, said Tang Renjian, China's minister of agriculture and rural affairs.

China's plan for modernizing Africa's agriculture seeks tangible and mutually beneficial outcomes as opposed to abstract theories, said Richard Mulwa, deputy vice-chancellor of Kenya's Egerton University. "The benefits will trickle down to farmers," he said.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Talent shortage, especially in technology, hampers economic growth. The African Development Bank has projected 4 million new tech jobs by 2025 in Africa, but only half can be filled due to the scarcity of skilled professionals.

China's multifaceted support to Africa, including initiatives like the Luban Workshop, contributes to capacity-building and knowledge transfer in China-African

cooperation.

In Rwanda, a Luban Workshop, a collaboration project between China's Jinhua Polytechnic and Rwanda's Integrated Polytechnic Regional College Musanze, trains students in skills such as telecommunications, smart manufacturing, electrical automation, and e-commerce. In April 2021, the professional teaching standards of e-commerce developed by Jinhua Polytechnic were formally incorporated into Rwanda's Educational Qualifications Framework.

Since establishing the first Luban Workshop in Africa in 2019, China has set up a dozen such workshops continent-wide, attracting a growing number of young Africans seeking skill enhancement for employment and development.

On Jan. 12, Angolan President Joao Lourenco cut the ribbon to inaugurate a professional training center donated by the Chinese government in the city of Huambo in the central province of Huambo.

Covering an area of more than 20,000 square meters, the Integrated Center for Technological Training project includes 30 laboratories and six workshops for robotics, machining, computer science, and automotive repair, among others. The center will train 2,400 students per year in its first phase. Cooperation with China in the area of talent development is effective and stable, Angolan Secretary of State for Labor and Social Security Pedro Filipe said in an interview, noting Angola has also established cooperative projects with several Chinese companies, providing internship and training opportunities for young Angolans.

"Over the past 10 to 15 years, China has proven to be an important economic and political partner of Angola, and the partnership has yielded fruits in various fields, with vocational training and employment being prioritized in recent years," said the official.

Sydney Mwamba, executive director of the Policy Monitoring and Research Center, a think tank in Zambia, stressed the importance of talent development.

"It is gratifying that China is willing to train African human resources in various sectors... which will not only reduce levels of illiteracy but enhance the skills of local people to contribute to economic development," said Mwamba.

Fostering skills development to improve job prospects in Sub-Saharan Africa

By Nathan Belete

WHEN it comes to skills development and innovation, youth from Africa have something to say. Based on my recent engagement with youth from Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, I can also tell you that they have the means to back up what they claim.

These young and enterprising individuals are seeking ways to go against the grain and meaningfully contribute to society. Some are still acquiring and honing their skills, while others are actively diving into the purposeful but sometimes tricky waters of start-ups. They do this in contexts where job prospects are dim, motivated by the realization that the world is forever evolving and requires them to do the same.

The poly-crises (COVID-19 pandemic, growing inflation, protracted wars, climate change) that we have all been weathering have affected the labor market in many ways. The current macroeconomic conditions and forecasts in Africa, as well as the new possibilities offered by technology, compel us to realize the changing nature of Africa's job markets and to think about the skills that Africa's youth will need to prosper. More than 10 million youth enter the labor market every year, while current growth patterns generate only 3 million formal jobs annually, leaving many young people unemployed. In Sub-Saharan Africa, only one in six workers has a wage job, compared to one in two in high-income countries.

To celebrate this year's End Poverty Day, our team hosted a hybrid event that included youth from the four countries we work with. Our guests showcased the various endeavors and skills that they have been working on to improve their lives and contribute to economic and social development. I was personally left en-

lightened and challenged. I stand firm in my conviction that we cannot talk about African youth without including them in the discussion.

In Malawi, we heard how a youth agriculture cooperative called ACADES has grown its membership to more than 10,000 and now targets an annual turnover of \$1.5 million (in the current farming season, their turnover was around \$900,000). ACADES is investing in youth and smallholder farmers in Malawi through agriculture financing, provision of market opportunities, and skills development. They have also established a microfinance institution to help members access financial support to purchase farm inputs and improve overall productivity.

Students from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) presented the business incubation concept known as Agribiz Hub through which business ideas by students are polished and modeled to become real business plans worth investing in. Agribiz Hub has helped students establish and register firms and support job creation.

In Tanzania, the event was hosted at the Arusha Technical College (ATC), which is a beneficiary of the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) supported by the World Bank. The program entails a comprehensive approach encompassing industry involvement in college governance, labor market feasibility studies, updating curricula with the latest occupational standards, graduate employment tracer studies, partnerships with leading global TVET colleges to modernize curricula, support for faculty industrial attachment, and provision of state-of-the-art training equipment and facilities. The ATC showcase featured



Skills development key in tackling youth unemployment hiccups in Africa

Ananilea Lema and Donald Mwakatoge. Ananilea's innovation was an emergency sanitary pad dispenser which functions like an ATM machine with a prepaid card that is placed over a sensor to release the product to a user. "I was motivated to create this as a tool to help avail piece-meal pads for those who cannot afford a full standard packet, especially students," explained Ananilea. Donald, an enthusiast of both soccer and gastronomy, channeled his passions into the creation of two distinct apps. One, a soccer app, meticulously tracks and curates content about the Tanzanian Premier League, while the other, a culinary app, strives to connect diners with restaurant service providers wherever they find themselves in the country, effectively bridging the gap in the

food industry.

Students and faculty of Arusha Technical College in Tanzania joined a videoconference roundtable with youths from Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The event was organized to mark End Poverty Day in October. They discussed opportunities and challenges related to the generation of jobs in the region. Photo: World Bank

In Zambia, we listened to Sydney Mwansa, a youth entrepreneur who has employed others through his cashew nut processing business. Mwansa emphasized that support for skills development is critical in stimulating grassroots economic transformation in Africa. "Skills development is a global currency that can transform lives and promote socioeconomic development," he

said. The Director of Science at the Ministry of Technology and Science, Jane Chinkushu, joined the discussion and provided insights on how governments must craft responsive policies that advance employment and support productivity.

In Zimbabwe, we met Sicelo Ndlovu, a STEM Entrepreneur who runs innovation hubs for high school students to cultivate a culture of entrepreneurship, as well as a network called Women and Girls in Science which aims at encouraging greater female participation in the field. What stood out is how Sicelo has converted her scientific knowledge into entrepreneurship and is now producing environmentally friendly detergents for residential and commercial purposes. Her products include a water-based

degreaser, an all-purpose cleaning paste, and a disinfectant. She is also producing equipment for school laboratories.

We also heard from Raquel Kambasha, a Campaigns Manager who works in outsourcing. Due to the nature of her work, she encouraged the other youth to upskill and position themselves in the global workforce. Companies such as the one for which she works provide services to countries outside of Zimbabwe, which highlights one essential fact: African countries can and should harness their demographic advantages by investing in human capital.

A prevalent theme that struck a chord with the youth from the four countries was the challenge of securing funding for their projects. Ananilea, for instance, managed to develop her prototype by participating in a competition where she emerged as the winner and secured a grant. She hopes that she will be able to persuade sanitary pad businesses to collaborate and invest in her venture. Donald, for his part, is actively exploring strategies to monetize his apps. As of today, he is leaning towards building a compelling argument to capture restaurant commissions within his food app, and extending invitations to potential advertisers for his soccer app.

The showcases served as a poignant reminder of the distance we must cover to nurture an innovation ecosystem where ideas can be rigorously tested and adequately funded. Youth across the African continent brim with brilliant concepts, yet the shortage of financial support remains a substantial challenge, and copy-righting their ideas is neither simple nor cost-effective. In addition to financing, youth entrepreneurs also stand to gain from mentoring, and other essential forms of support, in order to transform

their innovative ideas into viable, market-ready products.

This underscores the importance of facilitating the flow of jobs, skills, and innovation across borders, with the objective of enabling individuals to tap into the developments occurring in neighboring countries. It was intriguing to hear one participant from Zimbabwe express how the showcase has inspired her to visit the Arusha Technical College during their innovation fair.

Improving education levels is key to building better human capital and allowing economies to draw on an increasingly skilled and healthy workforce. Workers in Sub-Saharan Africa have the lowest years of schooling of any region globally, at 4.7 years on average, and primary school completion rates continue to lag behind. However, our governments have recently shown a solid commitment to improving the situation by increasing spending in education to almost 20 percent of national budgets. Just this past July, Tanzania hosted the African Heads of States Human Capital Summit, where 43 African countries endorsed the Dar es Salaam Declaration, which constitutes a tangible financial and political commitment by these leaders to prioritize investing in their people.

While human capital levels have improved significantly in the region, they have failed to accelerate labor transformation and offer people better jobs and occupational choices. The Dar es Salaam Declaration recognizes that Africa's most important asset is its people, and this understanding is critical to achieving sustainable, resilient, and inclusive growth in Africa.

Nathan Belete is the World Bank's Country Director for Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

By Guardian Reporter

IFAD fast-tracks efforts to raise private sector investments in rural development

As global leaders gather at the World Economic Forum in Davos to discuss financing today's global challenges, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is accelerating its efforts to catalyse increased private sector investments in rural and agricultural development.

This coincides with IFAD's formal inclusion in the Development Finance Institutions (DFI) Enhanced Blended Concessional Finance working group.

The working group operates as a collaborative platform to address global challenges and leverage, in a rigorous and transparent manner, concessional blended finance to stimulate investment in sustainable development.

IFAD's membership acceptance into the working group and its adherence to the DFI Enhanced Blended Concessional Finance Principles for Private Sector Projects aligns the institution with all DFIs and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) providing concessional blended finance.

"We must accelerate our engagement with the private sector if we truly aim to end hunger and poverty and tackle climate change before it is too late. Private sector investments, know how, access to markets and available technologies are absolutely essential to transform rural economies and they are a lifeline to small-scale food producers on the frontline of the climate and food crises," said Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD while in Davos.

"IFAD is stepping up action to provide more concessional blended financing to buffer risk and encourage vital private investments."

The strategic deployment of blended finance emerges as a cornerstone of IFAD's approach, strategically leveraging development finance to mitigate risks and stimulate investments, particularly from the private sector, that might otherwise falter on purely commercial terms.

Last month, IFAD Member States endorsed a roadmap for IFAD 13th replenishment cycle (2025-2027) with a renewed ambition to scale up private sector investments through IFAD's Private Sector Financing Programme (PSFP) to

essential private stakeholders in rural areas including farmers organizations and cooperatives, small- and medium size enterprises and agribusinesses, and financial institutions that serve small-scale farmers and rural poor.

Since 2021, the programme was largely funded by earmarked donor contributions that complemented a \$25 million of seed funding provided by IFAD. Going forward, IFAD intends to significantly step-up its own direct financing of private sector operations, with a planned investment of over \$100 million from its balance sheet under the PSFP during 2025-2027.

While additional donor contributions will remain important, particularly for blending, this shift is meant to better leverage IFAD's own financial capacity and help the PSFP catalyze up to US\$500 million of private sector investment to small scale producers and poor rural households.

The PSFP provides funding through three types of instruments: debt including loans to rural SMEs, value chain actors and cooperatives and lines of credit to local financial institutions; risk sharing facilities and guarantees; and equity. The overarching objectives of the PSFP are job creation and economic inclusion of youth, women's empowerment and promotion of climate adaptation and mitigation.

A new PSFP operation is being approved with IFAD providing US\$2.5 million to Hamkorbank, a leading commercial bank to support micro-loans available to dairy and horticulture producers in Uzbekistan.

Since its launch in 2021, the PSFP has financed US\$33 million to fund eight operations and attracted US\$155 million in cofinancing, benefiting up to 500,000 people.



Using the PSFP, IFAD is also leading the development of and supporting large-scale investment platforms, like the \$200 million Africa Rural Climate Adaptation Finance Mechanism (ARCAFIM) launched last December at COP28 in collaboration with Equity Bank and several funding partners including Denmark, Finland, the Green Climate Fund

and the Nordic Development Fund.

ARCAFIM relies on a blended finance structure, among others, to incentivize private sector investment into climate adaptation for small-scale producers. It blends donor resources with commercial funds from Equity Bank and is available in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Today, more than 3.1 billion people are unable to afford a healthy diet, and more than one child in five is stunted. As climate change accelerates and the global food crisis continues, IFAD is making every effort to find innovative solutions to finance and support rural populations' climate adaptation and the fight against growing hunger and inequalities.

Increased road infrastructure budget to grow Africa's construction sector in 2024

By Chuka Uroko

INCREASED government spending on infrastructure development at both federal and state levels has been projected to drive construction industry growth in 2024.

2023 was not particularly a good year for

the industry and that was understandable. It was an election year when governance went on holiday coupled with the volatile macroeconomic environment that defined that year. Inflation and the high cost of construction materials took a significant toll combined to shrink construction activities.

That sharply contrasted with the previous

year when, according to figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in its third quarter 2022 GDP report, the construction and real estate sector together contributed N20 trillion to the GDP in the first three quarters of the year.

But, in his Economic Outlook 2024, Bismack Rewane, CEO, Financial Derivatives

Company (FDC), projected that increased private interest in infrastructure development through road and airport concessioning will also drive growth in the industry.

Rewane, however, noted that the Nigerian economy is growing below its potential for reasons ranging from underutilization of its resources to structural bottlenecks and market inefficiencies that are limiting economic growth.

He added that high money supply saturation, naira depreciation and increased energy costs are fuelling inflationary pressures the same way policy inconsistencies are supporting low investor confidence in the country and its economy.

Rewane's projection, like others before it, tends to look at allocations in both federal and state governments' 2024 budgets. While the federal government increased allocation to capital expenditure in the 2024 budget, some state governments took it a bit further by prioritising capital expenditure which are meant for infrastructure development.

Abia State government, for instance, budgeted N567 billion for 2024. According to the state governor, Alex Otti, 84 percent of that budget will be used for capital expenditure, leaving just 16 percent for recurrent expenditure. That raises hope for infrastructure in the state.

Similarly, Enugu State government prioritised capital expenditure in its 2024 budget. About 79 percent of the state's N521.5 billion budget will be used for capital expenditure that will dwell mainly on infrastructure development, including water, roads and power.

The state believes that attracting private sector investment would require security of investment, availability of critical infrastructure and a highly de-risked business environment.

Many other state governments have intentioned in their 2024 budget to provide or improve existing infrastructure stock, especially roads, for their people and also for increased investment by individuals and institutions. They

also have their eyes on foreign direct investments (FDI) inflow.

These moves, analysts say, are responses to Nigeria's infrastructure deficit which Muda Yusuf, CEO, Centre for Promoting Private Enterprise, said has been harming productivity, cost of production and general price level in the economy.

Yusuf, who spoke at a media programme in Lagos recently, noted that the country has this deficit in almost all its infrastructure stock, pointing out that the most challenging of all these which are impacting seriously the economy are energy and transportation.

"These are the most critical and the deficit is huge. According to the current infrastructure masterplan, we are supposed to be spending \$150 billion annually for the next 23 years to be able to bridge this gap," he said.

He added that the multi-lateral institutions have estimated that developing economies should be spending between 7 and 10 percent of their GDP to ramp up their infrastructure stock to support their development needs.

"If you look at 10 percent of our GDP, you will be looking at N20 trillion. This means that even if we take all the budget together, it won't go anywhere and that means we have a huge deficit to deal with," Yusuf, who was director general of Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), said.

To underscore the importance of road infrastructure in the country, he noted that almost 100 percent of the movement of goods and people is by road, stressing that road is at the heart of logistics in this economy.

He noted further that the government has a lot of roles to play in ensuring adequate power supply. "The government needs to prioritise infrastructure. The good thing about the current budget is that we have seen a higher allocation to capital expenditure than the current one. They also need to create more frameworks to incentivise more private sector involvement.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 62 -

By Felix Magezi: 0787 00 97 94 / felixmagezi@gmail.com

1 pigs are descended
 12 Zambia's sole producer of lime
 14 a Bolivian Aymara tradition
 15 fit to be eaten
 17 skilled person in Kiswahili
 18 A topic
 Down:
 1 a very brief period of time
 2 Capital city of UK
 3 iambus
 4 an account of past events
 6 a short African tree with a very thick trunk and large edible fruit, living to a great age
 8 a person who is addicted
 9 to be in a state of extreme muscular fitness
 13 official inspections of an organization's account
 16 Wife of Adam

Across:
 1 former name of Malawi
 5 be next to or share a boundary with
 7 Bantu ethnic group
 10 a taro corm or plant of a West Indian variety with many edible cormlets
 11 a tasked wild pig from which domestic

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

OTA
 SEN
 YACHTIE
 FLYOVER
 MACERATE

FAMOUS RATED
 ENAMEL
 VERONAL
 ORE

UNTONED
 SEAL
 ARENAS
 ITAL
 OMEN

Yesterday's solution

SENATE P SICK S
 E O UASI KNEESUP
 CAREERS V INANEY
 REMS OSLO R SYCE
 ERASE U T TREATED
 TALES R I F IRE
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 R AWAKE MESS

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

Value of GDP hits 109trn/- in 9 months, say BoT data

By Guardian Reporter

The value of the country's GDP, at 2015 market prices, amounted to 109.2trn/- during the first three quarters of last year, higher than 103trn/- recorded during the first three quarters of 2022.

BoT data shows the quarterly GDP at 2015 constant prices, amounted to 35.7trn/- during the third quarter of last year, higher than 33.9trn/- recorded during similar quarter of 2022, but lower than 36.7trn/- recorded during the second quarter of last year.

Agriculture remains the largest sector with a combined quarterly GDP of 6.6trn/- followed by construction which was valued at 5.66trn/-, trade and repair with 3.06trn/- and transport & storage with 2.9trn/-.

However, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data shows that the third quarter Gross Domestic Product (July - September) 2023, in absolute terms at current prices stood at 45.8trn/-, from 40.1trn/- recorded during the similar period in 2022.

The Tanzanian economy grew by 5.3 percent during the third quarter of last year, at 2015 constant market prices, a slight gain from 5.2 percent recorded during similar quarter



of 2022.

The expansion was mainly contributed by strong growth of various economic activities including finance and insurance at 18.7 percent, information and communication at 11.3 percent, mining and quarrying at 10.2 percent and other services, which grew by 9 percent.

However, the third quarter growth was slower than 5.4 percent recorded during the first quarter of last year, but higher than 5.2 percent recorded during the second quarter.

Other strong quarterly growths were recorded by

electricity activity with 9.7 percent as well as accommodation and restaurants, which grew by 7.4 percent.

The central bank data further show that nearly all economic activities, with exceptions of agriculture, water, trade and repair, professional, scientific and technical as well as real estate, grew by more than 5 percent during Q3, 2023.

On average, the central bank data show that the economic growth during the first three quarters of last year, stood at 5.3 percent, which indicates that the annual growth is ex-

pected to be more than 5 percent, as projected earlier by the government and other international financial institutions.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) outlook projected real GDP growth of 5.3 percent in 2023, while the World Bank expected the economy to rise to 5.1 percent, supported by the implementation of structural reforms to strengthen the competitiveness of the economy, improve the business and investment environment, and reduce the cost of regulatory compliancy.

Growth is projected to reach

the long-run potential of about 6 percent in 2025, according to the Bretton Wood institution.

In its statement after the second review under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement in December last year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the Tanzania's economic recovery is expected to regain momentum going forward, but faces headwinds from the unfavorable global economic environment.

"In the near term, economic growth is expected to regain momentum, but faces headwinds from the unfavorable global external environment including subdued global growth, tight financing conditions, and increased commodity price volatility," IMF statement said.

Other downside risks, according to IMF, include intensification of regional conflicts, an abrupt global slowdown or recession, natural disasters related to climate change, failure to arrest forex market imbalances, and hurried scale-up of public investment projects.

IMF said growth is projected to pick up, albeit at a slower pace, reaching 5 and 5.5 percent in 2023 and 2024, respectively, supported by improvements in the business environment and subsidizing global commodity prices.



More countries to join AfCFTA-guided trade initiative list

By Guardian Correspondent

In a significant development for the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), 24 new countries are set to join the Guided Trade Initiative in 2024.

Wamkele Mene (pictured), the Secretary-General of AfCFTA, announced this expansion during a roundtable discussion this week, at the 54th World Economic Forum in Davos.

The AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative is a trade policy tool that African countries can leverage to tackle trade barriers that have long prevented the continent from achieving economic development and prosperity.

The Guided Trade Initiative, launched in October 2022, aims to test the operational, institutional, and legal environment of the AfCFTA agreement.

Already joined by seven countries (Ghana, Cameroon, Rwanda, Kenya, Mauritius, Egypt, and Tanzania), the initiative facilitates the free exchange of 96 products with tariff preferences.

Mene revealed that out of the 47 countries that ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area, 31 will

join the Guided Trade Initiative in 2024, marking a substantial increase from the seven countries that participated in 2023.

The initiative covers a range of products, including pharmaceuticals, rubber, pasta, tea, coffee, steel, and wood. Notably, participants benefit from tariff preferences, and rules of origin are applied to the traded products.

One of the key components of the initiative is the use of the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), a revolutionary financial market infrastructure facilitating instant cross-border payments in local currencies across African markets.

Mene emphasized that this multi-lateral settlement system is expected to save the continent over \$5 billion annually in payment transaction costs, streamlining cross-border transactions and reducing reliance on strong currencies.

The expansion of the Guided Trade Initiative aligns with the broader goals of the AfCFTA, which anticipates a 53 percent increase in intra-African trade, transforming the continent into an attractive market with a potential consumer base of 1.3 billion, according to estimates by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

CBK buys dollars to build foreign exchange reserves

NAIROBI

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has switched roles to become a net buyer of US dollars with the view to building up foreign exchange reserves, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has disclosed.

According to the CBK, foreign exchange reserves stood at \$6.829 billion, equivalent to 3.7 months of import cover.

The Central Bank has a target of maintaining an import cover of at least four months.

Forex reserves give a country the ability to finance imports, pay foreign debt and maintain financial stability.

While the apex bank has traditionally been the seller of hard currency or dollars in the market to ease demand-supply mismatches, the disclosure shows CBK has silently accumulated dollars amid a non-intervention stance in the foreign exchange market.

"The CBK has made small net FX (forex) purchases in recent months, reversing the periodic FX sales seen earlier in the programme in response to shocks," the IMF noted.

Kenya's official reserves, which are largely dollar-denominated and held at CBK have declined recently on the back of large debt service payments and the absence of major inflows of hard currency.

The CBK will traditionally buy hard currency directly from the market at prevailing rates silently but has on occasion disclosed plans for such transactions.



In March 2020, for instance, the CBK announced its intention to purchase \$100 million (Sh10.1 billion at the then exchange) rate each month until June of that year to grow its usable foreign currency reserves.

The Central Bank in June 2023 stepped away from selling dollars to commercial banks in an attempt to defend the shilling from demand-driven dollar pressures as it allowed the local currency to reset from what the Treasury Cabinet secretary Njuguna Ndung'u and Central Bank of Kenya governor Kamau Thugge have described as the overvaluation of the local currency.

Despite stepping off from the hard currency sales, the official reserves have continued to come under pressure from

higher debt service costs and rising import bills partly driven by the weakening of the shilling.

Moreover, the depreciation of the Kenya Shilling has been exerting pressure on the cost of living with an analysis by the IMF placing the effect of one unit move down in local currency to cause up to 0.4 percent jump in inflation.

The depreciation is expected to drive up inflation in the near term with the IMF warning that the rate could breach the 7.5 percent upper limit before June.

The reserves could remain under more pressure in the near term as the IMF recommends that the exchange rate be allowed to respond flexibly to market conditions.

Recent measures targeted at facilitating

greater exchange rate flexibility including the implementation of an electronic matching system in the interbank FX market and the removal of the 20-cents spread limit in the market are expected to help ease market dysfunction in the currency market and support the build-up of reserves.

However, the interventions which began with the re-opening of the interbank foreign exchange market in March seem to have begun on a slow note with the IMF noting that the interbank FX market has remained dormant while spreads in the bank-client market remain large despite some tightening recently. At the same time, there has been a continuation of strong excess dollar demand reflected by increases in FX deposit rates.

Dollar setting for second weekly gains as rate cut optimism cools

LONDON/SINGAPORE

The dollar was on track to rise for a second straight week on Friday as signs of resilience in the US economy and pushback from central bankers has caused traders to dial down expectations of swift and sharp falls in interest rates.

The euro has fallen 0.6 percent this week, helping push the dollar index to a 0.9 percent gain.

Japan's yen has been the biggest loser: it is now down around 5% for the year

so far as tepid economic data and a deadly earthquake have sapped confidence that the Bank of Japan is about to hike rates.

"The thumping message from US activity data and central bankers is that markets are too aggressively priced for rate cuts in 2024, both on timing and in magnitude," said Westpac's head of foreign exchange strategy Richard Franulovich.

"That, and a fresh bout of turbulence across China's property and financial markets has the dollar returning to

form."

On Friday, the euro was roughly flat at \$1.0878, as was the dollar index, at 103.38.

"We're kind of stuck in this range here in euro," said Erik Nelson, macro strategist at Wells Fargo. "As much as has happened, the euro has barely moved this year."

Nelson said investors were waiting for data on the Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation to be released on Friday next week.

The yen was also little changed at

148.02 to the dollar, having risen but then fallen back after data showed Japan's core inflation rate slowed to 2.3 percent in the year to December. That was its lowest annual pace since June 2022, taking the pressure off policymakers to make swift moves.

Britain's pound was 0.16 percent lower at \$1.2685. Data on Friday showed UK retail sales slumped by the most in three years in December.

Investors now expect 140 bps of interest rate cuts from the Fed this year, down from 165 bps a week earlier. They

also see a roughly 54 percent chance the first cut comes in March, from 77 percent a week ago.

US labour market data released on Thursday was strong, with weekly jobless claims dropping to their lowest level in nearly 1-1/2 years, adding to the pressure on market rate-cut wagers.

Federal Reserve Governor Christopher Waller said on Tuesday the US economy's strength gives policymakers flexibility to move "carefully and slowly", which traders took as pushing back at pricing for a speedy fall in rates.

Two-year Treasury yields, which track short-term interest rate expectations, are up 21 basis points this week to 4.348 percent.

Deepening malaise in China's property markets rattled investors, who sold mainland shares to multi-year lows and the yuan currency to an almost two-month low of 7.197 per dollar, drawing state-bank buying to support it.

Bitcoin hit a five-week low at \$40,484 overnight as traders have taken profits following the U.S. approval of spot bitcoin exchange-traded funds.

WHI unveils plans to expand Faida Fund scope

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Watumishi Housing Investments (WHI) plans to implement strategies meant to expand the scope of investors and profits in its collective investments scheme (CIS), Faida Fund.

Among others, this year's plan is to upscale the fund size to a substantial 30bn/- as well as pushing the total number of investors beyond the current 3,524.

Since its inception, the open-ended scheme run by the country's state-owned fund manager has fetched remarkable milestones to the tune of solidifying its position as a thriving investment platform.

Speaking with The Guardian in an interview, the WHI Head of Investment Unit, Paskali Massawe said the foreseen plans incorporate effective marketing strategies to expand the fund's outreach to more Tanzanians.

"Faida Fund will soon launch an extensive marketing campaign, through both digital and traditional channels, to reach a wider audience and attract new investors into the fold, pushing the total number of investors beyond the current 3,524," he unveiled.

Massawe expressed that plans are also afoot to explore new avenues for investment onto the fund, include identifying emerging sectors and markets with growth potential while maintaining a vigilant approach to risk management.

He said that Faida Fund will roll out an extensive investor education program, providing in-depth materials and hosting seminars to ensure informed decision-making among current and prospective investors.

The other intervention, Massawe explained, will be based on efforts to further strengthen partnerships and collaborations within the financial sector.



Paskali Massawe, head of investment unit, WHI

"The fund seeks to leverage collective resources and expertise for mutual benefit, fostering a collaborative ecosystem," he insisted.

And with a keen focus to help maximizing returns,

Faida Fund will continuously monitor and optimize its existing investment portfolio, the proactive approach which aims to enhance performance and uphold prudent resource management

practices, according to Massawe.

With a total fund size of 19.5bn/- Faida Fund has shown exceptional financial strength, with the Net Asset Value (NAV) stands at

110.7900, underscoring the commitment to delivering value to its investors.

The profit distributed to investors has reached 1.3bn/-, showcasing tangible returns for those who entrusted their investments with Faida Fund.

"This distribution reflects the fund's dedication to providing lucrative opportunities for its growing investor base," he added.

Giving more observations, the WHI's Investment head expressed that in a financial landscape marked by uncertainties, Faida Fund's steadfast growth and strategic plans make it a standout choice for investors seeking stability and lucrative opportunities.

As the fund navigates the path to a 30bn/- size, it remains a beacon of success in the world of investments.

As Faida Fund embarks on this ambitious journey, it positions itself as a beacon of growth and stability in the financial realm.

The fund also redefines the landscape of investment opportunities for its stakeholders.

Investors, both current and prospective, can anticipate a dynamic and promising future with Faida Fund at the helm of financial innovation.

Oil price jumps three week high

NEW YORK

Oil was steady after closing at a three-week high on escalating tensions in the Middle East, with the US and the Iranian-backed Houthi trading tit-for-tat strikes that have roiled global shipping.

Brent held near \$79 a barrel after rising by 1.6 percent on Thursday, while West Texas Intermediate was above \$74, with a drop in US inventories providing further support.

The US has launched multiple attacks on Houthi targets in Yemen, but the group continues to menace shipping off the coast, firing at another vessel. President Joe Biden said US strikes would continue.

Crude has struggled to set a sustained direction so far in 2024 – rising and falling on alternate weeks – with tensions in the Middle East countered by traders dialing back bets the Federal Reserve will start cutting interest rates soon, buoying the dollar and hurting risk assets.

In addition, the International Energy Agency forecasts that the market looks well-supplied this year given output from the US, Brazil, Canada and Guyana.

US commercial crude stockpiles fell 2.5 million barrels last week to the lowest since October, according to the Energy Information Administration. While oil exports were strong, imports are also climbing as refiners make the most of cheap and plentiful Canadian supplies.

Also in focus, freezing weather has curbed some US shale production, including from the Bakken formation.

"It could be the US crude stockdraws that finally forced the market to price in the Bakken outages and, by extension, ascribe a bit more risk premium to the Middle East crisis too," said Vandana Hari, founder of Vanda Insights in Singapore. In the Red Sea, "an incident that causes major damage to life and property, at sea or on land, may become the tipping point," she added.

The main concern about the tensions in the Middle East – including the Israel-Hamas war and strikes between Iran and Pakistan – is that Tehran will be drawn directly into the conflict. That could jeopardize crude production or further snarl cargoes from the region that pumps about a third of global supply.

While headline futures prices have moved modestly higher this week, there's been a more pronounced gain in timespreads, which gauge the difference between contracts. Brent's three-month spread is now more than \$1 a barrel in backwardation, a bullish pattern marked by costlier near-term prices. A month ago, the gap was in contango, the opposite structure.

"Intensifying hostility in the Red Sea is raising oil-supply risks," ANZ Group Holdings Ltd. analysts Daniel Hynes and Soni Kumari said in a note. Still, supply remains sufficient, with healthy exports from Russia and Iran, while demand is lackluster, they said.



US\$20,000 up for grabs among small entrepreneurs

By Guardian Reporter

Small entrepreneurs have the chance to win US\$20,000 grant, through the UPG Biashara, an initiative that supports entrepreneurs in their journey to turn ideas into businesses.

The unique ecosystem is built with a view that entrepreneurs make the world a better place and so they deserve support that maximises their chances of success.

This support is provided for free to 500 motivated entrepreneurs who earn their place by demonstrating their ideas and their passion.

Tanzania is on a shortlist of priority countries to the "Diamonds Do Good" entrepreneurship grant and this provides advantages at several stages, from the application to the selection and to the grants.

"Tanzania holds a priority status in the UPG Biashara selection, providing opportunity for entrepreneurs secure funding through the impactful Diamonds Do Good Entrepreneurship Grant" said Yemi Babington-Ashaye, President, United People Global.

He said the Diamonds Do Good entrepreneurship grant is dedicated to assisting small and medium-sized entrepreneurs, promoting inclusivity and inspiration.

Over the past two years, deserv-



UPG Biashara Entrepreneur from Tanzania, Elias Elisante

ing UPG Biashara Entrepreneurs have received grants of up to US\$20,000.

As a priority country, Tanzanian entrepreneurs will enjoy priority in the selection into the Class of 2024 of UPG Biashara.

Once accepted, they will obtain significant support in their entrepreneurship journey, learning both hard and soft skills.

The class of 2023 of UPG Biashara entrepreneurs benefitted from 52 classes,

78 hours of class time, 36 instructors, 397 live pitches and cash grants.

They will also expand their network and connect with like-minded entrepreneurs from over 50 countries, across all world

regions.

In addition, Tanzanian entrepreneurs also enjoy priority status with the Diamonds Do Good entrepreneurship grant.

UPG Biashara is defined by two distinct journeys: the learning journey and the action journey.

Grants are provided during the action journey and are possible through several grants, especially the Diamonds Do Good entrepreneurship grant which is a unique US\$130,000 partnership with Diamonds Do Good.

The Diamonds do good entrepreneurship grant is an accelerator of the impact that entrepreneurs can have in communities, with a special focus on small and medium size entrepreneurs.

According to a statement issued by UPG, most grantees will win a minimum of US\$5,000 to be invested directly into their businesses.

Some entrepreneurs will win higher amounts up to the maximum of US\$20,000.

"Diamonds Do Good believes that by supporting entrepreneurs we are helping to shape a sustainable future for all," it says.

"In addition to our support for entrepreneurship in natural diamond mining areas in Africa, and India where 9 out of 10 diamonds are cut and polished, we are

pleased to include Tanzania in 2024", said Nancy Orem Lyman, executive director, Diamonds Do Good.

In 2023, there were 20 finalists from 7 countries and a total of 10 UPG Biashara Entrepreneurs won cash grants through the Diamonds Do Good entrepreneurship grant.

The winners came through several competitive rounds, including a series of "Shark Tank" style pitches.

UPG Biashara Entrepreneur from Tanzania, Elias Elisante, recipient of US\$10,000 Diamonds Do Good entrepreneurship grant, is the owner of SmartDarasa, an innovative educational platform that enhances students' understanding of STEM subjects by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

Through the SmartDarasa app and website, students are engaged with interactive 2D and 3D simulations, augmented reality (AR) technology, and conceptualized questions.

By utilizing Smartcards Vol 01 Augmented Reality cards, students can experience an immersive learning environment where they can visualize and interact with STEM concepts as if they were present in their own surroundings.



Global miners commit to nature-positive future

JOHANNESBURG

Global mining and metals companies have committed at Davos to take urgent action to support a nature-positive future by 2030 that promotes the health, diversity and resilience of species, ecosystems and natural processes.

International Council of Metals and Minerals (ICMM) members, representing a third of the global industry, have pledged that meeting the demand for critical materials must not be at the expense of nature.

ICMM brings together a third of the world's mining industry to drive sustainable development.

South Africa-linked member companies and organisations include African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American, Glencore, Gold Fields, Sibanye-Stillwater, South32, Minerals Council South Africa, and Mining Industry Associations of

Southern Africa.

ICMM's new commitments set action plan for nature include protect and conserve pristine areas of the natural environment and no mining or exploration in World Heritage Sites and respect all legally designated protected areas.

Others include achieve at least no net loss of biodiversity at all mine sites by closure against a 2020 baseline, develop initiatives and partnerships that halt and reverse nature loss throughout supply and distribution chains and act to change the fundamental systems that contribute to nature loss and foster opportunities for nature's recovery.

These commitments apply to activities across all four realms of nature – land, freshwater, oceans and atmosphere – leveraging companies' areas of influence – from their direct operations, value chains and wider landscapes, through to creat-

ing the conditions required to achieve systems transformation.

They are supported by transparent disclosures on performance outcomes, including publishing the results of nature-related impact and dependency assessments, and setting targets to address these.

"The mining industry owes its very existence to nature. At a time when the health of our natural world is in peril yet the demand for critical minerals is set to soar, we have committed to significant collective action to help create a nature-positive future," ICMM president and CEO Rohitesh Dhawan stated in a release to Mining Weekly.

These commitments build on the individual goals and actions of ICMM members over several decades, including habitat conservation, species protection and landscape restoration.

"There is no escaping that

the act of mining directly affects nature, which is why the cornerstone of our commitments is to ensure at least no net loss of biodiversity at all mine sites by closure against a 2020 baseline.

"In addition, we have committed to take steps in our value chains, landscapes, and the wider systems in which we operate so that the total impact of our actions contribute to a nature-positive future. These will be taken with the critical participation of Indigenous and land-connected peoples, and local communities, whose rights, values, and knowledge will be central to our actions," Dhawan said.

Examples of initiatives ICMM members have already implemented include strengthening protection for areas of high biodiversity value, developing innovative technologies for improved seed performance during landscape revegetation,

and defending important habitats from invasive species.

ICMM's new commitments will enhance these to drive performance across the industry.

Nature advisory group's chairperson Jonathan Price, who is also the CEO of Teck Resources, described collaboration across all sectors as being essential to help reverse nature loss and restore landscapes for the benefit of all.

"At Teck, we're taking action to conserve and restore nature while we also provide the critical minerals the world needs to decarbonise. For us, that means implementing initiatives including conserving and reclaiming at least three hectares for every one hectare we affect through mining," Price disclosed.

Nature positive initiative convenor Marco Lambertini spoke of sector-wide coordination being a key to reversing the accelerating loss of biodiversity.

WORLD



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets with Angolan Foreign Minister Tete Antonio, in Kampala on Thursday. ANI

As 19th NAM Summit begins in Uganda's Kampala, Jaishankar shares glimpses

KAMPALA

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar shared glimpses of the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit, which commenced here yesterday.

The foreign minister can be seen meeting various foreign dignitaries participating in the two-day summit.

Jaishankar who is leading the Indian delegation at the Summit arrived in Kampala on Thursday.

"Arrived in Kampala to represent India at the 19th NAM Summit. Looking forward to engaging colleagues over the coming two days," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

The 19th NAM Summit under Uganda's leadership is being held under the theme 'Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence' and brings together more than 120 developing countries on a platform of crucial historic significance.

The NAM is a forum of 120 countries that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.

India wholeheartedly supports Uganda's theme for NAM and looks forward to engaging with NAM countries. As one of the leading and founding members of NAM, India remains committed to the principles and values of the movement, as per a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs.

On the sidelines of the NAM Summit on Thursday, EAM Jaishankar held a meeting with counterparts from Egypt and Belarus.

During the meeting, Jaishankar and his Belarusian counterpart Sergei Aleinik exchanged views on cooperation between India and Belarus in various sectors. The two leaders spoke about developments related to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Jaishankar took to social me-

dia platform X to share insights from the meeting held with Aleinik.

"A useful meeting with Belarusian FM Sergei Aleinik. Exchanged views on India-Belarus cooperation in various fields. Also discussed developments pertaining to the Ukraine conflict," Jaishankar posted on X.

He also held a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry. The two leaders appreciated his assessment of the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

During the meeting, Jaishankar and Sameh Shoukry noted the continued progress of bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

Taking to X, Jaishankar stated, "Delighted to meet Egyptian FM Sameh Shoukry. Appreciate his assessment and insights on the ongoing conflict in Gaza. We also noted the continued progress of our bilateral cooperation following the exchange of visits of our leaders in 2023."

In Kampala, Jaishankar also met Maldivian foreign minister Moosa Zameer and the two ministers exchanged views on the ongoing high-level discussions on the withdrawal of Indian military personnel. They further held discussions to expedite the completion of ongoing development projects in the Maldives and cooperation within SAARC and NAM.

Jaishankar met Angolan Foreign Minister Tete Antonio and held discussions on the expanding collaboration between India and Angola as well as broader India-Africa cooperation.

"Good meeting with Angolan FM @ amb.tete. Discussed the expanding India-Angola and India-Africa cooperation. Also spoke about cooperation in multilateral fora. Thanked him for extending visa-free arrangement for Indian nationals," said Jaishankar in a post on X. ANI



A useful meeting with Belarusian FM Sergei Aleinik. Exchanged views on India-Belarus cooperation in various fields. Also discussed developments pertaining to the Ukraine conflict

CHINA has rolled out five new measures to simplify the process for foreign nationals seeking to visit the country, officials from the country's National Immigration Administration (NIA) said at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office recently.

The five measures, effective from Jan. 11, include relaxing conditions for foreign nationals applying for port visa; relieving foreign nationals eligible for 24-hour visa-free transit at major hub airports, such as Beijing Capital International Airport, from the need to undergo inspection

procedures; allowing foreign nationals already in China to apply for visa extension, renewal, and reissuance at the nearest public security organs; allowing every foreign national already in China to apply for a multiple-entry visa in case of need; and minimizing the types of the materials for visa applications for foreign nationals in China.

China has always been committed to promoting economic globalization and building an open world economy to better benefit people of all countries.

In response to the current trend of efficient, swift interna-

China launches five new measures to further facilitate entry of foreign visitors

tional economic and trade activities, especially the liberalization and facilitation of investment and trade, China's immigration authorities have continued to optimize policies and services for foreigners' entry, exit and residence, striving to provide efficient and convenient immigration administration services for foreigners working, studying and living in China.

In 2023, border inspection authorities across the country inspected 210 million inbound visitors, which was about 62.9 percent

of the total seen in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, according to Chi Jingyang, director of the Border Inspection and Administration Department of the NIA.

With global economic and trade development, international air routes and flights have steadily resumed, and cross-border personnel flows have gradually recovered, Chi noted. Chi said he anticipated continued growth in the number of inbound travelers in 2024.

The NIA has actively responded

to the practical needs of foreign nationals by launching re-entry visa facilitation measures to meet the needs of fast-paced, high-frequency international exchanges, according to Mao Xu, director of the Foreigners Management Department of the NIA.

Foreigners in China who need to enter and exit the country multiple times for legitimate and reasonable reasons can apply for multiple-entry visas with the exit-entry administrations of China's public security organs by providing relevant support-

ing documents such as invitation letters, before their current visas expire, Mao said, explaining that the measure was aimed at stabilizing foreigners' expectations of exchanges and interactions in China.

In an effort to better serve foreigners' efficient and smooth inter-regional mobility in China and facilitate their reasonable travel planning, the newly introduced measure allows foreigners already in China to apply for visa extensions, renewal, and reissuance, at the nearest public secu-

India sets up global alliance to push women empowerment, gender equality

DAVOS

IN A major breakthrough, India has successfully set up a "Global Alliance for Good-Gender Equity and Equality" to push women's empowerment and gender equality during the 54th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum in Davos on Thursday.

The announcement was made in the presence of the World Economic Forum's Founder and Executive Chairman Professor Klaus Schwab.

India's Union Ministers Smriti Irani and Hardeep Puri were also present in a gathering of noted Indian businessmen at a dinner hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The alliance will bring together global good practices, knowledge sharing and investments in the field of women's education, health and enterprise.

It has garnered support from global corporate houses like MasterCard, Microsoft and a large number of domestic industry leaders.

Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, praised India's participation at Davos 2024 and spoke about the country's success in achieving seven per cent growth annually.

Schwab called India's story a successful one, said development goes hand in hand with India. "When you look at India, I think development goes hand in hand with India. If I look at support to make India an indigenous powerhouse, it's just unbelievable...success rate of 7 per cent. We don't always imagine what it means because if it's 7 per cent, you double economy every ten years and if you take a generation of 20 years, you quadruple GDP."

He said this shows how India with its enormous economic growth "will become an economic powerhouse. But the situation is to keep and put emphasis on equality and inclusion."

The WEF Founder then expressed his gratitude to the forum's Indian partners. "I would like to thank particularly our Indian partners since you are very strong driver, you are exemplary in terms of engagement."

"I would like to thank the government because such a strong delegation some weeks before the election, means how much the government is also conducting. And finally, my thanks to CII because since for over 40 years now it has become not only a partnership, it has become a friendship," he said. ANI

Moscow sees direct weapons supplies to Kiev as red line in relations with Seoul – envoy

SEOUL

DIRECT supplies of lethal weapons to Kiev would make Moscow rethink the prospects for its relationship with Seoul, newly appointed Russian Ambassador to South Korea Georgy Zinovyev said.

"We are ready to consider [South] Korea as a promising partner as long as it does not cross the red line that we have drawn in terms of providing direct supplies of lethal weapons to the Kiev regime.

Until that [time when this crucial red line may be crossed], we recog-

nize that no critical damage has been done to the bilateral relationship," he told Russian reporters.

The Washington Post wrote last December that Seoul had indirectly provided more 155 mm ammunition to Kiev than all European nations combined.

"We know that [South] Korea exports large amounts of military products; however, the Korean side informs us that these supplies are in line with the rules of international trade and have end users that do not include the Kiev regime," the Russian envoy noted. He stressed that

Moscow was "serious about" Seoul's assurances that its weapons supplies abroad had designated end users.

"We urge our [South] Korean partners to be as serious about our assurances that, as a responsible member of the international community, we respect the existing restrictions on our productive interactions with North Korea. We don't build our policy based on so-called 'megaphone diplomacy' and media reports but would prefer to proceed strictly from the facts," the Russian ambassador added.

Agencies

Xie calls on China, US to bear responsibility for world's benefit

WASHINGTON

THE United States and China should shoulder their responsibility for history, the people and the world and usher in a brighter future for their relations, China's top envoy in Washington has said.

Chinese Ambassador to the United States Xie Feng made the remarks at a reception in the Chinese embassy on Tuesday commemorating the 45th anniversary of the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations and celebrating the 2024 Chinese New Year.

Over the past 45 years, the China-US relationship has kept forging ahead amid twists and turns, benefiting both countries and the world, Xie said.

He said history has proven that "turning our back on each other" is not an option for the two countries, that it is unrealistic for one side to try to remodel the other, and that conflict and confrontation have unbearable consequences for both sides.

It is important to act with a sense of responsibility for history, draw inspiration from the past, and keep in the right direction of China-US relations, the diplomat said.

The top priority now is to honor the important common understandings reached between the two heads of state, turn the San Francisco vision into reality, and promote the sound, stable and sustainable development of China-US relations with concrete actions, he continued.

The two sides also need to learn lessons from history, and stay vigilant against a new "Cold War", the resurgence of McCarthyism and the repetition of the Oppenheimer-era tragedy, Xie said.

It is important to act with a sense of responsibility for the people, and do more things that will bring them tangible benefits, Xie said, calling on the two sides to further remove obstacles to people-to-people exchanges in flights, visa policy and border



Chinese Ambassador to the United States Xie Feng speaks at a reception commemorating the 45th anniversary of the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations and celebrating the 2024 Chinese New Year, at the Chinese embassy in Washington, United States, Jan 16, 2024. XINHUA

entry.

It is also important to act with a sense of responsibility for the world, and provide more stability and certainty, the diplomat said, stressing the need for strengthening communication and coordination on hotspots like the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Ukraine crisis as well as global challenges such as climate change and artificial intelligence.

At the reception, US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink conveyed a message from Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who said that since 1979, the US-China relationship has become one of the most consequential in the world.

Last year, the two sides made significant efforts to restore high-level diplomacy and open channels of communication, to reduce risk of miscalculation and misperception, and to make progress on tangible issues that matter to our peoples as well as to people around the world, Blinken said in the message.

In his remarks, Kritenbrink said that the US side is ready to work together with China to renew the commitment to responsibly manage the US-China relationship, sustain high-level interactions, follow through on the implemen-

tation and build on the foundation laid at the summit between the two leaders in Woodside, California, for the benefit of our two peoples and people around the world.

In their respective speeches, Stephen Orlins, president of the National Committee on US-China Relations, and Craig Allen, president of the US-China Business Council, reviewed the process of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Former US ambassadors to China, including J. Stapleton Roy, Joseph Prueher, Clark T. Randt, Jon Huntsman, Gary Locke, Max Baucus and Terry Branstad, sent messages to the event and extended their warm congratulations on the 45th anniversary of China-US diplomatic relations and their New Year greetings to the Chinese people.

US Director of National Drug Control Policy Rahul Gupta, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Marisa Lago, White House National Security Council Senior Director for China Affairs Sarah Beran, former Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, former United States Trade Representative Carla Hills were also among a total of some 700 Chinese and American guests attending the reception.

Xinhua

Putin, unlike West, never threatened to use nuclear bomb – Lavrov

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has never once threatened to use a nuclear bomb, unlike the West, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at his annual news conference devoted to reviewing Moscow's main foreign policy achievements in 2023.

Lavrov was asked whether the situation in the world was going the way of the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. The minister responded that this topic has recently popped up "on various talk shows and political roundtables."

"I see several players here. If those in charge of policy in the West could each speak out independently, I think the situation would be different, but



they are all brought into line.

They were brought into line by the Americans, but also to a very large extent by the British. I gave examples about London literally goading Zelensky to bomb any sites in any part of the Russian Federation," he said.

Lavrov also pointed to statements by some former high-ranking US military officials, including Ben Hodges,

former commander of the US army in Europe. According to the minister, "they say, 'We have to destroy all conditions for life in Crimea so that there is no Russian fleet there, no one.'"

"This is what they said quite recently," he said.

"It would be interesting to poke around in the heads of these people," Lavrov continued. "I would just like to see: Are they rabble rousers, or do they think we will go weak at the knees?"

No one has tried to rein them in, Lavrov lamented.

"All they say is that Putin is threatening to use a nuclear bomb, even though no such thing has ever been uttered, in contrast to the Europeans

or the Americans," he said.

The minister also highlighted statements by some European politicians who threatened Russia, and advised them to remember the wise words of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

"The Germans said - repeatedly - that Putin should know that we, NATO, also have nuclear weapons. The British used to have a lady prime minister who said: 'I will not hesitate to push the button.'"

But no one should try to scare us - and many people know that. They should read Churchill more often: He has a quote about the Russian bear and how it should be treated," Lavrov said. Agencies

Agencies

People's Daily

China, Cote d'Ivoire pledge to advance win-win cooperation

ABIDJAN

VISITING Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cote d'Ivoire Kacou Houadja Leon Adom pledged on Thursday to advance all-around cooperation to achieve win-win results during their meeting in Abidjan, the economic capital of the West African country.

Adom said that Cote d'Ivoire adheres to the one-China principle and supports China in defending its legitimate rights and interests in the South China Sea.

He thanked the Chinese side for always caring for the needs of Cote d'Ivoire and providing valuable support in various fields, noting that China has helped Cote d'Ivoire successfully host the 34th Africa Cup of Nations.

Cote d'Ivoire is willing to continue developing dynamic relations with China, further expand mutually beneficial cooperation, learn from China's experience, and explore a path to modernization that suits Cote d'Ivoire's national conditions, he said.

Adom said that China has always been sincere and friendly to Africa, carrying out cooperation with Africa in accordance with the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.

Africa looks forward to taking the next meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation as an opportunity to deepen bilateral cooperation in various fields, and achieve mutual benefit and win-win results, he added.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of



President of Cote d'Ivoire Alassane Ouattara (right) meets visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, Jan 17, 2024. AP

China Central Committee, said that China and Cote d'Ivoire are friends and partners striving for development and revitalization, and the mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries has achieved fruitful results.

He expressed delight over China's contribution to the success of the ongoing football tournament, stressing that China is willing to work with Cote d'Ivoire to advance pragmatic cooperation in various fields and open up new prospects for bilateral relations in a new era, under the guidance of the important consensus reached by the two heads of state.

Wang said that Cote d'Ivoire is the last leg

of his New Year trip to Africa, during which leaders of the four African countries announced their firm support for the Chinese government's position on the Taiwan question and for China's efforts in safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, fully demonstrating the tradition of mutual support between China and Africa.

China will firmly support Africa in safeguarding national sovereignty, independence and national dignity, and support African countries in seeking strength through unity and exploring a development path with African characteristics that accelerates its development while maintaining independence, Wang said.

Wang stressed that the FOCAC has made great achievements in promoting China-Africa cooperation, which has also effectively promoted the international community to increase input in Africa.

China has confidence in Africa's development and supports Africa in striving for its rightful place in the global multipolar system and fully enjoying the dividends of economic globalization, Wang said.

China will strengthen the synergy of development strategies and exchange of governance experience with Africa to accelerate the realization of modernization in China and Africa, he added.

The two sides also exchanged views on cooperation in a wide range of fields, including economy and trade, investment, infrastructure, education and training, and agriculture.

Both sides share a high degree of consensus on international and regional issues and will maintain close communication and coordination to jointly promote peace and security in Africa, safeguard the legitimate interests of China and Africa, and uphold international fairness and justice.

In a joint press release, the two foreign ministers made positive comments about the long-term friendly and mutually supportive bilateral relations, noting that the two sides will continue to firmly support each other on issues concerning each other's core interests.

After their meeting, the two foreign ministers witnessed the signing of the certificates regarding the handover of six electric buses and three charging piles given by the Chinese government to the Cote d'Ivoire government for the football tournament.

Xinhua

UN Chief 'deeply concerned' over Iran and Pakistan tensions, calls for restraint

NEW YORK

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that he is "deeply concerned" about the exchange of military strikes between Iran and Pakistan. He called on both nations to exercise maximum restraint to avoid a further escalation of tensions.

According to a statement released by UN Chief Stephane Dujarric, Antonio Guterres said, "The Secretary-General is deeply concerned about the recent exchange of military strikes between Iran and Pakistan, which have reportedly caused casualties on both sides."

"He urges both countries to exercise maximum restraint to avoid a further escalation of ten-

sions," he added.

Antonio Guterres underlined that all security concerns between Iran and Pakistan must be addressed by "peaceful means" through dialogue and cooperation, in accordance with the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and good neighbourly relations.

Pakistan said on Thursday that it has launched missile strikes into Iran and that "a number of terrorists were killed during the intelligence-based operation," codenamed "Marg Bar Sarmachar." Pakistan's military action comes after it condemned Tuesday's strike by Iran, which it said killed two children and injured three girls.

In a statement, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)



said that it had undertaken a series of "highly coordinated and specifically targeted precision military strikes against terrorist hideouts" in the Sistan-o-Baluchistan province of Iran.

"A number of terrorists were killed during the intelligence-based operation codenamed 'Marg Bar Sarmachar,'" it said.

The Pakistan Foreign Ministry

said that in its engagements with Iran over the last several years, Pakistan has consistently shared its serious concerns about the safe havens and sanctuaries enjoyed by Pakistani-origin terrorists who called themselves "Sarmachars" on the ungoverned spaces inside Iran. Pakistan said it also shared multiple dossiers with concrete evidence of the presence and activities of these terrorists.

"However, because of a lack of action on our serious concerns, these so-called Sarmachars continued to spill the blood of innocent Pakistanis with impunity. This morning's action was taken in light of credible intelligence of impending large-scale terrorist activities by these so-called Sarmachars," Pakistan's Foreign

Ministry stated.

The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has condemned Pakistan's drone attack on non-Iranian villagers on the border of the two nations, calling it "unbalanced and unacceptable."

It said Iran adheres to the policy of "good neighbourliness and brotherhood" between two nations and does not allow enemies to strain the ties between Tehran and Islamabad.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns Pakistan's unbalanced and unacceptable drone attack on non-Iranian villagers on the border of the two countries," the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

ANI

World Economic Forum, Ukraine agree to work towards country's digital transformation

DAVOS

THE World Economic Forum (WEF) and Ukraine's Ministry of Digital Transformation have signed a letter of intent to launch a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Ukraine, WEF said in a release.

The centre will deepen the collaboration between the Forum and Ukraine on emerging tech-

nologies, with a focus on the digital transformation of government and digital literacy.

The new centre will be part of the World Economic Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network.

The WEF and the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine have announced their mutual interest in establishing a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

(C4IR) in Ukraine, with a focus on government technologies.

The letter of intent to establish the "GovTech" centre in Kyiv was signed by Borge Brende, President of the World Economic Forum and Mykhailo Fedorov, Deputy Prime Minister for Innovation, Development of Education, Science and Technology, and Minister of Digital Transformation, Ukraine.

"We commend the inspirational

work of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine as they implement a strong digitalization agenda under the most challenging circumstances. This does not only prove the resilience of Ukraine's government and citizens but also the digital infrastructure of the country," said Jeremy Jurgens, Managing Director, World Economic Forum, Switzerland.

"The creation of a new Centre in

Ukraine would undoubtedly help Ukraine develop new partnerships and strengthen its GovTech agenda."

In recent years, Ukraine has evolved into a global GovTech powerhouse, becoming the first country with a digital ID system that can be used across the nation and the fourth in Europe to launch a digital driving licence.

ANI

Global Times



Niger's junta, which took power in a July coup, repealed the law on Saturday and announced it yesterday

Netanyahu publicly rejects US push for Palestinian state

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he has told the United States that he opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state once the conflict in Gaza comes to an end.

In a news conference, a defiant Netanyahu (pictured) vowed to press on with the offensive in Gaza "until complete victory": the destruction of Hamas and return of the remaining Israeli hostages, adding that it could take "many more months".

With almost 25,000 Palestinians killed in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run health ministry, and 85% of the Strip's population displaced, Israel is under intense pressure to rein in its offensive and engage in meaningful talks over a sustainable end to the war.

Israel's allies, including the US - and many of its foes - have urged a revival of the long-dormant "two-state solution", in which a future Palestinian state would sit side-by-side with an Israeli one.

The hope in many circles is that the current crisis could force the warring parties back to diplomacy, as the only viable alternative to endless cycles of

violence. But from Netanyahu's comments, his intention appears quite the opposite.

Speaking to reporters following Netanyahu's latest comments, US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby recognised that the US and Israel "obviously" see things differently.

Earlier on Thursday, Netanyahu said Israel must have security control over all land west of the River Jordan, which would include the territory of any future Palestinian state.

"This is a necessary condition, and it conflicts with the idea of (Palestinian) sovereignty. What to do? I tell this truth to our American friends, and I also stopped the attempt to impose a reality on us that would harm Israel's security," he said.

Netanyahu has spent much of his political career opposing Palestinian statehood, boasting just last month that he was proud to have prevented its establishment, so his latest remarks come as no surprise.

But the very public rebuttal of Washington's diplomatic push, and determination to stay the current military course, show the chasm widening with Israel's western allies.

Since the 7 October attacks - the worst in Israel's history, when Hamas gunmen killed about 1,300 Israelis and took some 240 hostage - the US has supported its right to defend itself. But as the death toll in Gaza has grown, and the scenes of horror there have abounded, Western governments have called for Israeli restraint.

The White House has repeatedly tried to influence Israel's military policy: urging more precision-guided weapons rather than the blanket air strikes; discouraging a ground offensive; and calling for a two-state solution, with a role for the Palestinian Authority in post-conflict Gaza.

Kirby said the US has been "exceedingly clear" about what it wants Gaza to look like after the war.

"We want governance in Gaza that's representative of the aspirations of the Palestinian people, that they have a vote and a voice in what that looks like and that there's no reoccupation of Gaza," he said.

Washington's advice has frequently fallen on deaf ears or been met by outright rejection - often publicly so, during visits by the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

That, in turn, has hardened frustration in some American circles over the Biden administration's apparent blanket support for Israel, with strident calls to put conditions on US aid to its Middle East ally.

Israel's prime minister's comments will please his dwindling support base and the far-right ministers who prop up his government. But they will dismay those at home and abroad who are increasingly horrified by the human cost of this war. Recent polls show most Israelis want him to prioritise bringing the remaining hostages home over the potentially impossible aim of destroying Hamas. **Agencies**





Tanzania's Basketball Club's baller (R) attempts to block Uganda's City Oilers baller in check during the past Basketball Africa League (BAL) preliminary stage clash which took place in Dar es Salaam.

JKT ballers eye better preparations for BAL

By Guardian Correspondent

NATIONAL Basketball League (NBL) winners, JKT, will start training on Monday to prepare for the Dar es Salaam Regional Basketball Association (RBA) League.

The Dar es Salaam-based army-owned side is moreover planning to make good registration for the Basketball Africa League (BAL).

JKT is all out to do well this year and qualify for the continental tournament that will have the club representing Tanzania.

Tanzania's other basketball club, Pazi, which was representing the country in last year's BAL, crashed out of the first stage of the showdown which took place in South Africa.

Pazi excelled in the preliminary stage, which has its clashes played in Dar es Salaam, but in the first stage, the squad lost all matches against NBA Academy Africa, Cape Town Tigers, and Dynamo of Burundi.

In the first duel, Pazi lost 84-57 to NBA Academy Africa and, later, went down 95-87 to Cape Town Tigers and wound up the campaign on a sour note, conceding an 88-85 loss to Dynamo.

JKT coach, Christian Jacob 'Webber' said that they must focus on doing good registration because the

club is slated to take part in many competitions this season.

Jacob noted: "If you look at last season, we missed the RBA League title because we did not have a good rotation of players, unlike our colleagues, Dar City, who were the champions."

The tactician added: "We didn't have a lot of competent players in our squad, unlike our colleagues, every player who took the court was good as opposed to us."

"We corrected the mistakes by adding several players and they helped us win the NBL title and now we want to make a high-profile signing that will enable us to lift all domestic silverware this season and do well internationally," Jacob revealed.

Jacob said the continental tournament is difficult and they have learned from the mistakes committed by other squads in previous tournaments, so, they must plan well for registration and training.

"The BAL qualification competition is difficult, we must start planning early by looking at the shortcomings of our colleagues and working on them for improvement," Jacob noted.

"I believe one day Tanzania will make it to the BAL and this is the time to plan, everything is possible," Jacob concluded.

Ally, Kamwe all out to support junior soccer promotion

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

SIMBA SC and Yanga's media and communication managers have ventured into a campaign, known as 'Busti Kipaji', to provide football shoes to needy talented children.

The campaign- which is run by the mobile phone production company TECNO- was launched in Dar es Salaam recently, with the officials Ahmed Ally (Simba SC) and Ally Kamwe (Yanga) participating in it.

Speaking at the launch, the company's instructor Shakila Mkima said a stakeholder who wants to contribute to the campaign will buy a TECNO Spack 20 phone, adding by doing so he/she will have helped one child.

"The launch of this campaign is a continuation of our company's mission to bring a positive impact to Tanzanian society, so we are asking various organizations to support this effort," Shakila pointed out.

Shakila explained that TECNO invites everyone to join the campaign by buying a phone, adding with every purchase the buyer will donate sports shoes to a child in need.

The TECNO instructor noted: "This

collaborative effort aims to empower the younger generation, fulfilling their dreams and aspirations through the joy of sports."

"Recognizing the great enthusiasm that exists in sports at the moment, TECNO is officially introducing Simba SC Media and Communication Manager Ally, and his Yanga counterpart Kamwe, to run the 'Busti Kipaji' campaign to help children living in difficult circumstances," the official disclosed.

Ally pointed out that many children fail to fulfill their dreams due to a lack of shoes and the rest of their football equipment and - even if they get them- they fail to use them because the youths are used to playing without shoes.

"We ask various stakeholders and organizations to sincerely support this effort, we can make a big difference in the lives of talented children in the country," Ally noted.

Yanga's Kamwe said it is good to help children fulfill their dreams through talent because football is the number one sport in the world that can change someone's life.

Simba's top official Kajula clarifies reports about three foreign players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's Chief Executive Officer Imani Kajula has explained the reasons for the outfit to delay the recruitment of Ivorian winger Aubin Kramo in the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Transfer Matching System (TMS).

The move gears towards seeing to it the Msimbazi Street squad accommodates active foreign players.

The Ivorian left-footed winger is yet to play an official game for Simba SC as he found himself encountering injury setbacks since his arrival at the club.

Currently, Kramo is undergoing a rehabilitation process with the medical and training staff to make his return in March as expected by the club.

Simba SC has recruited 13 foreign players and, to meet the rules set by TFF for foreign players' quota for each club- which totals 12-, the Msimbazi Street outfit has



Simba SC Chief Executive Officer, Imani Kajula.

decided to trim the former ASEC Mimosas winger.

During the January transfer window, Simba SC departed with two foreign footballers and signed three foreign players.

Moses Phiri and Jean Baleke made their way out of the side for Freddy Kouablan, Pa Omar Jobe, and Babacar Sarr.

Simba SC is optimistic that Kramo will play and

showcase his skills in this season's CAF Champions League, a showdown he has been registered for by the club, as the club strongly believes he is a talented winger.

Kajula issued an explanation of Kramo's situation, stating: "Kramo has yet to recover well but he continues to improve, when a player comes out from long-term injuries he cannot start playing straight away."

"What we did to Kramo was to take his name out of TFF's TMS but he is our player, we love him and he is a good player and we hope he will show his skills as soon as he recovers," Kajula said.

Kajula also clarified ongoing contract talks between Simba SC and midfielder Saido Ntibazonkiza as well as suspended midfielder Clatous Chama.

It is understood that Ntibazonkiza's contract had expired at the beginning of January and negotiations for contract renewal have yet to be settled.

Kajula nevertheless revealed that the Burundian midfielder is under contract until June this year.

The CEO stated: "As for Ntibazonkiza, we will have him until the end of the season, when his contract ends, many people know that Saido's contract has ended, but we cleared that with the player and it should be understood until June."

"The disciplinary committee has taken Chama's issue to a good conclusion and a public statement will be made soon, he is still our player because he still has a contract with Simba SC," Kajula noted.



A Kigamboni District resident, Linah Shayo (L), is pictured receiving a dummy check of 30m/- from Tigo Manager for Temeke and Kigamboni Zone, Jansen Msechu, after emerging as the winner of the promotion, known as 'Magifti Dabo Dabo',- which is run by the telecommunication company. The presentation ceremony was held in the district yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Dar resident wins telecoms firm's promotion

By Guardian Correspondent

A Dar es Salaam resident, Linah Shayo, was yesterday announced as the winner of a 5m/- cash prize in a promotion, known as 'Magifti Dabo Dabo', which is run by telecommunication company Tigo.

Lina, who lives in Kigamboni, became the winner in the promotion's last week's draw and was handed her prize by the company's manager for Temeke and Kigamboni Zone, Jansen Msechu.

Speaking immediately after receiving the prize, Linah said she could not believe the information when she was called by an employee of the company to inform her of the victory.

"I live in Kibugumo Ward, Kigamboni District, I am really happy, I thank Tigo for being genuine in the promotions," Lina noted.

"I have been a user of the Tigo mobile phone line for many years, this money will help me a lot, I thank Tigo," Linah joyfully added.

She moreover said her victory was due to her use of Tigo services, especially Tigo Pesa, by making various transactions every time and getting a chance to win.

"I have been doing transactions- purchasing either items or airtime using Tigo Pesa, I advise others to do the same, they may emerge as winners," Linah pointed out.

Speaking during the presentation ceremony, Msechu said that for the first time, a Kigamboni resident has emerged as the winner of the

promotion. The Tigo official urged other customers to continue making transactions to get a chance to emerge as winners.

He said the promotion is in progress and his firm looks forward to handing over grand prizes of a new car and 30m/- at the end of the promotion.

"At the moment, we continue to hand over cash prizes ranging from 1m/- to 10m/- and home appliances, customers should continue to enjoy this opportunity," Msechu said.

Betting firm lights up AFCON with match-viewing events across Dar

By Guardian Correspondent

FOOTBALL fans in Dar es Salaam were on Wednesday night treated to a fun match viewing experience by a betting firm, betPawa, at Sinza's Kitambaa Cheupe restaurant as Tanzania took on Morocco in the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations tournament in Ivory Coast.

The event held in partnership with Startimes was aimed at bringing football fans together to celebrate

Tanzania featuring at the prestigious continental showdown for the third time in the history of the tournament.

"Football is a unifying game and the fun of it comes with watching it together with other people as you analyze and celebrate together. This is why we saw it fit at betPawa to host this match viewing experience in the unifying spirit of this sport," betPawa's Country Marketing Manager Borah Ndayungu noted.

During the event, dubbed 'Soka Live na betPawa', various football fans won prizes from the several trivia and activities held alongside the match viewings.

The fans also got to interact with the betPawa and Startimes teams which were on hand to tend to their queries on the entertainment services offered by the two brands.

Over 300 people attended the event which was also marked by great music and food in true Tanza-

nian spirit.

"These match-viewing events will also help us meet customers at their convenience as part of our service delivery promise," Ndayungu said.

The next betPawa AFCON match viewing event will be held tomorrow when Zambia plays against Tanzania.

Juliana Pub, located at Mbezi Beach in the city, will be a venue for this viewing- with the fan-based activities scheduled to start at 6 pm.



Alexis Mac Allister wants Liverpool to make their mark, Arsenal eye revival

LONDON

LIVERPOOL can strengthen their position on top of the Premier League when they travel to Bournemouth tomorrow.

Spitting Arsenal will hope for a slip from the Reds as they look to get their title challenge back on track against Crystal Palace.

At the other end of the table, Brentford's Ivan Toney is expected to return against fellow strugglers Nottingham Forest.

AFP Sport looks at three talking points ahead of this weekend's action:

*Mac Allister's mark of success

Liverpool midfielder Alexis Mac Allister is already planning a tattoo to mark a season to remember as the rampant Reds chase four major trophies.

Jürgen Klopp's table toppers sit two points clear of second placed Manchester City and can extend that gap to five points with a victory over Bournemouth on Sunday.

Despite Mohamed Salah's absence at the Africa Cup of Nations, Liverpool are unbeaten in their last seven games in all competitions and have their sights set on winning the Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and Europa League.

Snapped up from Brighton in the close-season, Mac Allister has played a key role in Liverpool's resurgence this term.

The flamboyant Argentina World Cup winner wants to get a tattoo to commemorate his country's triumph in Qatar last year, and next on his body art to-do list will be inking any silverware Liverpool lift this season.

"I want to get my tattoo about the World Cup first and then of course, I will get something about Liverpool, because since the first day I felt a really good connection with this club and I'm really happy to be here," Mac Allister said.

"(A trophy) would be nice! Maybe on my leg. Hopefully we can win something this year and get it done."

*Arsenal on the rocks

With just one win in their last seven games in all competitions, Arsenal have suffered an untimely stumble that threatens to derail their bid for a first title since 2004.

Mikel Arteta's men will host Crystal Palace on Saturday on the back of three successive defeats against Liverpool in the FA Cup and Fulham and West Ham in the Premier League.

Arsenal were top of the table before Christmas but they have lost their way due to a fatal combination of poor finishing and sloppy defending.

A move for Brentford striker Ivan Toney could be on the cards as Arteta looks to add a more clinical cutting edge to his attack.

Trailing Liverpool by five points, the fourth placed Gunners have no margin for error and will hope their recent warm-weather training camp in Dubai is reinvigorating.

Gabriel Jesus could return to face Palace after the Brazil forward missed the Liverpool defeat with a knee injury.

Toney return threatens Forest

Ivan Toney is expected to make his first Brentford appearance for eight months as the England striker returns from his ban for breaching Football Association gambling rules.

The 27-year-old took to social media to celebrate the end of his suspension this week by posting a GIF of a man holding his arms aloft in celebration, with the slogan "free!" on the bottom of the image.

Toney's last competitive match was on May 6, but he has been allowed to train with his team-mates since September.

Facing a fired-up Toney on Saturday will be a major concern for Forest, who are one point ahead of Brentford.

Aware of interest from Arsenal and Chelsea, Toney said: "Everybody wants to play for the top clubs, fighting for titles and these kinds of things."

Forest are four points above the bottom three, a situation that could get worse if they are hit with a points penalty after admitting financial breaches earlier this week.

Bottom of the table Sheffield United are already eight points from safety ahead of their clash with West Ham on Sunday.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today

Arsenal v Crystal Palace (1230), Brentford v Nottingham Forest (1730)

Tomorrow

Sheffield United v West Ham(1400), Bournemouth v Liverpool (1630)

Monday

Brighton v Wolves (2000)

AFP

Egypt lose Salah to injury as Nigeria down 2023 AFCON hosts Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN

EGYPT an anxious wait on the extent of Mohamed Salah's injury sustained in a lively 2-2 draw with Ghana at the Africa Cup of Nations on Thursday, while Nigeria defeated hosts Ivory Coast 1-0.

Mohammed Kudus struck twice for Ghana on his tournament debut but record seven-time champions Egypt rescued a point with goals from Omar Marmoush and Mostafa Mohamed after Salah went off late in the first half in Abidjan.

"We don't know yet what is the problem (with Salah). I hope not a big problem. It is too early to say something," said Egypt boss Rui Vitoria.

After twice falling behind at the Felix Houphouët Boigny Stadium, Egypt showed great resilience without their superstar forward and took advantage of two Ghana mistakes to earn another point following an opening 2-2 draw with Mozambique in Group B.

The Black Stars, who have now won just one of their past 11 AFCON games, are in danger of a second consecutive group-stage exit despite the return of Kudus from injury after a surprise 2-1 loss to Cape Verde in their first outing.

"Of course it's very frustrating because I felt we deserved to win the game," said Ghana coach Chris Hughton.



Trost-Ekong scores through a penalty kick to secure a precious victory for Nigeria against hosts Cote d'Ivoire! (Agencies)

"The dressing room is a very disappointed dressing room at the moment because this was a very good opportunity for us to get three points."

Egypt are only one point better off and with still work to do in their final game, but the immediate concern for the Pharaohs will be the health of Liverpool striker Salah.

In Group A, Nigeria captain William Troost-Ekong converted a penalty 10 minutes into the second half to secure his team victory over Ivory Coast after a foul on Victor Osimhen was picked up following a VAR check.

The Super Eagles then held on in front of a frenzied crowd at the Ebimpe Olympic Stadium in Abidjan to claim their first win after beginning their AFCON bid with a 1-1 draw against Equatorial Guinea.

"Our team was better and for that we won, but Ivory Coast is a good team. They lost the match because that can happen," said Nigeria coach Jose Peseiro.

"Today I said to my players it is normal that you score at least one goal, so if you don't suffer a goal, you win."

- Unlikely hat-trick hero -

Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea are locked on four points at the top of the section, with Ivory Coast behind them on three points and Guinea-Bissau eliminated after losing both games so far.

Nigeria must simply avoid defeat against Guinea-Bissau -- beat-

en 4-2 by Equatorial Guinea earlier - to ensure a top-two finish. The fact that the four best third-placed sides in six groups will all advance to the last 16 leaves margin for error, but Ivory Coast must beat Equatorial Guinea in their last match on Monday to guarantee progress.

Emilio Nsue scored the tournament's first hat-trick since 2008 as Equatorial Guinea beat Guinea-Bissau to close in on a place in the last 16.

Nsue opened the scoring midway through the first half before a sparse crowd and added two more goals in the second half in a remarkable performance.

The result leaves Equatorial Guinea requiring a point against

Ivory Coast next week to be certain of advancing from Group A.

Captain Nsue, 34, is the first player to score three times in one game at the Cup of Nations since Soufiane Allouadi did so for Morocco in a 5-1 win over Namibia in 2008 in Ghana.

"I feel very happy. I knew this could be one of my last Africa Cups. This is my third, so I came here mentally very strong, I trusted in myself, and I am playing very well," Nsue said.

"I know I have the quality to do a good job. I just want to continue and score more goals, and I hope to be top scorer ahead of all the superstars who are here."

AFP

Chris Hughton frustrated with Egypt draw

ABIDJAN

BLACK Stars head coach, Chris Hughton has expressed his frustrations following their 2-2 draw with Egypt in the second round group game of the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations Côte d'Ivoire 2023.

Ghana led twice and bottled it all to allow Egypt pick a point from the game. Despite the disappointing result, Chris Hughton is not giving up.

"We will continue to fight. It is true that at the moment there is a lot of frustration in the locker room. Our team deserved more, but football is like that. It's frustrating. In a similar performance, we would surely have won. Two errors cost us the match. We didn't take this opportunity to take the three points," he said.

Osman who was brought on in the second half was substituted again for Joseph Paintsil. Hughton explained that the winger's errors were worrying and he had to take the decision of taking him off.

"Firstly, I would like to say that we love Osmane. However, I had to take him out because his mistakes were starting to affect his performance," he explained.

Hughton's mind is now on Mozambique, the Black Stars' next opponent.

"There are no more small teams in Africa. We are preparing for a tough



Chris Hughton

match against them. The calculations are already made, we need a victory to pursue our dream and I know we are capable of it," he concluded.

Meanwhile, Ghanaian sensation, Mohammed Kudus feels Ghana deserved more after twice surrendering the lead to draw 2-2 against Egypt in a drama filled Group TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations Côte d'Ivoire 2023 clash in Abidjan.

"I'm happy to be back. I worked so hard to get back to the top and help my team, my nation. It's important for me to be here", said the forward.

Despite the double from Kudus, Ghana only snatched a point from the draw. The West Ham striker couldn't hide his frustration.

"It's a mixed feeling. As

a forward, you want your goals to have an impact on the result. We made careless mistakes. Now we'll have to get back to work, win the next one and then see what happens", said Kudus. "We are not out.

The objective remains the same, which is to take trophy home," he concluded.

Still no victories for Egypt in this TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations Côte d'Ivoire 2023, a situation which does not seem

to disturb Rui Vitoria, the Pharaohs coach.

The coach was speaking after his side twice came back from behind to salvage a 2-2 draw against Ghana on Thursday.

"I have full confidence

in my team, I saw men this evening who fought to the end only victory eluded us. We showed great qualities this evening against a revitalized Ghana. The players applied our instructions perfectly. There was room to win the match", said Vitoria

However, the Portuguese mentor could not avoid the question about the injury of his captain and offensive leader Mohamed Salah, who was substituted towards the end of the opening half due to a suspected hamstring injury.

"At the moment, I cannot comment on the seriousness of his injury. Of course, we are worried and we hope it is not too serious. We will have to keep the same state of mind for the next match against Cape Verde," he concluded.

CAF MEDIA

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Kajula clarifies reports about three foreign players

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5 EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA I
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA I (r)

TONIGHT @ 9:00

5Sports

5Sports

5Sports

The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5Sports.

eastAfrica RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Tanzania unveils youths athletics program in schools

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MORE than 150 primary and secondary school teachers from the Arusha Rural District have undergone special training courses on the global Kids Athletics program, the first among many expected in the country as time goes by.

The training sessions conducted by the National Sports Council (NSC) took place at Turkish Maarif School's ground in the Ngaramtoni section of Arusha Rural District (ADC).

According to the NSC trainer and athletics instructor Charles Maguzu, the Kids Athletics program comprises more than 20 sporting events- all of which have been included in the course.

The events are targeted to sharpen teachers' skills in imparting knowledge to their respective pupils and children.

"I have been training the teachers here in Arusha for three consecutive days after which the teachers will be tested on how effective they have become in becoming expert athletics trainers through trial teaching sessions to some of the children," Maguzu stated.

The instructor said the Kids Athletics program is a course initiated by the World Athletics (WA) to identify, recruit, and promote young and upcoming talents in sports, right from grassroots levels around the world.

The WA describes the Kids Athletics program as a free and exciting initiative seeking to get children and young people across the world moving.

According to WA, the program uses the power of athletics to inspire children and young people, wherever they are, to be more active, develop their skills and confidence, and connect with the sport for life.

Arusha Rural District Executive Director Suleiman Msumi, whose office bankrolled the entire training in the precinct, explained that the course will empower teachers to efficiently conduct the annual National Inter-Primary Schools and National Inter-Secondary Schools sporting events.

"Sports are interesting and entertaining activities usually helping to cut down cases of pupils absconding from schools," the District Director pointed out.

Msumi pointed out that even if the children fail to excel academically, sports provide alternative careers in professions like soccer and athletics for their future, and many of them become stars.

Mwajuma Mmbaga from Kiranyi Primary School, one of the teachers trained in the program, admitted that sports are the best incentive for pupils' attendance as well as pushing parents to ensure that their children are present in both morning and afternoon sessions.

Taifa Stars plot next 2023 AFCON finals hurdle against Zambia



Taifa Stars' defender Ibrahim Hamad (2nd R) battles for possession with Morocco's defender, Romain Saïss, as the former's teammate, Mbwana Samatta, closes in when the two teams locked horns in a 2023 Africa Cup of Nations clash in Ivory Coast on Wednesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AFTER starting their Africa Cup of Nations with a 3-0 defeat to Morocco in San Pedro, Ivory Coast last Wednesday, Taifa Stars players insist all is not lost as they aim to bounce back in their match against Zambia to be held tomorrow.

Taifa Stars are languishing at the bottom of Group F following the defeat after second-half goals netted by Romain Saïss, Azzedine Ounahi, and Youssef En-Nesyri helped Morocco grab the

comprehensive victory and move to the top of the group.

Tanzania, which had midfielder Novatus Miroshi sent off in the second half, now needs to beat Zambia, which shared spoils with DR Congo in their opening match to keep their chances of quali-

fying for the knockout stages alive.

In their first training after the match, a day later, center-back Bakari Mwamnyeto and midfielder Himid Mao said the team was wasting no time dwelling on Morocco's result and they were already plotting

for the knockout stages alive.

"We lost the first match, right now our focus is on the second game against Zambia. Therefore, the players' minds, bodies, and thoughts are on the Zambian match," Mwamnyeto said just after the recovery session.

"We are going to meet Zambia, and they are as good as we are but we are trying to get results so that the group opens up for us," the central defender noted. The defender revealed: "The group is still open, anyone can progress to the knockout stage. It is good that we are playing against a team that has not won, so if we beat them, we shall leapfrog them."

Mao- Taifa Stars assistant captain- insisted the mood in their camp is positive as they focus on winning against Chipolopolo of Zambia

The midfielder noted: "The squad is positive, all the players are positive. Heads are high, the Morocco game is past and the result is water under the bridge and if you look at the coach's team talk today it was very positive."

"I believe even for the player, everyone will continue to be positive for the upcoming game, I think we will get results," Mao pointed out.

"We have lost three points out of nine, we are remaining with six points to fight for. We have to fight as much as we can to get a result in the next game. If we get a result in the next game it will give us a picture of what lies ahead," he concluded.

Stars players speak out ahead of crucial AFCON battle with Zambia

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA'S senior national team squad is diligently training, gearing up for the upcoming Africa Cup of Nations Group F clash against Zambia.

Morocco clobbered Taifa Stars 3-0 in their Group F opening fixture of the Africa Cup of Nations played at Stade Laurent Pokou in San Pedro, Ivory Coast two days ago.

Currently, Morocco leads Group F with three points, while DR Congo and Zambia share a point each. Taifa Stars holds the bottom position in the group.

The Tanzanian squad is focused on preparing for the second game against Zambia, Chipolopolo, scheduled for tomorrow at 8 pm East African time at the Laurent Pokou Stadium in San Pedro.

Several players from the Taifa Stars squad have expressed their thoughts on the upcoming match.

Midfielder Himid Mao revealed: "Following our first-game loss to Morocco, we are grateful to be in good spirits."

Mao noted: "The coaching staff has led recovery sessions for the entire squad, ensuring not only those who played heavily, but also those who saw less action or none at all, are adequately prepared. The team's positive momentum remains strong."

The midfielder disclosed: "The players' morale is high, their heads held up. We put the Morocco game behind us and focus on achieving results in the upcoming match."

"We acknowledge the loss of three points from our nine-point potential, but six points remain up for grabs. With determination and effort, I believe we can claim those points and set ourselves up for what lies ahead," he added.



Tanzania's senior national football team players are pictured training in Ivory Coast early this week to shape up for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations slated for January 13-February 11, 2024. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Senior national team's star Simon Msvu, fresh off a three-goal performance in AFCON qualifiers, recognizes the challenge ahead against Zambia. Yet, Msvu exudes calm confidence, crediting their meticulous preparation.

He implored Tanzanians for continued prayers, drawing on the team's Morocco triumph as inspiration. Msvu declared: "We won't disappoint our fellow Tanzanians again."

The forward explained: "Victory is within reach, "We're well-prepared to defeat them. We ask Tanzanians to continue praying for us. In the first game against Morocco, we disappointed them, and in this upcoming game, we believe we will win."

Despite the initial setback, defender

Abdi Banda exuded confidence as he disclosed: "Preparations are progressing smoothly, and we players are fully geared up to claim victory in our upcoming clash with Zambia."

He emphasized that the first game's outcome hardly extinguished their aspirations, declaring: "Two matches remain, and our unwavering belief fuels our drive to excel."

Expressing relief that no injuries were sustained, Bakari Mwamnyeto quickly turned his attention to the upcoming critical encounter against Zambia. "The team's morale is soaring," he declared.

The center-back said: "We recognize Zambia's strength, but if we emerge victorious, we'll establish a crucial three-

point lead, which would be a significant accomplishment."

As Taifa Stars confronts Zambia, Morocco is set to face DR Congo on January 21 in the Laurent Pokou stadium in San Pedro.

Taifa Stars must look past this match's result and concentrate on their remaining group stage games against Zambia on January 21 and DR Congo on January 24 to make history by reaching the knockout stage.

Confident in their abilities, Taifa Stars' players believe they can triumph over Zambia in the second game of Group F at the Africa Cup of Nations, with the players motivated and well-prepared for the challenge.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

