



## ADMINISTRATION



**'Hire competent communications officers'**  
Pg 4

## MINERALS



**20 experts in Indonesia for capacity building'**  
Pg 5

## PLANET



**WHO calls for more investment in health'**  
Pg 6

## DEVELOPMENT



**'Promoting peace will ensure justice for all'**  
Pg 7

# MPs: Hang all those found embezzling public funds

*We need to have passed this law so that we address this once and for all, we have been speaking about this for many years*

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

SECTIONS of the legislature yesterday up in arms on public servants implicated in public fund embezzlement by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG)

Mwita Waitara (Tarime Rural) proposed stiff actions including hanging as punishment for such conduct when proved, when debating findings of a technical audit report presented by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

The MP and a score of others felt that this was the right time for the government to enact a law to implement the proposal so that it becomes a deterrent for officials who wish to mismanage public funds.

He said he had witnessed several CAG reports in the past three years implicating scores of government officials but no action was taken.

Benefits from the speed characterising President Samia Suluhu Hassan to search for development funds are blunted by embezzlement as its speed has also increased, hampering development efforts on account of a leaking bucket syndrome.

"We should follow what other countries are doing to people who are implicated in public funds mismanagement," he said, intoning that there are countries punishing them by execution. "This should be done in our country," he declared.

He said that PAC has issued tangible recommendations on what should be done on such people but the recommendations are not heavy, insisting that MPs expected that the committee would

recommend what action needs to be taken.

Nicodemus Maganga (Mbogwe) echoed the sentiments saying a law be enacted to provide for execution by hanging for embezzlement, to end the tendency.

"We need to have passed this law so that we address this once and for all, we have been speaking about this for many years," he stressed, while Deo Sanga (Makambako) said the passing of such a law will reduce malpractice.

This is the time for the law to be brought before the National Assembly for debate, he said, with Christopher Ole Sendeka (Simanjiro) demanding that the ruling party must first distance itself from such individuals.

"Ministers should distance themselves from officers who are involved in public funds embezzlement, so that they are replaced by those who are at least fearful of embezzlement," he explained.

Kilumbe Ng'enda (Kigoma Urban) said incidents of public funds embezzlement have been increasing yearly, so it is the right time for the country to formulate a law to execute those implicated.

Zuberi Kuchauka (Liwale) said the government should not hesitate to enact such a law to control public funds embezzlement, as a viable deterrent.

Luhaga Mpina (Kisesa) proposed that two cabinet ministers Prof Makame Mbarawa and Dr Mwigulu Nchemba "be arrested and prosecuted for economic sabotage."

Joseph Kasheku (Geita) said those implicated in the CAG report must be imprisoned and face hard labour until they return the money they embezzled.



**PRESIDENT** Samia Suluhu Hassan receives a special message from the King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud presented by Saudi ambassador Yahya Ahmed Okesh at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

# Mtemere airstrip to have control tower

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, recently in Morogoro

MTEMERE Gate aerodrome, a new airstrip inside the Nyerere National Park, is poised to enter chronology charts as the first airstrip worldwide in a remote national park to feature a control tower.

Tanzania National Parks conservation officer Daniel Mathayo said during a recent tour by a panel of journalists that on-going construction of the 1.8 kilometers long runway to handle take offs and landing of planes transporting tourists includes erecting a fitting air traffic controlling tower.

The bigger airstrip is adjacent to the older facility near the Mtemere gate into the park, set for completion next August, he said, noting that the airstrip building is part of the Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and

The REGROW project focal person at the park noted that the new airstrip will be able to handle a wider range of tourist aircraft.

The terminal in the wilderness will also feature modern arrival and departure lounges for luxurious reception of visitors landing or departing from the destination, he said.

Construction works are being undertaken by China Hennan Inter

TURN TO PAGE 2



# 'Add 20 years to AGOA, soften eligibility criteria'

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA has proposed that the African Growth and Opportunity Act program (AGOA) be extended for another 20 years as the current extension draws to a close in 2025.

A ministerial statement said yesterday that Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji issued the request as member countries of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) debated implementation of the US market access facil-

ity designed for poor African states in the South African commercial capital of Johannesburg.

The 20th AGOA Trade Forum that started on Thursday at the ministerial level ends today, as the minister proposed a longer extension period while some members sought for five, ten or 15 years extension bids.

A longer extension will facilitate AGOA implementation and stimulate long-term investment in African countries, she said, asserting that a 10-year period is not enough for significant results regarding long term

investment.

She appealed to SADC members to urge US authorities to allow AGOA eligibility to all member countries of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), while strengthening AGOA cooperation with the AfCFTA zone.

Inclusion of all countries participating in AfCFTA "will help support regional cooperation efforts to expand the scope of AGOA" as well as focus on other important issues such as the trade in services, she

TURN TO PAGE 2



# 'Act on police officers taking Barrick bribes'

By Guardian Reporter

NYAMONGO villagers in Tarime District, Mara Region have appealed to the highest levels of government to take action against police officers and local officials fuelling conflicts with a nearby gold mine.

John Heche (pictured), a former MP said at a press conference in Dodoma yesterday that some police officers have been collud-

ing with mine officials to infringe the rights of village residents, citing instances of occupying their land without compensation.

Heche, ex-MP for the area, asserted that there was clear evidence of police officers receiving payments, contrary to the Police Force code of conduct, appealing to the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Robbery gang allegedly invaded office stole properties, cash in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

A group of over 50 robbers allegedly yesterday broke the gates and offices of Three Road Company in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region stealing a number of tools including computers and funds.

The office is within Plot No. 39 located at Mikocheni Kinondoni Light industrial Area which is owned by Serafina Limited.

Speaking to reporters at the scene, Dingcheng Li, managing director of Three Road Company Ltd expressed dismay over the action, saying that such action should be condemned as they are against the law and violate human rights.

According to him, the alleged invaders arrived at the office around at 7.30am forcing workers to go out of the gate where they locked them out before implementing the inhuman action.

"I am very disappointed, I have been in Tanza-

nia for more than 10 years and never met such an incident, so I am calling for the authorities to hunt and arrest the culprits," he said.

The robbers took computers, laptops, four smart phones and stole over \$25,000 as well as 23m/-.

He said they broke the doors, windows, gates as well as beating some of the staff.

According to him, there is a dispute going on between the company and the owner of the area which has lasted for some months now.

He said that the firm has a lease tenure of ten years from 1st October 2021 up to September 2031.

He said because the agreement was a long-term lease, the memorandum of understanding (MoU) permitted to construct the building.

Efforts by police officials to confirm the information proved futile as their mobile phones were not reachable.



Three Road Company Ltd managing director Dingcheng Li (R) shows to journalists (not pictured) the damage done after a robbery gang invaded the firm's offices located in Plot No. 39 at Mikocheni Light Industrial Area in Kinondoni Municipality, Dar es Salaam Region yesterday. Photo: John Badi

## 'Act on police officers taking Barrick bribes'

FROM PAGE 1

conduct investigations on the various allegations.

It should cover all the suspected police officers and take them to court, he said, noting that their names are listed in Barrick Gold Mine reports lately released in a British court in

downtown London.

Since the conflict incidents started in 2001, scores of villagers have been killed or injured by the police in collaboration with private security officers hired by the Canadian gold miner operating in the district.

Some villagers lost land to the company without being compensated as required in the rel-

evant legislation, he said, elaborating that despite considerable efforts "the courts and other government organs have failed to help Nyamongo residents access their rights."

Instead, the local authorities in collusion with security organs accused the villagers to have invaded the investors' land, he said, emphasizing that

action be against those listed in the recent Barrick reports.

These officials have contravened the ethics set out in the public employment code of conduct "as it is illegal for senior officers or any official in the government to receive unauthorized payment from a private company."

He said that last month Bar-

rick Gold released documents showing its collaboration with government and security organs, having been asked to do so by a chamber of the High Court in London.

The documents have demonstrated the long collaboration between the mining company and the security organs, he added.



Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi speaks to the Islam followers shortly after the Friday prayers at Masjid Noor Kombeni in West "B" District, West Urban Region yesterday. Photo: State House

## Mtemere airstrip to have control tower

FROM PAGE 1

national Cooperation Group Co. (CHICO), while Howard Consultants and Saba Engineering, an Ethiopian firm, are the main project consultants.

Ephraim Mwangomo, chief conservator at the park, said the revamped facility is vital because tourist numbers are rising at the destination.

Most foreign visitors here arrive aboard airplanes for game drives during the day, flying back to Zanzibar in the evenings, he stated highlighting that while it is only four years old, Nyerere National Park attracts an average of 55,000 tourists in a year, generating around 11bn/- in revenues per annum.

Many of the tourists visiting the park are day trippers landing in the morning from Zanzibar, undertaking game drives before flying out again in the evening, he elaborated.

Mapped within 30,893 square kilometers, the park is the biggest such facility in the Eastern Africa Region. Other than the Mtemere terminal, there are two more airstrips on the reserve, namely Msolwa and Matam, he added.

## 'Add 20 years to AGOA, soften eligibility criteria'

FROM PAGE 1

stated. Countries that have reached higher income status should not be immediately removed from the AGOA facility as many of them experience economic problems and unemployment challenges, she said, pondering over limitations to AGOA mem-

bership.

Reviewing of criteria and qualifications for AGOA eligibility needs to be done every three years instead of an annual review as at present, she further proposed, arguing that this will build confidence and provide ample time for investors to evaluate their production methods or standards to take corrective measures

where necessary.

If these recommendations are considered, they will bring positive results while the number of traders who use AGOA will increase, she said, pointing a finger at textile visa requirements saying the provision "adds extra process and costs in doing business under AGOA."

Praising the United States and

South Africa for preparations of the AGOA Trade Forum for 2023, she said that Tanzania appreciates the vital significance of the AGOA programme as it is critical to Tanzania and other AGOA beneficiaries.

Participating countries have not been able to fully utilize all opportunities under AGOA, she stated, noting that the organisers included

sessions on the matter to allow participants to air viewpoints on the matter.

AGOA provides eligible sub-Saharan African countries with duty-free access to the U.S. market for over 1,800 products, aside from upwards of 5,000 products eligible for duty-free access under the generalised system of preferences programme.

AGOA has helped bolster economic growth, promoted economic and political reform and improved economic ties with the United States in the region.

A total of 36 countries were eligible for AGOA benefits in 2022 while in 2015, Congress passed legislation modernizing and extending the program to 2025.

# Stakeholders and experts to seek sustainable solutions to address challenges in education

By Getrude Mbagu

OVER 350 education stakeholders and experts from in and outside Tanzania are later this month, scheduled to convene in Dar es Salaam to think critically and generate sustainable solutions for addressing challenges in the education sector.

Organised by the Tanzania Education Network (TEN/MET), "the 3rd International Quality Education Conference (IQEC)" is expected to draw participants including experts, key leaders and officials from public, private sector and civil society organizations.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TEN/MET head of programmes, Martha Makala said the conference will uncover trends in education and learn unique perspectives in enhancing education system transformation in addressing the future of Africa education, context, challenges, and opportunities.

"This is a forum which will be held from November 27 to 29, this year, will bring together education stakehold-

ers from across the globe to discuss issues that affect the achievement of quality education in Africa and collectively chart a way forward on how to address them," he said.

She said IQEC serve as a valuable platform for the exchange of knowledge and expertise on various topics, including sustainable education leadership, the digitalization of education in Africa, the global knowledge gap, challenges and opportunities in literacy, promoting gender equality through education, enhancing education systems, climate change education, inclusive education and other related subjects.

This conference is an impetus to cause stakeholders in education to think critically and generate sustainable solutions that will unlock the generational quest for quality, equitable inclusive education by leveraging on critical issue concerning the rights of all children, and a move towards abolishing all forms of violence, whether gender-based, against children, persons with disabilities,

pregnant girls, and other vulnerable groups.

"The Tanzanian government has made significant progress in enhancing the provision of secure and conducive learning environments for pre-primary, primary, and secondary school students. This has been achieved through the implementation of various initiatives aimed at meeting the minimum infrastructure requirements outlined in the Primary Safe School Program (PSSP). The ultimate goal of these efforts is to ensure that every child in Tanzania has equitable access to quality basic education," she noted.

Moreover, Tanzania has embarked on an inclusive and participatory process towards policy and curriculum reforms aimed at cultivating a population of Tanzanians who possess a high level of education and competence. These reforms are driven by the vision of equipping Tanzanians with the necessary knowledge, skills, abilities, and positive attitudes that will empower future generations to actively contribute to the nation's development," she said.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa exchanges views with the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs Dr Pindi Chana during the National Assembly session in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

The proposed reforms were disseminated extensively among various education stakeholders, encompassing significant changes such as the implementation of vocational skills pathways at the ordinary level, a strong emphasis on 21st-century skills, and a concerted effort to ensure the effective implementation of the reforms by adequately preparing competent teachers," Martha added.

She also said that the conference will also discuss the importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in learning and teaching, contribution of the government in strengthening education during disasters and the role of stakeholders in supporting the

improvement of education in the country. Denis Otieno, programmes manager at Shule Direct said the firm is reaching over 4 million school children through tech-based learning, something which facilitates smooth dissemination of skills to children.

He said that investing in technology in the education sector was important which included revamping classrooms with technology and flexible designs to foster interactive learning experiences.

TEN/MET has organised the conference in close collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Policy Forum, Vodacom Tanzania, School 2030 and Coalition of Good Skills.

# MPs direct govt to find proper financing mechanism for SGR

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament have directed the government to find a proper financing mechanism for the remaining phases of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project after a technical audit revealed flaws in its execution.

According to the audit report, some of the flaws include inflated and delayed procurement of materials, increased costs and delayed completion and financing.

The delays in timely completion of the project have led to delays in realizing value for money for the strategic investment, according to the parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

"The government must ensure it gets affordable financial support for the remaining phases of the SGR project so that the challenges are addressed and the project is completed on time," said PAC deputy chairman Japhet Hasunga when tabling the re-

port in the National Assembly.

The committee also advised the government to take measures to protect the image of all strategic projects so that they are completed on time including the SGR.

"The Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) should continue administering the implementation of the SGR project by abiding by the country's laws," he said.

The technical audit report involved the five phases of the SGR project namely Dar es Salaam-Morogoro, Morogoro-Makutupora on areas that have not been completed including procurement of wagons, installations of electric and communication systems.

Hasunga said on SGR phases 3,4 and 5 the audit involved all stages of the implementation processes including planning, prior designing, finding a contractor, and implementation of the contract taking into consid-

eration human resources, environment, occupational safety and other social issues.

"The audit has shown that there was a lack of indicative terms of standards on electric materials which were issued by the contractor to indicate prices," said Hasunga.

He said the audit has further revealed that despite the availability of guidelines to lead discussion on increasing loan to finance projects, issuance of guarantees and subsidies which were prepared by the ministry of finance in November 2020 requiring government institutions to have detailed designs and information to facilitate proper decision making on implementation of the project, the guidelines were not considered in the SGR project.

For example, Hasunga said during discussions between Yapi Merkezi and Mota-Engil and TRC in January 2017 on the technical solutions for installation of Over-

head Catenary System (OCS) on the SGR line, there no technical qualifications issued by the contractor to allow price quotations including the number of wagons and freights at every OCS and its power capacity.

"This gave room to the contractor to decide what kind of an electric system and with what qualities should be bought," he said.

Hasunga added that the audit also revealed an inflation of costs averaging \$1.3 million for phase 3 and 4 with the cost of

phases 1, 2 and 5 costing about \$4.1 million, \$4.6 million and \$3.9 million per kilometre respectively.

"While phases 3 and 4 the tendering process was done using a single source, while the cost for the SGR was \$5.2 million and \$5.5 million respectively," he said.

He added that due to the move, the audit has shown that there were no economic benefits for using a single source to find Yapi Merkezi as the costs for other projects were down com-

pared to what the SGR contractor was given.

On procurement, Hasunga said the audit has found that there were errors in which TRC for two times rejected tenders for procurement of rolling stocks, seats and passenger freights in which the tenderer with \$263,460,514 million was denied, instead a non-competition procurement was done at \$478,507,468 million an increase of \$215,046,954 equivalent to 82-percent.

ENDS/ sm

# Rwanda announces visa-free travel for all Africans

KIGALI

RWANDA has announced that it will allow Africans to travel visa-free to the country, becoming the latest nation on the continent to announce such a measure aimed at boosting free movement of people and trade to rival Europe's Schengen zone.

President Paul Kagame made the announcement in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, where he pitched the potential of Africa as "a unified tourism destination" for a continent that still relies on 60 per cent of its tourists from outside Africa, according to data from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

"Any African, can get on a plane to Rwanda whenever they wish and they

will not pay a thing to enter our country" said Kagame during the 23rd Global Summit of the World Travel and Tourism Council.

"We should not lose sight of our own continental market," he said. "Africans are the future of global tourism as our middle class continues to grow at a fast pace in the decades to come."

Once implemented, Rwanda will become the fourth African country to remove travel restrictions for Africans. Other countries that have waived visas to African nationals are Gambia, Benin and Seychelles. Kenya's President William Ruto announced Monday plans to allow all Africans to travel to the East African nation visa-free by December 31.

"Visa restrictions amongst ourselves are working against us. When people cannot travel, business people cannot travel, entrepreneurs cannot travel, we all become net losers" said Ruto at an international summit in Congo Brazzaville.

The African Union in 2016 launched an African passport with much fanfare, saying it would rival the European Union model in "unleashing the potential of the continent." However, only diplomats and AU officials have been issued the travel document so far.

The African Passport and free movement of people is "aimed at removing restrictions on Africans ability to travel, work and live within their own continent," The AU says on its website.

IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF TANZANIA  
AT DAR ES SALAAM  
CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 511/17 OF 2020  
VICENT MSANDA WAMBURA.....APPLICANT  
VERSUS  
KIPWELE O. M. NDUNGUU.....1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDENT  
NURU OHARY LIGALWIKE.....2<sup>ND</sup> RESPONDENT  
EMILY T. KIRIA.....3<sup>RD</sup> RESPONDENT  
SETTY OBEID MGAHA.....4<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

TO:  
KIPWELE O. M. NDUNGUU

"WHEREVER YOU ARE"  
TAKE NOTICE that the hearing of Civil Application will take place at Dar es Salaam on 3rd day of November, 2023 at 09:00 am.  
If no appearance is made on your behalf by yourself, your pleader or by someone authorized by law to act for you in this application, it will be heard and decided in your absence.  
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 11th day of October 2023.

**bgtl BEST GROUP (T) LIMITED**  
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**TANGAZO LA MNADA WA HADHARA**

Kwa idhini tufanyopewa na EQUITY BANK (TANZANIA) LIMITED tunatoa notisi ya siku kumi na nne (14) kuanzia Tarehe ya Tangazo hili kwa wadaiwa wanatajiwa hapa chini, walipo deni wanalidaiwa na benki hiyo pamoja na riba. Kushindwa kulipa kwa muda huo tutalazimika kusiza dhama (mali) iliyo dhambi mikopo hiyo kwa MNADA WA HADHARA. Mnada utafanyika kuanzia saa 4:00 Asubuhi na kuendelea mahali dhama zilipo kama inavyoonesha hapa chini.

Na.	JINA LA MDAIWA/MOHAMINI	MAELEZO YA DHAMANA NA MAHALI ILIPO	TAREHE
1.	JUDITH ALEXANDER KITALLY	Nyumba ya makazi yenye kiwanja na. P11673 Reg. Plain na DSHS 0021736 eneo la Mbazi Luis Manispaa ya Ubungo Iliyosajiliwa kwa jina la JUDITH ALEXANDER KITALLY.	23/11/2023
2.	LEONIA PAUL D ABILAH MKANJE	Nyumba ya makazi yenye kiwanja na 22 kitalu "K" Hati na. 95714 eneo la Kinyerezi Manispaa ya Itala. Iliyosajiliwa kwa jina la MOHAMED ABILAH MKANJE	24/11/2023

**MASHART YA MNADA**

- Dhama itazwa kama iliyopo.
- Mnunuzi atatakiwa kulipa siku ya mnada asilimia 25% ya bei iliyofikiwa.
- Malipo ya asilimia 75% yalipwe ndani ya siku kumi na nne (14). Kukamilisha malipo yote. Kushindwa kufanya hivyo mnunuzi atakuwa amepoteza malipo yote ya awali ya asilimia 25%, na mnada kurudiwa, au mshindi wa pili atapewa ushindi.
- Gharama za kuona, kukagua, kuhamisha umiliki, kumtoa mdaiwa/mpangaji na zingine zinazoambatana na hilo ni jukumu la mnunuzi.

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**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WORKS**

**TANZANIA NATIONAL ROADS AGENCY**

**DISCLOSURE OF RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN (RAPs) FOR IRINGA - MSEMBE ROAD (104 km), LUTUKIRA - SONGEA ROAD AND ITS BYPASS & RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN AUDITS FOR IRINGA AND LAKE MANYARA AIRPORTS FOR TANZANIA TRANSPORT INTEGRATION PROJECT (TanTIP)**

The Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) on behalf of the Ministry of Works intends to rehabilitate and upgrade the trunk and regional roads including Lutukira -Songea (100 km) road and Its Bypass in Ruvuma Region and Iringa - Msembe (105.6 km) road in Iringa Region; and to Upgrade and rehabilitate the Lake Manyara Airport in Arusha Region and Iringa Airport in Iringa Region.

The World Bank has shown interest to finance the improvement of these key road corridors and regional airports through the Tanzania Transport Integration Project (TanTIP).

In fulfilment of the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework requirements, TANROADS has prepared the two (2) Resettlement Action Plan (RAPs) and two (2) Resettlement Action Plan Audit reports to guide the implementation of the Sub projects.

TANROADS is hereby disclosing the Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), Resettlement Action Plan Audit reports and inviting all interested stakeholders and public at large to access the documents for the purpose of following up the implementation of RAPs and RAP Audits during the Sub projects implementation.

The public can also access the report through **TANROADS** Website at [www.tanroads.go.tz](http://www.tanroads.go.tz), World Bank Website at [worldbank.org](http://worldbank.org) and at the following offices:

- Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS)**  
P.O. Box 11364  
10Shaaban Robert Road/Garden Avenue Junction  
Dar es Salaam.  
Email: [tanroadshq@tanroads.go.tz](mailto:tanroadshq@tanroads.go.tz)
- TANROADS Regional Office**  
P.O. Box 31  
Ruvuma
- TANROADS Regional Office**  
P.O. Box 3094  
Arusha
- TANROADS Regional Office**  
P.O. Box 23  
Iringa.



Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces Chief of Personnel Major General Marco Gaguti (L) presents TPDF Prague souvenir to the representative on behalf of Force Commander from MINUSCA headquarters on appreciating services from the Tanzania's UN mission in the Central African Republic earlier this week. Photo: Courtesy of TPDF

## Govt direct all regions and district councils to hire competent communications officers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has directed all regions and district councils across the country to ensure that they hire competent communications officers who will stand firm in informing the public on various initiatives and projects implemented in their areas.

Deputy Minister, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Dr Festo Dugange made the directives on Thursday here when opening a meeting between Dodoma Regional Commissioners (RC), District Executive Directors (DEDs) and the media.

He said that the government wants to see the regions and councils working hard to implement various projects effectively while also furnishing the public with the progress of the projects.

"Every district country should have a communication officer who will be a good bridge between the government and community, so RCs have a big role to play here to ensure that these officers are available and fulfill the required duty, Tanzanians have right to know what its government was doing for them and the country," he said.

He wanted regions and districts that have no communications officers to take efforts which include hiring by contract while waiting for the government's budget.

The deputy minister said that communication officers have to attend all important meetings in the regions and districts in order to ensure that the decisions reached during the meetings reach the community through various reports which will be prepared by the media.

"There is a tendency in many areas where these officers are not included in various meetings, this is very bad because at the end of the day, they will not be well informed on the projects and initiatives thus making the public also to remain uninformed," he explained.

He emphasized that dissemination of information to people should be sustainable to all RCs and DEDs in the 184 councils across the country.

# Leveraging technology to improve TB health care

By Angelica Marie Sanchez

EVERY year, around 10 million people contract tuberculosis (TB), a treatable disease where bacteria attack a patient's lungs.

Globally, only about half of those who contract TB yearly are diagnosed. Many other people with TB are undiagnosed and untreated, partly due to a lack of access to quality health-care systems, particularly in resource-limited settings and among marginalized groups.

Charity Oga-Omenka, a professor at the School of Public Health Sciences at the University of Waterloo, shares how her research examines health-care seeking journeys for individuals with TB across Nigeria, India and Indonesia, and the access to quality TB care among the private sector

health-care providers in these settings.

Charity Oga-Omenka "If a patient were to go, for instance, to a community pharmacy to complain about their cough, the pharmacy would likely not do a test and would just recommend cough medicine or even dispense antibiotics without a prescription. Whereas a patient who goes to a public clinic with TB services would likely get tested and diagnosed by the clinician," Oga-Omenka explains.

"My research focuses on the main reasons why some people are able to come to the clinic at the time they should and others are not. Or if they do get to a clinic, what are the main reasons why the health-care system is not diagnosing them?"

Oga-Omenka was not only born

and raised in Nigeria, but also spent 10 years working to support the public health sector within the region. She worked with a large non-governmental organization in Nigeria, funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and malaria.

This work sparked her passion to continue working to support the public sectors in low and middle-income settings, as she witnessed first-hand how these programs were critical in the testing, treatment and support of people living with HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB in Nigeria.

"That was very powerful to me to see that I can contribute to a program that provides interventions, such as testing, counselling and medication for critically ill patients, and see them bounce back

to life," Oga-Omenka says, explaining how her love for public health comes from being able to make a difference in someone's life.

"When you work at the public health-care level, you can see the large-scale impact these programs have from the number of patients you're working with that progress from being very ill to having their lives back again."

Having received funding from the Graham Seed Fund, which provides resources for health-care providers and clinicians, Oga-Omenka plans to expand her research on TB health-care delivery in Nigeria, and other high-burden TB countries with prominent private health-care sectors. Oga-Omenka and her team are currently interviewing people in the field to see how technology can intervene, or the challenges with

existing technologies, in targeting the issues that are preventing people from getting diagnosed in a timely fashion.

Oga-Omenka is expecting to collaborate with the faculties of Engineering and Mathematics to develop web-based technologies as resources to support TB testing for patients and their health-care providers and managers. Oga-Omenka hopes that her team's ongoing research on existing health-care infrastructure, resources and technology will improve access to services for people seeking TB treatment and care.

The Waterloo researcher envisions a future where similar technology for COVID-19 prevention can be leveraged for other health issues. If there is an app that people can download onto their

phones to access a self-assessment tool and view a list of readily available health-care providers and facilities nearby – it would be the ideal technological solution for the future of health care.

"In an ideal world, technology can help people, irrespective of where they live to optimize their health. Imagine a world where people everywhere have at their fingertips tools and resources that they can use to make informed decisions about their health; and their health-care providers are able to find them," Oga-Omenka says.

"I think there's an opportunity for Waterloo, being at the forefront of cutting-edge technology and innovation, to help build technologies that can help people in different settings improve their access to health care."

## Gov't to create 2,000 jobs within a year from vehicle assembly plants

ACCRA

THE government in Ghana has reaffirmed its commitment to the development of the automotive industry in Ghana.

The Minister of Trade and Industry, K.T. Hammond speaking at the inaugural Ghana Mutual Prosperity Dialogues said the government will create 2,000 jobs within a year from vehicle assembly plants due to its deliberate policy intervention.

According to him, the legislative instruments for the full implementation of the Automotive Policy will be completed next year.

"So far, our estimates suggest that we can increase outputs from Vehicle Assembly Plants from 2,800 vehicles to around 7,500 by 2024, thereby giving us the critical mass to create at least 2,000 jobs within a year from vehicle assembly plants alone. Also, our legislative instruments for the full implementation of our

Automotive Policy will be completed next year, ensuring that a framework for the development of Vehicle Assembly Plants and automotive components will guide our economic expansion going forward."

He indicated that "It is profound to note that over a relatively short span of 3 years of a deliberate policy intervention to create a new automotive sector, Ghana is now recognised as an emerging hub for vehicle assembly."

K.T. Hammond stated that the analytical assessment of where Ghana's comparative advantages lie has led to a renewed policy focus on developing the textile garments, and pharmaceutical sectors.

He said the government is targeting to create "about 30,000 jobs in garments manufacturing and exports by the end of 2024."

He noted that 169 factories were presently operational under the One District One Factory policy, and "we expect this number to increase next year."



Small traders display their merchandise at Kariakoo in Dar es Salaam yesterday which is inconvenient to passers-by. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# Tanzanian peacekeepers awarded UN medals for outstanding service

By Special Correspondent, Bangui

A total of 507 Tanzanian peacekeepers serving on the United Nations' mission in Central African Republic (MINUSCA) batch 6 have been awarded UN medals for their impactful peacekeeping.

Speaking during the ceremony, Lieutenant colonel Ramadhan Shaaban Ramad-

han, said that the honoured ceremony was held at Biberati Mambere Kadei, Central African Republic (CAR).

He said it was six years since the Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces (TPDF) serve under MINUSCA, a contingent that is valued for its expertise in military operations.

He said that the medal recipients - members of the TANBAT6 took up duty

in December 2022 last year and have been tasked with protecting civilians, responding to evolving crises and conducting long-range patrols.

Others were domination and surveillance operations in various locations and teaching entrepreneurship education in various villages.

"The medal parade is one of the most vivid forms of

expression reserved for the officers and Men who have invested in the implementation of the Mission's mandate. Today's ceremony recognizes Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces (TPDF) contribution to the search for peace in the Central African Republic," he said.

During the ceremony, the Central Africa Republic (CAR), UN and Tanzania anthems rang in the ceremony, setting the tone for a memorable congratulatory medal parade for the diverse group of men and women who had served the peacekeeping cause.

The event was held in the presence of MINUSCA special representative from Tanzania contingent Lieutenant colonel Ramadhan.

The UN Medal is an international decoration awarded by the United Nations

(UN) to the various world countries' members for participation in joint international military and police operations such as peacekeeping, humanitarian efforts, and disaster relief.

The medal is ranked in militaries and police forces as a service medal. The United Nations awarded its first medal during the Korean War (1950-1953). Since 1955, many additional Unit-

ed Nations medals have been created and awarded for participation in various United Nations missions and actions around the world.

The most common United Nations medal is the standard UN decoration. Most countries bestow this award for any action in which a member of the military participated in a joint UN activity.



Minister for Industry and Trade Dr Ashatu Kijaji attends the 20th African Growth and Opportunity Programme AGOA held in Johannesburg, South Africa on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## DSB Polyclinic conducts a two-day free heart screening camp for children today

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A Dar es Salaam-based DSB Polyclinic is conducting a two-day free heart screening camp for children and adults starting today.

Speaking to this paper yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the hospital's doctor, Isa Mbashu said they have been organizing such screening camps every year as part of activities to celebrate the World Stroke Day 2023.

Mbashu said that they will run the camp in collaboration with the Heart Foundation, calling upon Tanzanians to wisely use the opportunity by ensuring they attend the heart screening clinic.

He said the world stroke day is celebrated on October 29 every year and the disease is mostly caused by non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and blood pressure (PB).

He noted that decisions to set up the camp to check people at risk of suffering from heart complications was reached after realising that some patients seek medical treatment when the situation is worse. He said during the screening those who will be diagnosed with heart complications will be treated.

"Those who will attend the free screening clinic will be tested for blood pressure, which is also the main cause

of stroke, they will be tested for blood sugar, which is also said to cause stroke. The two diseases that we are going to test are called silent killers because they cannot be detected early," he said.

He said they will also test them to find out the level of the heart's electricity, ECG, oxygen in the body, the way the heart works in order to check the heart chambers and valves.

Mbashu added that doctors will be available to provide all the people with free medical advice that includes steps to take to avoid various infections and non-infectious diseases.

He said apart from health advice, experts will provide education to the people on how to ensure a nutritious and balanced diet so as to avoid some non-communicable diseases.

"We are going to recommend the types of medicines that patients with certain diseases suffer. The camp will be more of heart screening as patients will be educated on various health issues," said the hospital's doctor.

He added: "We have a heart test that many patients are unable to get due to high cost, it is called Stress ECG, you find that the patient has heart pain but every time he is tested nothing is seen but if he is tested on this device, everything is seen," he said.

## EAC competition authority signs agreement with Tanzania's fair competition commission

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community Competition Authority (EACCA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tanzania's Fair Competition Commission (FCC) aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two authorities in the advancement of competition policy and law in the East African Community (EAC).

The MoU signed in Arusha, Tanzania will also ensure that the implementation of EACCA and FCC

mandates and activities enhance regional integration and facilitate cross-border trade.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the EACCA Registrar, Lilian Mukoronia, said in order to support the regional EAC strategy of developing a vibrant competitive Common Market that works for all citizens of East Africa, it is important for EACCA to work with FCC in regulating competition to enhance intra-regional trade and foster sustainable economic growth in the region.

"Today, while respecting our ju-

risdiction independence, our two institutions are committing to collaborate in effectively implementing the East African Community Competition Act, 2006, which is aligned to the objectives of the EAC Customs Union and Common Market Protocols, through which among others, protect market participants from anti-competitive business practices. With the signing of the MoU, we look forward to engaging in more comprehensive, profound and fruitful exchanges and collaboration with our counterpart," said Mukoronia.

William Erio, the Director General of the FCC said that Tanzania and the EAC share an unbreakable bond that stems from the same common roots, culture and economic interconnectedness.

"I commit FCC's determination to work hand in hand with the EACCA to bring to life the cooperation initiatives outlined in the MoU, which will help bring ample development opportunities for businesses in Tanzania and the region, foster their innovations, and propel them to the forefront of the global market," said

Mr. Erio. Under the MoU, the two institutions have set up a working group tasked with implementing the prioritised activities through annual work plans.

The two Institutions have committed to, among other things, review various complementary regulations and guidelines to ensure they are fit for implementation.

The MoU sets out modalities through which the two institutions will cooperate and coordinate their activities in regard to cross-border competition and consumer protec-

tion matters in the region.

It is also meant to facilitate information sharing particularly during joint investigations, which shall be prioritised so as to safeguard the competition process and protect consumers in the region, while respecting each other's respective laws and policies.

The MoU provides for cooperation and coordination in carrying out market inquiries and studies and a platform to pursue technical assistance and capacity building, including staff training.

## Ugandan youth call for electoral reforms ahead of 2026 elections

By Benson Tumusiime

YOUTH leaders have urged the government to make electoral reforms as the country prepares to hold general elections in 2026.

The leaders made the remarks yesterday while presenting their proposed electoral reforms to Justice and Constitutional Affairs minister Norbert Mao in Kampala.

The meeting was attended by members of civil society organisations and the representatives of the Electoral Commission.

Ismail Kirya, the chairperson of Youth Multiparty Forum, presented some of the proposed electoral reforms.

He called for the reduction of nomination fees for parliamentary candidates from the current Shs5m to Shs3m, reduction of the nomination fees of special interest groups from the current Shs3m to Shs200, 000, regulation of electoral financing within the election campaign and enabling prisoners and Ugandans in the diaspora to vote, among others.

Kirya said if these proposals are passed, they will increase youth participation in the next election cycle that will climax in 2026 with presidential, and parliamentary polls.

"Most politicians use a lot of money during campaigns and this becomes a challenge to the youth when it comes to competition," he said.

Stephen Tashobya, a commissioner at the Electoral Commission, said the regulatory body has interacted with the members of the Multiparty Forum, who shared the same views presented by Kirya.

Minister Mao said it would be a tragedy if citizens lost trust in the national electoral system because of high nomination fees.



Singida Regional Commissioner, Peter Serukamba (L), speaks during a public rally to resolve the crisis of farmers and pastoralists at Doloto, Dang'welu and Itigi villages yesterday. RC Serukamba was accompanied by the Regional Defence and Security Committee. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

## 20 experts from Ministry of Minerals take part in capacity building in Indonesia

By Guardian Correspondent Bandung, Indonesia

TWENTY experts from the Ministry of Minerals and its institutions are participating in a capacity building training at the Human Resource Development Centre for Geology and Minerals in Indonesia to enhance their capacity in various areas including research, safety of coal and other minerals.

The training is taking place six months after negotiations and signing of cooperation agreements in various fields in the Mining sector, between Indonesia and Tanzania. The agreement includes developing various employees and experts with the aim of building their capacity to manage and develop mineral resources.

A statement from the Ministry of Minerals said that

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Dr Doto Biteko and the Indonesian Ambassador to Tanzania, Tri Yogo Jatmiko had recently discussed investing in mining activities and cooperation through the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) and the Indonesian Mining Institute.

Other issues discussed by the two leaders included training opportunities for

mining operations in the country, including mine safety.

Cooperation between Tanzania and Indonesia has existed since 1955 when the government of Indonesia participated in the liberation of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa whereas the country decided to open an embassy in Dar es Salaam in 1964.

However, in 2022, Tanzania established its embassy

in the city of Jakarta in Indonesia.

The Ministry of Minerals' priorities for the 2023/24 financial year includes developing important and strategic minerals and building the capacity of its institutions to carry out their duties. Thus, the training shows the commitment of the ministry towards achieving its planned goals.

The training of experts in

Indonesia is happening at a time where other training for employees and experts of the ministry and its institutions is on-going in Arusha Region. The training in Arusha is meant to capacitate employees to properly supervise mining projects as well as on mining financing.

The training has been facilitated by the Ministry of Minerals in collaboration with ASNL Advisory Limited and

companies under the Auramet International LLC and Bankable Tanzania Limited.

Expected results include enabling officials of the ministry of minerals and its institutions to have the appropriate skills to analyse, manage and review investment projects in the sector and to advise the government on best ways to run the specific projects as well as ways to access capital for investments.



CCBRT hospital fistula surgeon Dr Peter Majinge shares a light moment with one of his patients at Lindi Region referral hospital ward yesterday after her successful fistula surgery during the recent one-week-long surgical camp. Since 2019, CCBRT, Equinor Tanzania, and Lindi Region have partnered to provide crucial obstetric fistula treatment for women in the region. Photo: Correspondent

## DAWASA signs contract with Sinohydro firm for the construction of a mega water project

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has signed a contract with Sinohydro Corporation Ltd for the construction of a mega water project worth 40bn/- which will benefit 450,000 city residents upon completion.

Residents in six constituencies of Kibamba, Segerea, Ukonga, Ubungo, Temeke and Ilala are expected to benefit from the project which will be implemented for two years.

Speaking during the event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, DAWASA acting chief executive officer, Kiula Kingu said the contract is about the construction of water supply infrastructures in Dar es Salaam that will involve the construction of a large water storage tank that will accommodate nine million liters. He said the contract will also cover the construction of a water pumping station and the laying of pipes for a distance of 25 kilometers and is expected to benefit 450,000 people on its completion.

Meanwhile, the authority educated residents in Vikawe in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region about its services including encouraging them to connect to the services after the completion of the large water project from Makongo to Bagamoyo. Speaking to the residents, DAWASA - Mapinga Service regional business officer, Christopher Sika, motivated people who are

close to the water network to continue filling applications for service connections as the service is available easily.

"As long as the project is completed and the service is available in our area, let me use this opportunity to ask you to come forward in large numbers to fill applications so that we can connect you with water service," Sika said.

He added that all people who get water service should continue to pay their monthly bills on time so that money obtained will be used to improve and move services to other people in need.

Jihadhali Mindawa, Vikawe village chairman applauded DAWASA for the great cooperation and education they provide to the residents saying that until now water service is not a problem in that area.

"We are very grateful for this education and we ask DAWASA to continue to provide better services in our area and we will show great cooperation to them in protecting the water infrastructures," he said.

A resident of Vikawe, Aminatha Michael commended the system of providing education to people because it reminds them about their responsibility after being connected to water services.

The Vikawe valley area is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the water service improvement project from Makongo to Bagamoyo which was implemented at a cost of 65bn/- which serves the ward of Mapinga, Pangani and Kerege.

## Malawi President Chakwera calls for de-politicisation of infrastructure development

LILONGWE

PRESIDENT Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera has emphasized the need to depoliticize development, stressing that every Malawian is entitled to social and economic benefits accruing from the government.

Chakwera was speaking when he presided over the inaugural Umodzi Day Celebrations in Lilongwe on Thursday.

He said the future Malawians have outlined for themselves in Malawi 2063 espouses that every-

one must be aboard the ship to the country's desired destination.

"The development of assets such as roads and rail cannot be done in one part of the country while neglecting others, for development must never be used to divide Malawians, but to empower and unite them.

"From Chitipa to Nsanje and from Mchinji to Nkhosakota, every Malawian has a right to feel that the electricity in the country is theirs to enjoy, to have confidence that the fertilizer they need to feed themselves will be delivered

to them at an affordable price, to know that there are health services and schools nearby to enhance their capacity to rise out of poverty, to know that the police service will indeed serve them by keeping them safe and not abusing and milking them at every turn like they live in a police state, and to know that theirs is a country in which there is no university quota system dividing Malawians by region and destroying the spirit of our students' innovation and competition," he said.

Chakwera said this is why for

the past three years, his administration has pursued national unity as a pillar for achieving meaningful transformation for all.

"I have been going to every region of the country to remind every citizen occupying every district of Malawi, including far flung places like Likoma Island, that they are all part of this great country and that they matter to its development. This is why I have graced every cultural celebration as truly Malawian and have welcomed every religious and political grouping as having

a stake in our national development," he explained.

At this point, President Chakwera described Umodzi Day as no ordinary day and declared that the first Thursday of each month of November will be Umodzi Day, a day of celebrating and cultivating national oneness.

He said the day should help in promoting Malawian things, Malawian fabric, Malawian food, Malawian languages, Malawian dances, Malawian art, Malawian inventions, and Malawian attractions.

"Going forward, this is to be a day for remembering Malawian history and teaching the young the values of Malawian culture. Going forward, this is to be a day for promoting Malawian peace.

"I have established the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and appointed outstanding Malawians to serve as its Commissioners. This is also why we have chosen peace as the theme for this Umodzi Day, for this is to be a day for remembering that peace must be promoted, not taken for granted.

## WHO calls for more investment in health for better wellbeing of the people and the planet

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has called on world leaders to increase political commitment and action to invest in the "One Health" approach to prevent and tackle common threats affecting the health and well-being of humans, animals, plants and environment together.

WHO joined community organisations yesterday to observe the eighth annual "One Health Day" campaign to attract global attention to the importance of the One Health approach.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General said: "A One Health approach makes public health sense, economic sense and common sense."

He added: "It's obvious that we can only protect and promote the health of humans by protecting and promoting the health of animals, and the planet on which all life depends. We welcome the increasing

political consensus on One Health globally, and we are committed to supporting countries to translate the One Health concept into action that makes a difference."

One health relies on understanding how human actions and policies could affect animal and environment health. The One Health Day provides everyone with an opportunity to educate themselves on the connections between the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment.

One Health is a proven approach to policy-making and cross-sector collaboration to prevent zoonotic and vector-borne diseases from emerging and re-emerging, ensuring food safety and maintaining sustainable food production; reducing antimicrobial-resistant infections; and addressing environmental issues to collectively improve human, animal and environmental health, among many other areas.

It creates opportunities to mobilise the whole of society so that

veterinarians, doctors, epidemiologists, public health practitioners, wildlife experts, community leaders, and people from different sectors can work together without silos to tackle major health threats.

In addition to saving lives and promoting well-being, 'One Health' actions offer huge economic benefits. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank estimate that 'One Health' efforts could bring at least \$37 billion per year back to the global community.

And investing in 'One Health' requires less than 10 percent of the amount. A 'One Health' approach to prevention by reducing deforestation would generate ancillary benefits of \$4.3 billion from reduced carbon dioxide emissions.

Health impacts of climate crisis, water contamination, food safety and increasing disease outbreaks are among some of the greatest challenges humanity and the planet are facing today.



Residents of Rububa Island in Musoma Rural, Mara Region taking part in the construction of a foundation of one of the island's secondary classes recently. It is a strategy for the island to have its own secondary school to relieve their children of the inconvenience of crossing the river to pursue education. Photo: Correspondent

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

## Envoy highlights need to empower the youth

THE Indonesian Ambassador to Tanzania, Tri yogo Jatmiko has urged the community to empower youth for them to make them realize their dream

He was speaking in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to commemorate the 78th Anniversary of Indonesian Independence. The Indonesian Embassy in Dar es Salaam in collaboration with "Tanzania Bora Initiative" hosted a reception and cultural night at the National Museum.

Ambassador Jatmiko said much has been said about the importance of giving youth a voice and a platform for expression.

Amid the talk, let us act to empower our youth, shaping tomorrow today, he said.

"We are proud to celebrate Indonesian National Day by highlighting our partnership with Tanzania in youth empowerment. Our joint efforts with the Tanzania

Bora Initiative underscore the significance of nurturing and empowering our youths to become leaders, change-makers, and key drivers in their communities and beyond." He said

At this year's celebration, the Indonesian Embassy in Dar es Salaam announces its on-going partnership with Tanzania, predominantly in fostering youth empowerment and cooperation.

According to him, this collaborative effort is set to create a positive impact on the lives of young people in both nations as the future leaders, a testament to Indonesia's commitment to empower young people who are the key drivers of continuous economic growth.

He said Indonesia and Tanzania have

been walking hand in hand to promote youth development and empowerment, recognising the immense potential that the youths represent in shaping the future.

Being a country with a demographic bonus, Indonesia has approximately 190 million youths in the productive age, accounting for 70 per cent of its population, Indonesia seizes the opportunity of fortifying youth development and empowerment, he said.

With the assistance of Tanzania Bora Initiative, Indonesian Embassy in Dar es Salaam, who is keenly aware of the opportunity of Tanzania's significant youth populations of 50 per cent or around 30 million, tries to implement a range of

youth centric initiatives, including supporting the creative industry in Tanzania who needs more partnership, investment and cooperation.

He also said recent times have witnessed a remarkable strengthening of our bilateral relations.

We celebrated the opening of the Tanzanian High Commission in Jakarta and welcomed high level visits from distinguished Tanzanian officials, he said.

The highlight was President Joko Widodo's visit to Tanzania in August, this year.

Ambassador Jatmiko said the State Visit in August resulted in numerous significant cooperation agreements, including the revitalisation of the Farmers' Agriculture and Rural Training Centre in Morogoro.

He said they also provided capacity-building grants in crucial sectors such as mining, energy, and agriculture.

Speaking at the event, Samwel Shelukindo, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation who was guest of honour said, "This celebration is a symbol of deep-rooted friendship, cooperation, and shared cultural values, strengthening ties between the two nations dated back to the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1964."

He said the bilateral relations of the two countries have been increasing in social, politics and economic aspects.

The deep-rooted friendship between Indonesia and Tanzania extends beyond the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1964. It traces back to the historic Asia-Africa summit in 1955 and the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961.

## Uganda government agrees petroleum importation deal with a Bahrain firm

KAMPALA

UGANDA'S energy minister on Wednesday tabled a bill before Parliament seeking to grant exclusive rights to Bahraini company Vitol to be the sole importer of petroleum products into the east African country.

Uganda's cabinet has already approved the changes to the petroleum law.

The importation and marketing of petroleum products has generally been liberalized with several private entities involved in the business, mainly sourcing the products from neighbouring Kenya.

Uganda's energy ministry said in a statement that that system has exposed the landlocked country to supply disruptions and high pump prices.

A deal between the state-owned Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) and Vitol energy is already in place.

Under it, Vitol will supply oil products to Uganda National Oil Company which will in turn sell the products to petrol station operators. The first shipment from Vitol is expected to arrive in January.

But some oil marketing companies have criticized the deal, accusing the Ugandan government of seeking to create a monopoly.

Uganda imported \$1.6 billion worth of petroleum products in 2022, according to the country's central bank.



Morogoro Urban Member of Parliament AbdulAziz Abood in one of beds he had for Kiwanja cha Ndege Ward clinic in Morogoro Municipality earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

## Investing, promoting peri-urban farming is key initiatives to provide numerous benefits to communities

By **Grtrude Mbagu**

INVESTING and promoting peri-urban farming has been cited as one of key initiatives which can provide numerous benefits to communities, ranging from improved access to fresh, healthy food thus strengthening food security.

Renalda Mlay, founder of Renie Fresh, an agriculture company based in Arusha emphasized that recently during the African Conference on Agricultural Technologies (ACAT) held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Themed: Agricultural Resilience through Innovation, the conference focused on the centrality of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in fostering agricultural

transformation in Africa.

According to her, if well planned and given priority, peri-urban farming can greatly increase food production while also hiring a number of women and youth.

She said urban farming can provide communities with access to fresh, healthy food that is locally grown and harvested thus improving their diets and reducing their reliance on processed foods by growing their own fruits, vegetables and herbs.

"This type of agriculture somehow responds to the question of food security because 80 percent of the food consumers are in town, it enables them to get food nearby thus getting fresh," she said.

With growing populations and affluence, urban food demand will increase, which presents considerable challenges to achieving economic, environmental and social sustainability," she noted.

"It is high time the government and stakeholders work in synergy to promote farming in peri-urban areas, households can be taught how to establish small farms or gardens in their areas planting a variety of produce including horticultural ones to provide them with enough food as well as income," she explained.

Urban farming also contains various positive impacts to the environment where through growing food locally, urban farmers can

reduce the carbon emissions of transporting food long distances and help conserve water using innovative techniques like rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation.

"I started farming activities in 2015 at a very small area of 7sqm to 15sqm but now I have expanded the plot and I am doing very well, so you can that the challenge is not land, what most of us are lacking in required skills and regular training on better farming, I have been producing a lot of products such as tomatoes, sweet melon and other produce which I sell them locally as well as exporting them to Kenya," she explained.

She said by supporting urban farming initiatives, communities

can achieve a more sustainable, resilient and healthy future.

Dr Canisius Kanangire, the Executive Director of African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) said blessed with plenty fertile land, Africa isn't a continent to witness mass imports of food produce and products.

"The region is experiencing an increased population and equally there is high demand for food thus requiring the stakeholders to work out sound strategies to boost production, we need to create a favourable environment to attract as many youths to invest seriously in the agriculture sector," he said.

He said the increase of youth who are the main workforce of the

continent is yet to be utilized fully due to several gaps and challenges facing the group which include lack of support and engagement.

"Efforts have to be directed to how young people should be brought on board to take over agriculture in order to boost food production to feed the increasing population," he added.

The conference, which commenced October 30 to November 3, 2023, brought together a dynamic community of farmers and other practitioners, such as policymakers, researchers, experts, and innovators, to exchange ideas, share best practices, and explore innovative solutions to enhance agricultural productivity in Africa.

## African governments urged to implement innovative strategies

By **Special Correspondent, Nairobi**

AFRICAN governments have been urged to implement innovative strategies which include establishing hubs to attract young people in commercial farming.

A section of stakeholders threw the challenge recently during the African Conference on Agricultural Technologies (ACAT) held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Themed: Agricultural Resilience through Innovation, the conference focused on the centrality of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in fostering agricultural transformation in Africa.

According to the stakeholders, governments across the region have a role to seek friendly strategies to make farming attractive to the youths.

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"Efforts have to be directed to how young people should be brought on board to take over agriculture in order to boost food production to feed the increasing population," he added.

He said technology was important and is needed in the agricultural value chain and without injecting it, the productivity will remain low.

Dr Amos Nungu, director general of the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) said that a good number of youths in Tanzania were engaging in agriculture thus reaping big from the sector.

"Tanzania is doing well in supporting young people in agriculture, through the Building a Better Tomorrow, many youths have joined forces to utilize opportunities given by the government in the sector," he said.



Global Education Link (GEL) outreach manager Gerald Yacoba talks to students of various secondary school in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the GEL offices at Chang'ombe in Dar es Salaam about the right courses they will choose after their A level education. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By **Correspondent Theresia Victor**

## 'Promoting peace will ensure justice for all'

CHIEF Executive Officer of the Legal Services Facility (LSF), Lulu Ng'wanakilala has called upon citizens to promote peace and reduce violence to ensure equal access to justice for all irrespective of socioeconomic status.

Speaking with the Guardian during celebrations to commemorate the United Nations Week, Ng'wanakilala

said that citizens face a disproportionate amount of violence and conflict; hence promoting peace would ensure justice for all.

She said that Goal 16 of the United National Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is dedicated to promoting peace and inclusive society and is of paramount importance not only to the people

in the country but also worldwide. The goal encompasses multiple aspects all of which contribute to improving the lives of all who are often left on the fringes of society.

"As we are in the UN Week we should remember that access to justice for all is a critical ingredient to human dignity and sustainable

development Goal 16 of the UN SDGs. Peace, justice, and strong institutions are at the heart of Tanzania's journey toward achieving sustainable development" she said.

She said LSF, with unwavering commitment to the above mentioned principles, has made an immense contribution into advancing the foundational goal, complementing and compounding

the role played by other actors including the government and civil society.

The organization strongly confronts cultural obstacles and unresolved legal cases, with essential legal aid services to the most vulnerable particularly women, girls, and marginalised communities through its access to

justice program and its efforts to empower individuals to understand, apply, and shape the laws.

LSF operates on the principle that informed individuals, possessing a sound understanding of their human rights and the legal framework, are better positioned for social and economic empowerment as well as ac-

knowledging the pivotal role of effective justice mechanisms and institutions in fostering comprehensive development and economic growth.

"Through 184 strategically located paralegal units, each serving a Tanzanian district council, the LSF programme annually impacts over 10 percent of the population, remarkably, in 2022, LSF directly reached over 6.4 million community members across Tanzania.

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2023

**Taking A New Look  
At The News  
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## Stakeholder reports on graft show decline is taking hold

WHILE there was always a reluctance to probe financial misconduct in local governments and other spheres of the public sector, it appears that the situation is changing. Reports speak of a spike in instances of executives put to accountability, being arraigned in court on the basis of investigations arising from reports of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) and indeed fewer points of query in a series of situations where the contrary was usually the case. Graft is still there definitely but there are sharp indicators that something is being done about it, or is changing.

There is for instance the proceedings intimated in a part of the city that is a district administratively and a region to a number of service providers or executive agencies, involving the misuse of funds belonging to the Improved Community Health Fund (iCHF). It is likely that as the fund directly touched municipal residents it may have compelled some action to be taken due to demands of elected representatives, unlike in project delays quite simply. The ward representatives were involved in bringing the matter to a halt, and placing it for PCCB procedures.

What is surprising in some of the reports is the manner in which the district council meeting went, that when names were listed on those being suspended, some admitted to their misconduct and several among them were sobbing openly.

That is usually not what is expected of hardened wrongdoers but amateur, which implies that they were engaged in the misconduct on the basis of a 'business as usual' mentality/ The difference is that the degree of transparency is higher, not by their own decision but the reality, and with civic polls coming, councilors wish to brush up their records

by halting misconduct and stopping the rot among civil servants.

The situation may indeed have been reinforced by the work of a complementary agency to CAG, headed by former CAG Ludovic Utouh, taking up the CAG's annual report and zeroing on specific transactions, cash transfers billed to be unsavoury and questionable. In one instance the 'Wajibu' report says that during fiscal 2021/2022 transactions within local governments relating to recurrent expenditure, salaries, pensions and personnel expenses totaling up to 411.31bn/- were mired in a host of questionable circumstances. That can't just go unnoticed.

Still there was a silver line, as the report highlighted that suspected graft in transactions had declined by 63 per cent from 114trn/- during fiscal 2020.21 to the far less astonishing amount the following year.

There were other areas where faulty cash use was higher despite that the number of queried district or municipal councils was less than the previous year.

In that case there is no linear progress in the matter, as executives work overnight to see where obvious graft openings are visible to make use of them. Those sobbing may not have looked careful enough, or joined as a bandwagon in someone else's schemes, prejudicing their reputation.

It is hard to see how the levers of transparency and civic groups seeking accountability shall attain greater effectiveness in ridding municipal councils of graft.

While nothing can be projected in a higher situation, it is clear that transparency is on the rise, and that democratic competition compels councilors to act on graft. It may not be an efficient vehicle but it is altogether the reason democracy exists,

## Urban land laws uplift chances for investors to initiate projects

A SECTION of legislators have of late engaged Lands minister Jerry Siala in a battle of intentions of having explicit legislation for village land and for other areas. The query was why zones 'with a rural look' near urban areas are placed under urban land law or urban development plans, which implies that such areas be placed under village land legislation. While on the surface it was easy to see what areas 'have a rural outlook' they may already be urban in spirit, knowing exactly what is the price of a land plot, and looking forward to sell plots, not to farm them.

On the surface, at any rate to the media and many of their parliamentary colleagues this indeed looked like an anomaly, it is entirely possible that those who did that knew what they were doing. For instance the land map of Dodoma Region as the fifth phase directed the shift to Dodoma, all of it was converted to personal title deeds and not village deeds. The idea was that looking forward, all zones near the capital will be taken up by investors as the city grows or regional markets take off.

Even where the matter was actually said to have been in error when such urban-rural mixture was instituted, the response and the demand by the relevant legislator left a lot to be desired.

For instance there was criticism that a regional municipal centre in the Southern Highlands zone has been placed on urban land regime, implying that residents will be obtaining individual titles even if they are issued under the customary land occupancy procedure. Admittedly the title somewhat complicates occupancy transfer to a third person who isn't a clansman, as it were.

What is unclear is the size of ur-

ban areas, the number of district and municipal councils, who wish to have two land regimes in their areas, one regime for the relatively urbanized area and another for what is still strictly a rural area. Laws are not designed to merely govern what there is but also facilitate change into a higher situation, and this demand that areas which are still rural, while bordering towns and municipalities, be taken as rural, can be a source of confusion to title shifts.

Individual titles ease access to land for those who wish to build, be it residential premises, business space or industrial uptake, where municipal plans are only a guide. For large industries there is a definitely a map that needs to be followed, but for limited size businesses it is expected clientele vs the size of an investment that point to the rightful location of an investment. Thus if one says Njombe or such other be reserved for farming avocados; no land being handed to urban investors that looks like a planned economy, which stifles investor activity or personal decisions on the use of inherited land. Some plots sell for upwards of 100m/- next to a regional capital and people are told to avoid all this, just plant avocados there.

What looks like an error of town planning is actually a forward looking initiative which joins urban areas with rural areas, at least those close to urban areas, and especially for regional urban centres. It is unclear what brings up the concern about application of urban land law on proximate rural areas as definitely residents in those areas will benefit. And there is no point welcoming investors in the country if urban areas aren't allowed to expand, or foster bribes by applying for exemptions.

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## Solidarity fund needed for Africa's sustainability transitions

By Ojijo Odhiambo and Odera Outa

IT is time for Africa to turn a new development page and for the global community to support it. This year's UN General Assembly was a moment to, hopefully, put Africa back on track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Heads of State and Government in attendance spelt out their national commitments to SDGs transformation, including strategies for reducing poverty and inequality, as well as options necessary in decarbonising their energy systems and transforming their food systems among other urgent imperatives.

The leaders were also expected to hammer a new global development financing deal, dubbed the SDGs stimulus, worth some \$500 billion annually.

This year's assembly, coming at the mid-way point of the implementation of the sustainable development agenda, was also meant to take stock of the progress made in implementing the SDGs amidst some of the most complex and pressing development challenges to face humankind.

The COVID 19 pandemic, the debilitating effects of climate change and the Russia-Ukraine war, have all negatively affected economic growth, increased vulnerability and pushed millions of people in Africa into even more perilous poverty.

The inescapable reality of these times is that unless there is a change of course, Africa will miss most of the SDG targets.

### Africa's debt crisis

The region continues to experience sluggish economic growth and rising debt.

According to the World Bank, growth in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) slowed steadily from 4.1% in 2021 to 3.6% in 2022 and is expected to slow down even further to 3.1% this year. This level of growth is insufficient to reduce extreme poverty or even boost shared prosperity as envisaged in the SDGs clarion call.

At the same time, over the past few decades, Africa's debt has increased four times the rate of economic growth in dollar terms, reaching a staggering \$1.8 trillion in 2022.

Sluggish growth, together with rising debt and development financing deficit are perhaps the biggest impediments to the achievement of the SDGs in Africa.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD), to achieve the SDGs by 2030, Africa needs an additional \$194 billion or 40 per cent of the proposed financial stimulus, per annum. This is the equivalent of 7% of the region's gross domestic product, or 34 percent of the region's 2021 total investments.

In as far as climate change is concerned, it is to be noted that Africa which contributes less than 8% of



greenhouse gases emissions continues to bear a disproportionate share of the debilitating effects of climate change.

These are experienced in the form of extreme weather conditions such as cyclones, droughts and floods; desertification and natural resources degradation; destruction of basic national infrastructure and other impacts. The result is the growing poverty and inequality; social tensions; insecurity and, in extreme cases, political instability.

To date, the Paris Agreement, remains largely unfunded. More worryingly, the limited climate financing available is concentrated in the developed world on reduction and, or prevention of emissions, otherwise known as mitigation in climate change parlance.

This is opposed to the stark need to help African countries change their agricultural production systems, conserve forests and natural habitats and adopt climate smart technologies, otherwise known as adaptation.

Between 2019 and 2020, donors made an annual climate finance commitment, (not to be mistaken for disbursement), of \$11.4 billion for adaptation measures in Africa against the annual financing needs of \$52.7 billion, leading to a financing gap of some \$41.3 billion per year.

### Africa needs a Solidarity Fund

Africa is, evidently, at a sustainable developmental crossroads.

For the region to change its development trajectory and make meaningful progress towards the SDGs targets by 2030, an important consideration should be the establishment of a simplified, flexible and quick disbursing Solidarity Fund for sustainability transitions.

Through such a fund, the global

community of nations, individuals, private sector institutions and philanthropies could stand in solidarity with the region by pooling resources for the singular aim of helping Africa to transition, expeditiously, to a sustainable development pathway.

Sustainability transitions in this context refers to an African context-specific, nationally led and resilient non-linear shift from one dynamic development equilibrium to another dynamic, and yet a more sustainable, one fuelled primarily by adequate financing.

In the lead up to this year's General Assembly, with support from the United Nations Development Programme, many African countries were able to refine their national SDGs priorities and commitments using machine learning technology.

This was done through the application of the Integrated SDGs Insights tool. In the process, they have evolved context-specific, ambitious and transformative agenda with parsimonious set of priority targets bearing the most linkages and highest potential for impact across sectors and hence accelerating progress towards the SDGs.

These national priority targets or those derived from other national consultative processes for that matter are, naturally, strong candidates for the African Solidarity Fund for sustainability transitions.

The results of the re-prioritisation and refinement of national SDGs priorities using the Integrated SDGs Insights tool are as diverse as the African countries. They cover the entire width and breadth of the goals spread across the economic, social and environmental sectors.

In accessing the fund, each African country would have the leeway to apply its share of the

fund to address the development priorities which have the greatest synergies and least trade-offs across sectors.

Indeed, there can be no simplistic prescriptions, but rather, a wide menu of nationally defined policy options for the application of the fund.

However, there must be strong governance structures and accountability mechanisms as well as a focus on results in the application of the fund.

It is conceivable that the necessary governance and accountability mechanisms, founded on and given priority by national technical and financial audit institutions could also be embedded in the quadrennial SDGs summit or even the annual High Level Political Forum.

The Solidarity Fund should, however, not be viewed as a replacement for the global financial stimulus discussed at the gathering of world leaders, but rather, as a complementary fast-track mechanism through which African countries can be supported to revert to the SDG trajectory by implementing their SDGs priorities.

Yet, another important aspect of the fund would be the opportunity to bridge the ever-present gap between policy promises, country-specific priorities and their implementation.

It is time for Africa to turn a new development page and walk a different development path. It is time for the global community to pull together, in solidarity with Africa.

**Mr. Ojijo Odhiambo is the UNDP Economic Advisor for Zimbabwe, while Odera Outa is Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Technical University of Kenya.**



# Everybody benefits when safety of journalists is guaranteed

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at an attempt to commit suicide (kill oneself), which is a criminal offence against the right to life as provided for in Article 14 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 as amended until 2005. The Article states: "Every person has the right to live and to the protection of his life by society..."

An attempt to commit suicide is a criminal offence contrary to section 216 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022): "Any person who - (a) procures another to kill himself; (b) counsels another to kill himself and thereby induces him to do so; or (c) aids another in killing himself, is guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for life." Section 217 states: "Any person who attempts to kill himself is guilty of an offence."

Today, I invite you to briefly look at International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists marked each year on November 2. This year's event took place last Thursday. Journalists are collectively a key link between world governments and their people since through their daily reports, people get to know what governments do and the governments get feedback from people on various decisions made.



In their reporting, journalists are often subjected to threats of violence and feel muzzled to report independently. Some journalists are attacked, subjected to disappearances, tortured and killed in mysterious circumstances and this puts their safety at risk.

Since 1993, "more than 1,600 journalists across the world have been killed for reporting the news and bringing information to the public. In 9 out of 10 cases the killers go unpunished," according to the UNESCO observatory of killed journalists. "Impunity leads to more killings and is often a symptom of worsening conflict and the breakdown of law and judicial systems." When we say journalists across the world we mean journalists in each country in which they work.

In certain circumstances, some journalists may try to ingratiate themselves with government authorities, in the hope of winning favour as a survival mechanism. This may also be prompted by avoidance of conflict with the state authority or its agencies.

Where favouritism is explicitly or implicitly expressed media independence, freedom, impartiality or objectivity becomes merely cosmetic. This may differ from one country to another depending on how media laws and regulations protect or subject journalists to imprisonment or paying millions of money in fines to escape it.

In December 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/68/163 on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. Among other things, the resolution "condemned unequivocally" all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers, such as torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention, as well as intimidation and harassment in both conflict and non-conflict situations and proclaimed November 2 as International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.

The resolution also called on world governments "to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without

undue interference, including by means of: (a) legislative measures, (b) awareness-raising in the judiciary and among law enforcement officers and military personnel, as well as among journalists and in civil society, regarding international human rights and humanitarian law obligations and commitments relating to the safety of journalists, (c) the monitoring and reporting of attacks against journalists, (d) publicly condemning attacks and (e) dedicating the resources necessary to investigate and prosecute such attacks."

This year's theme focuses on the role of a safe and free media in ensuring the integrity of democratic elections and systems. It calls on governments to set up effective measures to protect media independence and strengthen institutional frameworks that address violence and impunity and promote media independence, sustainability and diversity.

A report on the state of media freedom and safety of journalists in Africa published in November last year says minimal progress in the advancement of media freedom and freedom of expression

on the continent had been trounced by restrictive legislation and actions by some states that continue hindering the development of a professional and independent media.

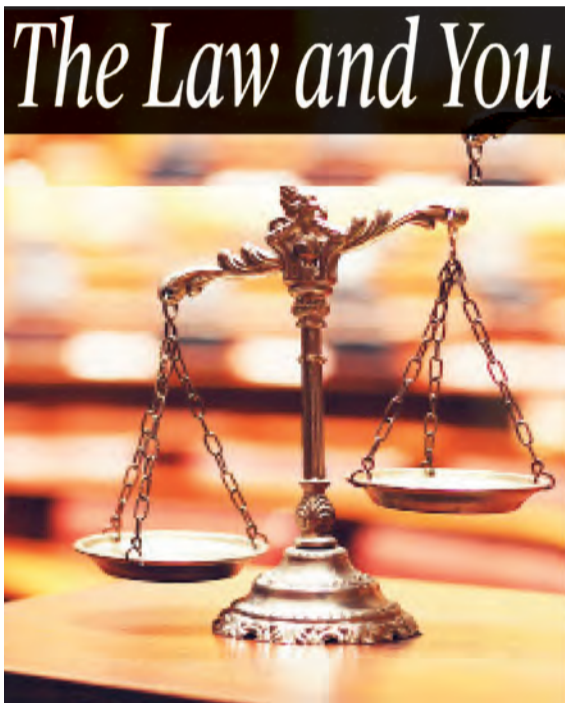
Referring to World Press Freedom Index 2021, the situation in 23 of 48 African countries assessed was classified as bad or very bad. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) noted that press freedom violations were common on the continent and they included arbitrary censorship, especially on the internet, arrests of journalists on the grounds of combating cybercrime, fake news or terrorism and acts of violence against journalists that were hardly punished.

According to the report, in 2021, 75 African journalists had been imprisoned or detained by their governments in 12 countries and violations were aggravated by attacks on individual journalists, including extra-judicial killings, forced disappearances and imprisonment.

"Indeed, governments in several countries have initiated numerous measures, including the enactment of laws and policies aimed at enhancing control and curtailment of the digital civic space: through enabling the surveillance and interception of communication, the registering and licensing of online content creators, and limiting the use of encryption," reads part of the report.

It suffices to say that journalists across the world still work in difficult situations and hardly do they get the support they need to address their predicaments. Theirs is to show great perseverance amidst many adversities: no giving in and no giving up!

**Today's proverb: "The strength of a chain is its weakest link."  
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# Commonwealth civil society's recommendations for gender equality apt

By Alison Kentish

ON August 22, 2023, Women's Affairs Ministers from the Commonwealth huddled in a room at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas. For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, they were meeting in person.

The 13th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting was being held under the theme, Equality Towards a Common Future. It was taking place amid the acknowledgement by policymakers that issues like accelerating climate change, economic turmoil, political upheaval in some parts of the world, and the COVID-19 pandemic have taken a debilitating toll on progress toward the empowerment of women and girls.

Bahamian Prime Minister Philip Davis vowed that the gathering would be solutions-oriented.

"The time is now for our Commonwealth community to be unabashedly ambitious in our goals and plans. We need more than slogans - we need commitments," he said.

As Dr Anne Gallagher, Director General of the Commonwealth Foundation, addressed the high-level forum, images of a recent online civil society gathering organized by the Foundation flashed on screens across the room. The key outcome of that event was a list of ten recommendations that civil society groups from across the Commonwealth want women's affairs ministers to consider.

Recommendation number seven, "Measure better to target better," appeared on the screen. It was one of the recommendations that drew animated discussion among delegates. It came from a young woman dedicated to helping women farmers in her part of the world.

The journey of a recommendation from an online forum to the Commonwealth's highest decision-making body for women's affairs is serving as an example of the importance of not just giving a voice to those who are on the ground, working with women and girls but ensuring that their concerns are heard by those charged with gender equality policy action.

## A virtual roundtable

Keithlin Caroo was a panellist on the Commonwealth Foundation's Critical Conversations series, a virtual discussion that seeks to find sustainable solutions to the most pressing issues for the 2.5 billion citizens of the Commonwealth.

For years, Caroo has been on a mission to help rural women in her home country, Saint Lucia, and has extended that support to the neighboring islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Kitts and Nevis. She is the founder and executive director of Helen's Daughters, a non-profit organization that she refers to as a 'community,' which has been changing the narrative on women in agriculture. Helen's Daughters is built on the premise that while in small states, everyone is connected to agriculture, women are not sufficiently supported despite their pivotal role in the sector.

The organization helps rural women with market access and forges linkages for farmers with supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, and the public through a FarmHers Market. It runs a free Rural Women's 'Ag-



Keithlin Caroo speaks to young Saint Lucian on International Rural Women's Day. Education is an important part of advocacy on behalf of women and girls. Credit: Alison Kentish/IPS

cademy' on the islands of Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which focuses on sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship. It is the first all-women agri-apprenticeship programme in the Caribbean. The organization operates a structured care system that focuses on the holistic development of women, hosting training on trauma-informed care to peer-to-peer support and wellness retreats.

Before the virtual event, the Commonwealth Foundation had made it clear - recommendations from the forum would be put before decision-makers. When Caroo spoke, she did so on behalf of the women farmers who toil daily in a sector fraught with gender biases.

"This engagement was important because it shows that the voices of grassroots organizations are important to Commonwealth's policymaking; however, what's important for me is seeing to it that the recommendations translate from policy to actions on the ground," she said in an interview with IPS.

"We recognized the lack of sex-disaggregated early on, and aside from our interventions, data collection, monitoring, and evaluation are key to our work. Lack of data places further burden on us because aside from crafting interventions relevant to our beneficiaries, we are also responsible for primary data collection, which takes more time and resources; however, we must craft interventions according to the current state of play rather than what is imagined. As I said during the roundtable - "We can only target better if we measure better."

Voices like Caroo's played an important role in ensuring a commonwealth-wide response to gender inequality.

## The process

With its theme Gender, climate change and health: how can we do better for women and girls? the virtual roundtable stoked discussion on cross-cutting issues such as violence against women, investing in women and access to education.

"The event was deliberately outcome-

oriented: it included not just a debate and discussion but also a highly focused working session where all participants were charged with coming up with specific recommendations to present to this body. Not a shopping list of blue-sky ideas but practical steps that they felt reflect what Commonwealth civil society - what the 2.5 billion citizens of the Commonwealth, want their countries to do for women and girls when it comes to health and climate change," said Gallagher.

She reminded the gathering that the Foundation is a link between Commonwealth Member States and the people they all serve. She urged the ministers to reflect on the 'clear and urgent' recommendations from civil society.

"For me, the clarity and simplicity of the ten recommendations signals an important truth: we all understand the challenges we are up against in relation to women's rights and well-being, and also in relation to climate change. We all appreciate what must be done. But shifting the current trajectory in ways that make a

real difference will require much more. It will require courage, commitment, and true solidarity within and between countries of the Commonwealth," she said.

## The recommendations

Recommendation seven, "Measure better to target better," might have struck a chord with attendees, but the other nine recommendations were also well received.

They are Acknowledge that the impacts of the climate crisis are not gender-neutral, empower women through gender-responsive climate policies and actions, improve access to education and training for women and girls and improve climate finance and bring women forward as leaders and decision-makers.

Others are value and promote women and girls as adaptation educators and agents of change, promote gender equality in access to healthcare, act to reduce gender-based violence and enhance women's economic empowerment.

The meeting's official outcome statement notes that the recommendations were welcomed and endorsed.

Their journey is not over - they are now part of the women's affairs ministerial meeting recommendations that will be brought before Commonwealth Heads of Government at their 2024 meeting in Samoa.

"I thought this engagement was of particular importance because I had never been to a panel at this level that spoke on the intersection of gender, climate change and health or intersectionality in general. Far too often, we focus on these themes in silos," Caroo said.

"We do not consider Helen's Daughters an agricultural organization because we deal with gender, climate change, gender-based violence, health, economic empowerment, climate and environmental justice, several areas that contribute to the overall development of our FarmHers. I thought the roundtable was timely because our policymaking needs to take an intersectional approach."

IPS UN Bureau Report

# Venezuela's young women particularly vulnerable to economic crisis

By Humberto Márquez

**H**EMMED in by poverty, with barely two days of school a week, and often at risk of unwanted pregnancy or the uncertain prospect of emigration, young women and adolescents are among the main victims of the ongoing crisis in Venezuela.

"My boyfriend and I do all we can to avoid pregnancy but buying contraceptives is expensive and we can't always afford it," Anita, a 22-year-old computer science student, told IPS from the west-central city of Barquisimeto.

A pack of three condoms costs at least four dollars, a month of birth control pills more than 10 dollars, an intrauterine device about 40 dollars (plus the medical cost of its implantation), and in the country the minimum wage is four dollars a month and the average monthly salary barely exceeds 130 dollars.

A survey by the Women's Peacebuilding Network found in September that 42 percent of Venezuelan women between the ages of 18 and 24 do not use birth control, and one of the reasons is the high cost in relation to their meager incomes.

The Venezuelan Association for Alternative Sex Education reported in a study in April that only three out of 10 women of reproductive age use contraceptive methods in this country.

"The lack of contraceptives and access to sexual and reproductive health is of great concern in the case of impoverished adolescent girls, who most need to avoid early pregnancy that could keep them out of the classroom," said María Laura Chang, editor of the report by the Women's Peacebuilding Network.

## Omnipresent poverty

As a result, "the feminization of poverty has been prolonged, as young women gain more dependents and less time to devote to their economic well-being, education and self-improvement," Chang added in an interview with IPS.

"All age groups are affected by poverty, lack of income and opportunities. Because of the education crisis, the women most at risk are adolescents," sociologist Luis Pedro España, head of poverty studies at the private Andrés Bello Catholic University (Ucab) in Caracas, told IPS.

Every year Ucab conducts a Survey of Living Conditions of Venezuelans (Encovi), which found that in 2022 income poverty affected 81.5 percent of the country's 28.3 million inhabitants, extreme poverty affected 53.3 percent, and multidimensional poverty (employment, services, health, education and income) 50.5 percent.

España highlighted the impact of the educational crisis that the country is going through "because schools only receive students twice a week, which makes adolescent girls more likely to drop out."

The reduction from five to only two days of classes per week in many public schools and institutes is mainly due to the lack of teachers, who have left the classrooms - in the three year period of 2019-2021 alone a quarter of them left - due to low salaries, lack of transportation, deterioration of infrastructure and other resources, as well as high student dropout rates.

According to official figures, there are 29,400 schools in the country, of which 24,400 are public, serving 6.4 million students, and 5,000 are private, serving 1.2 million students. Figures from universities and civil society organizations estimate the number of students dropping out of school at around 1.5 million in the last five years.

In the survey carried out by the Women's Peacebuilding Network, 58 percent of the women respondents stated that the main reason for missing classes was because of their school's suspension of activities.

For women, "instead of education being the gateway to the labor market, dropping out of school at a young age means a very high risk of teenage pregnancy," España stressed.

The expert said that "an additional element that correlates with poverty is that of single-parent households that result from early pregnancy and are headed by a young woman who is not sufficiently trained for work, so that poverty is likely to continue to be the plight of her descendants."



Students at the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas take part in a protest against sexual abuse and aggression. Sexist violence stands out in the national context of poverty and scarce access to resources and education on sexual and reproductive health. CREDIT: Mairet Chourio / Efecto Cocuyo

## Disappointment and violence

Another consequence is the disappointment in the lack of opportunities even for young women who complete their higher studies, due to the prolonged economic crisis, during which, for example, the number of factories shrank from 13,000 in 1999 to 2,600 in 2020, according to the Venezuelan Confederation of Industrialists (Conindustria).

In seven of the last 10 years a recession has reduced the country's GDP by four-fifths, and during at least three years of hyperinflation the value of the local currency and the

value of salaries and pensions were decimated.

"I have studied for more than 18 years to end up applying for jobs where they want to pay me 150 or at most 200 dollars a month. With that I can't even pay for my passport (which costs 216 dollars)," Mariela, a recent graduate in administration from a private university, told IPS.

Sitting on a sofa in the middle-class apartment where she lives with her parents, Mariela rattles off a list of grievances to IPS: she is tired of getting up so early to go to school because of the precarious public transportation; there are no good jobs in the country;

going abroad is risky or unaffordable; electricity, water and internet fail in her house for several hours almost every day.

To top it off, "I am one of the few who registered in the Electoral Registry. Many of my fellow students did not. They are not interested in participating in politics at all," said Mariela who, like other young women who spoke to IPS, asked not to disclose her last name.

In its September survey, the Women's Peacebuilding Network found that only half of those over 18 (the minimum voting age) and under 25 were registered on the electoral roll, and even fewer were de-

termined to vote in the presidential election scheduled for 2024.

Of this age group, 19 percent engaged in some community activity and 81 percent in none. Of the latter, 60 percent mentioned the lack of economic stimulus as an obstacle, and 55 percent mentioned the difficulty of transportation to get around.

Another issue faced by young and adolescent girls is gender-based violence.

Of 237 femicides or gender-based murders documented in 2022 by the Digital Observatory of Femicides, of the NGO Centre for Justice and Peace, 69 involved women between

16 and 27 years old.

In the Network's survey, 38 percent of the women interviewed said they had been victims of sexist violence, mainly psychological but also physical. Of the respondents, 24 percent said they were victims of economic violence, both those over and under the age of 24.

In addition, 12 percent of the total number of women surveyed reported having suffered sexual violence, but in the 18 to 24 year-old segment the percentage doubled to 24 percent, reflecting the greater vulnerability of young women to this kind of violence.

## Time to emigrate

Almost eight million people have left the country, especially since 2015, according to United Nations agencies. In 2018, Encovi reported, 57 percent of those migrating were between 15 and 29 years old, a percentage that decreased to 42 percent in 2022. For every 100 female migrants there are 116 males.

Migrants and asylum seekers are highly vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation, and most of the victims of these practices detected in countries in the region, such as Colombia, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and the neighboring Dutch Caribbean islands, are Venezuelan.

Last year, civil society organizations reported the rescue of 1,390 Venezuelan victims of this type of crime abroad. Young women are a particularly fragile segment of the population and are sought by traffickers - often with deceitful offers of employment - to subject them to sexual and labor exploitation.

In the Network's survey, 54 percent of young women between the ages of 18 and 25 said that a member of their family had migrated: 23 percent said it was their mother, father or both, and most reported that they have brothers or sisters who have left the country.

The report that accompanied the survey highlights that for young women and adolescents the separation from their loved ones has had a significant emotional impact, and has made them face new responsibilities, such as caring for younger siblings or attending to new domestic chores, with an impact on their personal development.

The Network's study proposes the design of government programs and policies aimed at overcoming the shortcomings faced by youth and adolescents, support services for victims of gender violence, and an appeal to international cooperation to curb gangs dedicated to human trafficking.

España said that "it is essential to strengthen schools, so that women in their teenage and young adult years do not have children prematurely and can empower themselves, enter the labor market and become independent, without depending on support from their parents or partners."

"Unfortunately, policies and measures are not being developed to mitigate the immense damage being done by reducing the number of school days," he argued.



Women are a majority during an enrollment day at the private Andrés Bello Catholic University in Caracas. University studies are an avenue for personal growth, but graduates, both men and women, suffer from the lack of opportunities due to poorly paid jobs in the midst of Venezuela's economic crisis. CREDIT: M. Sardá / El Ucabista

# 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 UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

## Malawi battles outbreak of scabies that health experts link to the climate crisis

BLANTYRE

MALAWI has seen a resurgence of the infectious skin disease scabies in an outbreak that is being linked to the climate crisis. Just months after a cholera outbreak killed more than 1,800 people and affected a total of 58,982 people in August, the country has seen the return of the disease in the northern city of Mzuzu and the southern Nsanje district, with 4,152 cases registered in the past week.

Scabies is a highly contagious disease caused by tiny mites that burrow into the skin causing intense irritation and discomfort. It is spread through skin to skin contact.

George Mbotwa, the spokesperson for Nsanje district hospital, said the hospital was struggling to cope with the influx of cases. "We registered 4,000 cases across Nsanje district and we are still screening. But the challenge is that we do not have enough medicine to treat the disease. However, we are relying on partnerships with other organisations to help so can we treat people.

"We are doing mass [public] awareness ... because this is a disease related to hygiene and hygiene issues also lead to cholera," he said. "We call on organisations and other

partners to come forward to assist us."

Mbotwa said 1,600 of the 4,000 cases were school-age children.

In Mzuzu, Mzimba North District Health Office spokesperson Lovemore Kawayi said about 152 cases had been registered and an awareness campaign was in place to contain the spread of the disease.

Health campaigners believe the outbreak could be directly linked to the climate crisis, as the current heatwave, high humidity and water shortages across Malawi make people more vulnerable to disease outbreaks.

Public health expert Maziko Matemba said Malawi needs to do more to address the impact of the climate crisis on health. "Looking at scabies, which has affected Mzuzu city and Nsanje districts, I believe that could be as a result of climate change.

"Climate change and health are very critical for Malawi and we need to do more in terms of climate change negotiations. We need to look at the impacts on people's health to ensure we try as much to avoid these conditions," said Matemba.

According to WaterAid Malawi, one in three people (about 5.6 million people) in the country do not



have access to clean water. About 3,100 children under five die every year from diarrhoea caused by poor sanitation, it said.

According to the Intergovernmen-

tal Panel on Climate Change's sixth assessment report, climate risks are appearing faster than previously expected, and 3.6 billion people live in areas already highly affected by cli-

mate change.

Despite contributing minimally to global emissions, low-income countries and small island developing states endure the harshest health

impacts. In vulnerable regions, the death rate from extreme weather events in the past decade was 15 times higher than in less vulnerable ones.

## Lesotho signs the COMESA-EAC-SADC tripartite free trade area agreement

By Guardian Reporter

THE Kingdom of Lesotho has signed the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)-East African Community (EAC)-Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement (TFTA) to facilitate market integration, industrialisation, and infrastructure development.

The signing ceremony held recently in Maseru, Lesotho and was witnessed by the King-

dom of Lesotho governmental authorities, parliamentarians, private sector, and representatives of the Tripartite Task Force (TTF) from the three Secretariates—COMESA, EAC and SADC.

The tripartite free trade area agreement was finalised and opened for signature in 2015 at the third Tripartite Summit, held in Sharm-el-Sheik, Egypt.

The TFTA agreement also aims to facilitate resource mobilisation and free movement of persons whereas it has set

objectives that includes promoting economic and social development of the Tripartite region, creating a large single market with free movement of goods and services to promote intra-regional trade, enhancing the regional and continental integration processes and building a strong Tripartite Free Trade Area for the benefit of the people of the three Regional Economic Communities of COMESA, EAC and SADC.

Representatives from the three Regional Economic Com-

munities (RECs) made their respective statements, commending Lesotho and highlighting the importance of the TFTA Agreement for the Tripartite regional integration and the acquis to the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA Agreement)

Representing the Executive Secretary of SADC, the Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration at the SADC Secretariat, Angele Makombo N'Tumba commended and congratulated the Kingdom of

Lesotho for signing the TFTA Agreement.

With the signature by the Kingdom of Lesotho, the TFTA Agreement has twenty-three signatures (23), and eleven (11) ratifications. Fourteen (14) ratifications by Member/Partner States are required to bring the Agreement into force.

N'Tumba highlighted the complementarity of the tripartite agreement to the SADC vision and the pillars of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategy Development Plan (RISDP)

2020-2030.

Lesotho's Minister of Trade, Industry, Business Development, and Tourism, Mokhethe Shelile, indicated the importance of the TFTA for the private sector and the commitment by the government to implement the Agreement.

He said the signature will be followed by immediate ratification and deposit of the respective instruments to the TTF Chair.

Shelile signed the TFTA Agreement, on behalf of the

government of Lesotho.

The TFTA Agreement will contribute to the implementation of the AfCFTA by creating more liberalized environment for trade amongst African countries, complementing the objectives of the African Union Abuja Treaty and Agenda 2063, of boosting intra-African trade and deepening Africa's market integration, fostering competition, and assisting African countries to become competitive and effective on the global market.

## China Railway now to negotiate concession for Tanzania-Zambia line

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE Chinese government selected a state-owned company to negotiate a concession to operate a line connecting Zambia's copper-mining heartland with the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam.

A China Railway Construction Corp. unit has been asked to submit its proposal by the end of October, the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority said in a statement on Wednesday.

The move may help revive the near-five-decade old line that Mao Zedong's government built to be China's biggest foreign aid project, costing about \$500 million. The Tazara railway has since fallen into disrepair and hauls a fraction of its design capacity of about 5 million tons per year.

It's becoming increasingly strategic as transport routes into and out of a copper-rich region that stretches from Zambia into the Democratic Republic of Congo become clogged.

The governments of Zambia and Tanzania agreed to bring in a Chinese concessionaire to operate it. The railway may compete with a new one that the US is helping Zambia to build that will connect the so-called copper belt with an existing line running to the Angolan port of Lobito.

The Tazara line was front and center of Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema's September state visit to China, his Transport Minister Frank Tayali said in an interview Sept. 20. The route requires hundreds of millions of dollars in investment to become profitable, he said.

"This is not a cheap undertaking," Tayali said in his office in Lusaka. "Over a period of time I could say, look, \$1 billion is not far-fetched. It has to be gradual."



## Over 100 dead from cholera, dengue in war-torn Sudan

KHARTOUM

OUTBREAKS of cholera and dengue fever in war-torn Sudan have left more than 100 people dead since August, the health ministry said

last week.

A total of 1,049 cases of cholera, 73 of them fatal, were recorded in Khartoum, Al-Jazira state to its south and Gedaref state to the west, the ministry said.

Khartoum has been one of the main battlegrounds in the fighting between rival generals that has gripped the country since April. Hundreds of thousands of residents of greater Khartoum have fled

to calmer areas of Gedaref and Al-Jazira, overwhelming the supply of clean water.

Nine Sudanese states have recorded cases of mosquito-borne dengue, with 49 deaths from a total of 3,316 cases, the

ministry said.

Gedaref state, which borders Ethiopia, reported 2,152 of the cases and 33 of the deaths. Even before the fighting broke out in April, Sudan's healthcare system struggled

to contain the disease outbreaks that accompany the country's rainy season which begins in June.

Now -- with hospitals bombed, medicines running low and many doctors fleeing

the country -- the healthcare system has been pushed to the brink.

The health ministry report said 70 per cent of hospitals in war-torn areas are out of service.

# Communities taking a sting out of poaching with alternative livelihoods

By Charles Mpaka

As we approach the forest in the village to appreciate Andrew Mbewe's beekeeping enterprise, a bee from a hive close to the edge of the natural woodland stings him on the cheek.

He steps back quickly, waving everyone away from danger, as he grimaces and grumbles in pain while trying to take out the stinger to prevent his face from swelling.

"That's one of the duties they are performing," he says through his gritted teeth about his 18 beehives in this forest.

He examines the tips of his index and thumb fingernails to see if he has taken out the bee's poison-injecting barb.

"These bees are guardians of this forest," he says. "They protect it from invaders. That's one of the reasons this forest is still standing today."

Across the villages along the Chipata-Lundazi road, which cuts through a landscape that stretches between Kasungu National Park in Malawi and Lukusuzi and Luambe National Parks in Zambia's Eastern Province, one feature is likely to catch the eye: impressive stands of natural forests among villages and smallholder farms.

In Mbewe's village in Chikomeni chiefdom in Lundazi district, these indigenous forests are home to over 700 beehives belonging to more than 140 families.

The forest protection duty that the bees are providing is an unintended consequence of the beekeeping enterprise. Fundamentally, the communities are sucking money out of the honeycombs in these beehives through sales of both raw and processed honey, some of which find space on the shelves of Zambia's supermarkets.

It is one of the livelihood activities which Community Markets for Conservation (Comaco), in partnership with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), are implementing within the broader wildlife conservation strategy in the Malawi-Zambia landscape.

Comaco's driving force is that conservation can work when rural communities overcome the challenges of hunger and poverty.

It says these problems are often related to farming practices that degrade soils and drive deforestation and biodiversity loss.

Therefore, Comaco works with small-scale farmers to adopt climate-smart agriculture approaches such as making and using organic fertilisers and agroecology to revitalise soils so farmers achieve maximum crop productivity.

It also supports small farmers to add value to their produce and attractively brand the products so they are com-



Andrew Mbewe has 18 beehives in this forest. He quit poaching. Now he leads a community conservation group that fights poaching and implements alternative livelihood activities such as beekeeping. Credit: Charles Mpaka/IPS

petitive in the market.

With burgeoning carbon trading as another revenue stream, this wildlife economy is raking in promising sums for both individual members and their groups, communities say.

The cooperative to which Mbewe belongs has used part of its revenue to purchase two vehicles - 5-tonne and 3-tonne trucks - which the group hires out for income. The money is invested in community projects such as building teachers' houses and hospital shelters.

Luke Japhet Lungu, assistant project manager for the IFAW-Comaco Partnership Project, tells IPS that these activities are making people less and less reliant on exploiting natural resources for a living.

"You will not find a bag of charcoal here," Lungu challenges.

"Because of the farming practices we adopted, people are realising that if they destroy the forest, they also destroy the productivity of their land and their income will suffer," he says.

Along the way, people are also learning to live with the animals.

"Animals are able to move from one forest to another without disturbance. For the bigger ones, such as elephants, which would cause damage to our crops, we have a rapid communication system through our community scouts who work with government rangers.

"We have occasions of elephant invasions from the three parks. However, we have learnt to handle them better to minimise conflict. It's a process," Lungu says.

One man who has learnt to manage the animals he once hunted is Mbewe himself.

A battle-scarred poacher for nearly a decade from the 1980s, he terrorised the 5,000-square-kilometre conservation area on poaching missions.

For his operations, he used rifles he rented from some officials within the government of Zambia, he claims.

"They were also my major market for ivory and other wildlife products," he says.

Apparently, without knowing it, Mbewe was actually supplying a far bigger transnational market.

For over 30 years, from the late 1970s, the Malawi-Zambia conservation area was a major source and transit route for ivory to markets in China and Southeast Asia.

Elephant poaching rocked the landscape resulting in the decline of the species. In Kasungu National Park, for example, according to data from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife in Malawi, elephant numbers dwindled from 1,200 in the 1970s to just 50 in 2015.

In 2017, IFAW launched a five-year Combating Wildlife Crime project whose aim was to see elephant populations stabilise and increase in the landscape through reduced poaching.

The project supported park management operations and constructed or rehabilitated requisite structures such as vehicle workshops and offices.

It trained game rangers and judiciary officers in wildlife crime investigation and prosecution.

It provided game rangers with uniforms, decent housing, field allowances, patrol vehicles and equipment.

It supported community livelihood activities such as beekeeping and climate-friendly farming.

It also thrust communities to the centre of planning wildlife conservation measures.

Erastus Kancheya is the Area Warden for the Department of National Parks and Wildlife for the East Luangwa Area Management unit where Lukusuzi and Luambe National Parks lie.

He says he sees these measures as enabling degraded protected areas like Lukusuzi National Park to "rise from the long-forgotten dust [and] awakening on the long road of meaningful conservation".

Kancheya says engaging communities in co-management of the protected areas is also proving to be effective in the landscape.

Now, IFAW is leveraging this community partnership to sustain the achievements of the Combating Wildlife Crime project through its flagship Room to Roam initiative.

Patricio Ndzela, Director for IFAW in Malawi and Zambia, describes Room to Roam as a broad, people-centred conservation strategy.

"This is an initiative that cuts across land use and planning, promotes climate-smart approaches to farming and ensures people and animals co-exist," he says.

The approach aims to deliver benefits for climate, nature and people through biodiversity protection and restoration.

Room to Roam intends to build landscapes in which both animals and people can thrive.

In the process, some people are being transformed. Mbewe is one such person. From being a notorious poacher, he is now a ploughshare of conservation as chairperson of the Community Forest Management Group in his area. The cooperative enforces wildlife conservation and sustainable land management practices.

It is not easy work, he admits.

"There are hardened attitudes to change, and patience is required to teach. Sometimes, the earnings from the livelihood activities are insufficient or irregular. For instance, you don't harvest honey every day or every month," he says.

Yet, he says, the prospects are good and the challenges he faces now rank nowhere near what he encountered when he was a poacher.

One incident still makes him shudder: Stalking a herd of elephants at their drinking spot in Kasungu National Park one day, he came under unexpected gunfire from rangers.

"I was an experienced poacher. I knew at what time of the day to find the elephants and at what location. But the rangers saw me first. I was dead. I don't understand how I escaped," he says.

Today, on reflection, he regrets having ever lived the life of a poacher.

"I went into poaching for selfish reasons," Mbewe says thoughtfully.

"Poaching was benefiting me only; the conservation work I am doing now is benefiting the entire community and future generations," he tells IPS while rubbing the spot of the bee sting and looking relieved.

### IPS UN Bureau Report



**Elephant poaching rocked the landscape resulting in the decline of the species. In Kasungu National Park, for example, according to data from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife in Malawi, elephant numbers dwindled from 1,200 in the 1970s to just 50 in 2015**

**THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 21 -**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10						11		
12								
		13				14		15
	16			17				
18				19	20	21		
22		23		24				
25								
								26

**ACROSS:**  
 1. Driver in kiswahili  
 7. of less than average weight  
 10. rhebok  
 11. International Phonetic Alphabet  
 12. the amount of something allowed  
 13. bravo in Spanish

**DOWN:**  
 1. produce a picture  
 2. a snake-like fish  
 3. move to a new home  
 4. fever marked by severe internal bleeding  
 5. solemnly promised  
 6. also know as  
 7. plural form of louse  
 8. not closed  
 9. Western Australia  
 15. a small silver ball for decorating a cake  
 16. a device used to join two things together  
 17. a form of protest in which demonstrators occupy a place until their demands are met  
 18. a gibbet 20. glacier

S									
I									
G									
N									

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.

**ST: ADS**    **GIRLIES**    **SID: LOE**  
**HEED : LO**    **NOAH**    **ALHAJI**  
**SHAM**    **ALHAJI**    **IDEATED**  
**BOND**    **MIAO : EG**    **IDIOMS**  
**SIEGED**    **SLJ: EON**    **DERAILS**

**Yesterday's solution**

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# RADIO One

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI

# JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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## BUSINESS



## Kenyans cut spending on travel, dining as costs rise

NAIROBI

Households have trimmed non-essential spending under the weight of rising costs, according to a new survey examining the Kenyan consumer pulse between April and June.

Data by information and insights company TransUnion shows that 56 percent of households said they cut back on discretionary spending in the past three months.

Millennials and Gen Z registered the largest slash in discretionary spending at 66 and 55 percent respectively, in contrast to a mere 35 percent reduction in non-essential spending by persons categorised as boomers.

The cuts have hit dining out, travel and entertainment, the survey shows.

Other measures taken to contain rising consumer costs include cancelling or reducing spending on digital services, alongside cancelling subscriptions and memberships.

"Rising inflationary pressure appears to have curbed discretionary spending amongst Kenyan households over the past three months, and this behaviour is expected to continue in coming months," reads the survey.

While headline inflation slowed from highs of 9.6 percent in October last year to 7.9 percent as of June largely due to falling food prices, inflation expectations have been retested recently by a sharp pickup in fuel prices.

For instance, October inflation rose for a second consecutive month to 6.9 percent from 6.8 and 6.7 percent in September and August respectively.

The surge in inflation has been attributed largely to the recent rise in pump prices which have been partly offset by an ease to food prices as the harvest season sets in. Nevertheless, core inflation or non-food non-fuel inflation has remained largely unchanged at 3.7 percent in October.

Reduced discretionary spending has partly been mirrored in the use of personal motor vehicles, hitting fuel consumption.

Fuel consumption between January and June dropped to the lowest level in more than five years, outside the Covid-19 pandemic period as high pump prices depressed demand.

Increased taxation has been partly to blame for reduced household consumption and has seen the World Bank and IMF warning it could be counterproductive by cutting demand.

In December last year it was reported that more than half of Kenyan households cut their spending on food and 10 per cent of homes sold their assets in the race to survive sky-high inflation and economic shocks from the

worst drought in 40 years.

This is the verdict of a World Bank survey on how Kenyans coped with the high cost of living, which has remained above the government ceiling of 7.5 per cent since July.

Drought has made food costly and denied income to persons who rely on agriculture, which accounts for nearly a third of Kenya's GDP.

As a result, 52 per cent of Kenyan households cut their food shopping basket in an environment where companies have frozen salaries as they recover from Covid-19 economic hardships.

About 35 per cent of households reduced consumption of non-food items, which are deemed non-essential, while 10 per cent sold their assets to survive the economic shocks.

"Just under 95 per cent of households used at least one strategy to cope in June 2022. Close to half of households (52 per cent) reduced food consumption and over a third (35 per cent) reduced consumption of non-food items. Some 10 per cent sold productive assets," said the World Bank on how Kenyans coped in the six months to June.

"Regression analyses reveal that agricultural households cutting consumption to cope with shocks were more likely to be households with young children and those headed by women."

Kenya's inflation has since June breached the target range of 2.5-7.5 per cent, prompting the CBK's Monetary Policy Committee to raise benchmark interest rates to curb consumer spending.

Since May, the MPC has raised the benchmark interest rate by 175 basis points to 8.75 percent, signaling lenders to raise the cost of borrowing.

Increasing the key policy lending rate makes borrowing more expensive, and this is expected to reduce spending by businesses and families with the ultimate goal of lowering prices of goods and services.

"Further, most households reported an increase in prices of essential food items and over half of rural households reported being unable to access core staple food such as beans or maize."

Costly commodities have hit workers hard given that the average real wages, adjusted for inflation, stood at negative 3.83 percent last year compared to negative 0.59 percent in 2020.

Employers say the real wages will take longer to improve amid the recovery of the economy from Covid-19 economic hardships, which delivered layoffs, pay cuts and business closures.

# Kenya eyes 20 pc stake buy-back in Turkana oil

NAIROBI

Kenya plans to buy back up to 20 percent in the Turkana oil project in what could eventually decide whether the government approves the project's revised development plan and availability of funds.

On Thursday, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra) director-general Daniel Kiptoo said the government is yet to make a decision on whether to exercise its back-in option provided by the production-sharing agreement.

"The production sharing contract gives the government a right to back in and join the contractor group by acquiring a 20 percent stake in the project," said Mr Kiptoo.

"This option is exercised once the field development plan is approved and the projects move from exploration phase to development phase," he said.

According to the Epra boss, the government will decide on whether to activate the clause once ongoing review of the field development plan (FDP) has been concluded, which will determine the fate of the project.

British oil firm Tullow Oil owns 100 percent of the stake in blocks IOBA, IOBB and 13T in the South Lokichar Basin in Turkana.

This is after its joint venture partners TotalEnergies and Africa Oil Corporation, who had 25 percent stakes



Epra director general Daniel Kiptoo.

each in the blocks, offloaded their stakes to Tullow.

Nonetheless, Mr Kiptoo said the option can be exercised directly or through a vehicle such as the National Oil Corporation of Kenya (Nock).

To underline the government's intention to potentially buy back a stake in the venture, Nock this week hired a consultant that will, among other tasks, enable Nock to back in the oil project on behalf of the government.

Other oil blocks in the South Lokichar Basin include Amosing, Twiga, Etuko, Ekales-I, Agete, Ewoi, Ekunyuk, Etom, Erut and Emekuya.

"The general terms of reference of the consultant (include) support National Oil initiative for back-in-rights in Lokichar Basin discoveries. Provide leadership and support for national upstream to fully be on-boarded for back in rights on behalf of the government," said the company.

Kiptoo said the financial consideration of the back-in could play a major role on whether the green light is given, considering that the government will likely pay billions of shillings.

"Epra is currently reviewing the FDP and this (back-in) is a decision that is yet to be made," he said.

Even as the review of the FDP continues, Tullow has struggled to find well-capitalised investors to partner with in the project following the exit of its JV partners.

In November last year it was reported that Kenya's dream of becoming an oil exporter was thrown into uncertainty after Britain's

Tullow Oil signalled a delay in developing the country's only oil project.

The British firm in a trading update disclosed plans to seek a fresh deadline to submit the field development plan (FDP) beyond the end of the current financial year.

The company has several times changed timeliness for the final go-ahead for its onshore Kenyan oil fields, which are expected to produce up to 100,000 barrels per day.

The revelations will dim Kenya's hopes of petrodollars needed to fuel economic growth as the project faces another uncertain future.

"Tullow and its JV partners are seeking an extension of the field development plan (FDP) review period, while constructive discussions with the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority of Kenya and the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum are ongoing," the British firm said in the update.

The company did not, however, give details on the new dates that it is targeting for submission of the new FDP.

The new plan for the Turkana oil fields is critical for the government to make a final decision on whether to allow Tullow and its partners to start commercial production and exportation of black gold.

The new FDP includes

land for the development of a pipeline and oil processing facility that will pave the way for compensation of 516 landowners in Turkana County who expected to relocate from the area.

Kenya had set a December 2021 deadline for Tullow to present a comprehensive investment plan for oil production in Turkana or risk losing concession on two exploration fields.

This would pave the way for the development of a pipeline and oil processing facility in the basin that includes a \$3.4 billion (\$373.6 billion) investment for upstream activities.

In June, Tullow tied the future of Kenya's Turkana oil project to the firm and its partners getting a strategic investor.

Tullow owns a 50 per cent operated interest in blocks IOBB and 13T in the South Lokichar basin in Turkana where the company discovered about one billion barrels of crude in 2012.

Toronto-listed Africa Oil Corporation and French oil major Total each own a 25 per cent stake.

Tullow earlier planned to sell a significant chunk of its 50 per cent stake in the blocks, having run into financial hurdles of its own while Total aimed to sell up to half of its 25 per cent stake.

## FETS, UPI partner to improve Nigerian payments

LAGOS

Funds and Electronic Transfer Solutions (FETS), a payment solution provider, and UnionPay International (UPI), a global payment firm, have announced an alliance to issue virtual cards via the FETS app in order to increase UPI card issuance in Nigeria.

This collaboration provides a full range of payment options by leveraging both UnionPay's extensive card acceptance network and FETS payment technology.

The partnership's major purpose, according to the parties, is to provide clients with access to a variety of payment choices such as digital wallets, virtual cards, and other payment methods.

These solutions, according to the parties, are designed to satisfy the ever-changing needs of consumers and organisations in a world that is becoming more digitally connected and digitally native.

"This partnership with UnionPay International provides businesses and customers with a more robust payment experience, as well as an opportunity to further drive financial inclusion and deepen the Central Bank of Nigeria's cashless agenda and strategy," said FETS CEO Omotade Odunowo.

Asad Burney, general manager of UPI Africa Branch, stated, "This collaboration is a significant step towards our ongoing objective of delivering high-quality payment solutions. In collaboration with FETS, we will help businesses to thrive in the digital economy while



ensuring that clients can conduct business conveniently and safely.

"With the growing trade volume between Africa particularly Nigeria and China, this partnership would leverage on UnionPay's products offerings, the global UnionPay network to complement the innovation drive of FETS in electronic payment, financial inclusion and cashless payment within Nigeria."

In a broad picture, artificial intelligence (AI) will be critical in making payments smoother and accelerate open banking in Nigeria.

According to Premier Oiwoh, CEO of the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS), who spoke on the future of payments and AI at the Nigerian Fintech Week event.

AI's uses in payments, according to Aiwoh, include improved security

and fraud protection, credit and virtual loans, algorithmic trading, process automation, and personalised consumer experiences.

He also discussed the barriers to AI adoption in payment systems, such as the desire for real-world human interactions, the risks of criminal actors exploiting AI systems, and data quality concerns.

Also, Oiwoh outlined the various options to resolving these difficulties, emphasising the importance of good data warehousing, continual AI training, strengthened regulation, and multi-factor authentication.

Bolanle Enigbokan, NIBSS head of enterprise support services, added: "The application of AI within payments in Nigeria is largely still at the surface level, dominated

by anti-fraud and credit worthiness."

While speaking about AI regulatory frameworks in Nigeria, Tiwa Osazuwa of legal firm AELEX stated that there is a need for more comprehensive regulation regarding intellectual property, data protection, automation, and ethical issues associated to the use of AI.

He emphasised the enormous promise of AI while emphasising the requirement of control to prevent exploitation.

Another key lesson from this debate was that it is still early days, with a call to action for African tech enthusiasts venturing into AI to aim higher, as there is still an opportunity for Africa to establish itself as a leader in this fast-growing area.

## Milken-Motsepe green energy prize finalists announced

KIGALI

The Milken Institute and the Motsepe Foundation has revealed the five teams who will compete in the final round of the Milken-Motsepe Prize in Green Energy, next year.

Based on a comprehensive review of real-world data, an independent panel of professional judges selected the five final teams. The teams are:

AfTrak Micro Electric Agriculture and Energy; GEG ehf; New Digit Technologies; OMNIVAT; and Smart Agri-Centres.

Each finalist team will get \$70,000 to further develop and test their solutions, which will be put through their paces in a real field test demonstration, in South Africa.

Judges will assess competing teams' abilities to meet the challenge

of generating 60kWh of electricity in 24 hours, by demonstrating off-grid electricity generation using green energy sources, and providing affordable and reliable electricity to energy-poor communities, based on the demonstration. To date, the competition has awarded \$750,000 to entrepreneurs who are experimenting with novel concepts to increase access to dependable, affordable,

and sustainable power in Africa.

The judges will award a \$1 million grand prize in May 2024. There will also be a runner-up reward of \$250,000. The Milken-Motsepe Prize in Green Energy will award nearly \$2 million in prizes and benefits, in total.

"Access to electricity can advance industrialisation across Africa and improve the standards of living for

many marginalised communities," said Dr. Precious Moloi-Motsepe, co-founder and CEO of the Motsepe Foundation.

"These finalists are building innovative solutions to deliver on the promise of a sustainable future, in line with the (UN's) Sustainable Development Goals. We will be delighted to welcome them to South Africa for the live demonstrations

next year."

"These finalists have once again proven the value of the innovation competition model in driving breakthroughs," said Emily Musil Church, senior director at the Milken Institute. "The semi-finalist round pushed these teams to stretch their limits and build solutions that are scalable and life-changing for millions."

# African air transport cost remains a barrier to tourism growth - Kagame

KIGALI

President Paul Kagame said the high cost of air travel to Africa and within Africa remains a barrier to the growth of the tourism sector, which calls for the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM).

He was speaking at the official opening of World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) 2023, on November 2, which convened more than 1,200 participants in the global tourism industry to recognize the sector's growth across the continent in recent years and at the same time analyze its challenges.

The three-day summit, which kicked off on November 1, is for the first time taking place in Africa, and it was hosted in Kigali, under the theme 'Building Bridges to a Sustainable Future', to discuss the resilience and sustainable growth, the growing impact of AI, and understanding new and emerging markets, as well as cover the key challenges and opportunities facing the sector.

In his opening remarks, Kagame said that in the commitment to rebuild from the horrific past nearly 30 years ago, Rwanda identified tourism as a key driver of economic growth earlier on, and the results have not been disappointing.

"Every year, we welcome so many visitors who come to Rwanda to enjoy the unique natural beauty, attend sporting events, or participate in gatherings like this. This is a privilege and a trust that we don't take for granted," he said.



President Kagame delivers remarks at the official opening of World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) on Thursday.

He gave examples of conservation efforts to build a more sustainable future which have yielded in recognition of Nyungwe National Park as a world heritage site, adding that the country is also investing in the infrastructure and skills to host major

sports events such as the Basketball Africa League.

While the travel and tourism industry has recovered strongly globally, Kagame pointed out that the high cost of air travel to Africa and within Africa remains a barrier and the implementation of SAATM is an important priority.

SAATM, commonly referred to as the unified air transport market aims at boosting the aviation industry on the continent by allowing free movement of airlines from one country to another.

"We should not lose sight of our own continental market. Africans are the future of global tourism as our middle class continues to grow at a fast pace in the decades to come. We must work closely together with partners, like the WTTC, to continue developing Africa into a premium destination for global travel."

The Head of State signaled that Rwanda removed visa restrictions for citizens of every African country as well as many other countries, hence, inviting the delegates to visit different parts of the country.

Co-organised by the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), the WTTC is the most influential annual summit on the travel and tourism calendar bringing together thousands of industry leaders, experts, and key government representatives to continue to align efforts to support the growth of the sector and move towards a safer, more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.

Julia Simpson, The President and CEO of WTTC, commended the efforts of the Rwandan government in building the tourism sector which is the main contributor of the economy and employs a significant number of people.

These efforts, according to her, have enabled the country to rank among the top 20 countries with

ease of doing business on the continent and across.

Simpson added that this summit is an opportunity to lead debates with governments and point out the need for policy shifts to develop a sustainable industry, highlighting the priority of moving to electric vehicles along the supply chain as one approach to fighting climate change.

Meanwhile, Francis Gatete, Chief Executive Officer of RDB, said that hosting the WTTC global summit in Rwanda and Africa marks an incredible milestone for the continent.

"It is also an opportunity for the world to see our country and experience the tremendous transformation that Rwanda has gone through and Africa's dedication to sustainable tourism."

He welcomed the delegates at the next year's gorilla naming ceremony, Kwita Izina which will mark 20 years of celebrating conservation efforts that have enabled the multiplication of mountain gorillas that were at the point of extinction in the past.

According to available data, tourism revenues amounted to \$445 million in 2022 compared to \$164 million in 2021, representing a 171.3 percent increase.

In a yet-to-be-launched report on tourism in Africa, it is stated that travel and tourism could increase Africa's GDP to \$50 billion by 2033 and create six million more jobs, however, this will require employing the right approach and galvanized efforts of investment.

## MFS Africa rebrands to Onafriq

CAIRO

Fintech MFS Africa has rebranded to Onafriq, which it says reflects the company's evolution and vision for the future.

The company says the decision to rebrand comes after several acquisitions and business growth, including the recent acquisition of Global Technology Partners, which expanded the company's reach to the US market.

It says the inspiration behind the new name, Onafriq, stems from the fusion of several words: 'Ona', the Yoruba word for pathways, 'Afriq', which is the French word for Africa, plus a nod to IQ.

Onafriq also calls to mind the idea of One Africa, says the company.

Dare Okoudjou, founder and CEO, says: "The name MFS Africa, just like an old jacket, was getting a little tight for us as we've grown. We've expanded beyond just mobile financial services, becoming a true omni-channel platform across the continent and beyond."

"As we embark on this next phase of our journey, we wanted a name that reflects our aspiration of wiring up the whole continent into one network of networks with pathways from and to every African and every African business."

He adds: "The trademark MFS actually belongs to another company in the US, and our ability to use it outside of Africa was becoming difficult. With this new name, we can bring everybody together under one brand and identity."

MFS Africa was in May this year picked top honours at the African Banker Awards in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt, where the start-up was crowned fintech of the year.

The fintech connects enterprises, mobile money operators, money transfer operators, banks, non-bank financial institutions, and online and offline merchants to each other and to more than 400 million mobile money wallets in over 35 African countries.

The African Banker Awards take place during the annual meetings of the African Development Bank and honour 'transformative leadership' in the African financial services sector.

MFS Africa received the top accolade after being recognised for 'outstanding contributions to the fintech industry in Africa through payment solutions that make borders matter less for millions of Africans'.

# Zim's TelOne invests \$2.4 million into broadband network upgrade

HARARE

TelOne, a Zimbabwean telecoms company, committed \$2.4 million in the most recent upgrade of its broadband network, allowing it to increase capacity and reduce connectivity latency.

This is despite the fact that legacy loans and network vandalism affecting 30 000 subscribers continue to be a big drain on profitability.

TelOne operates landline phone, VoIP, and data centre operations in addition to offering internet services.

TelOne alerted users in early October that its data network had been upgraded.

Lawrence Nkala, the company's recently appointed CEO, said in an interview with ITWeb Africa that the company recently invested millions in broadband network expansion.

"Around \$2.4 million was invested in the project. In the last two years, TelOne has invested at least US\$20 million in the network," Nkala said.

The most recent network upgrade concentrated on streamlining traffic management and routing processes, he noted.

The improvement addressed the fibre and ADSL categories.

The government-owned telco is

currently focusing on developing its metro network, however cash shortages are likely to stymie this.

This metro capacity increase is being implemented to improve TelOne's ability to handle more enterprise and residential data users.

TelOne and other Zimbabwean ISPs may face competition from Starlink, which says on its website that it would begin operations next year, subject to regulatory permits.

The telecom provider currently has over 250 000 data clients on its network. It also gives bulk internet access to other Internet Service Providers and mobile networks. However, the Zimbabwe Auditor General's office this month flagged TelOne for widening its loss to about US\$7.4 million in 2022.

Despite the expenditures it is making in its data network, TelOne is facing "material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern," according to the Auditor General's report.

TelOne's balance sheet includes approximately US\$393.8 million in overdue legacy loans.

Vandalism and theft of property equipment add to the company's woes. According to Nkala, TelOne has recorded 250 instances of van-

dalism on its network equipment in 2023 alone.

This will result in "affecting more than 30 000 customers in 2023" and resulted in an estimated loss of more than US\$40 000 in restoration costs and US\$250 000 in revenue" resulting from losses.

TelOne says it is diversifying into other revenue-generating streams as the company's voice division faces disruption from developing and cheaper technologies such as internet-enabled instant messaging and social networking sites that now permit audio and video calls.

Cloud and data centre solutions, as well as VoIP, are among them.

Nkala stated that the company had long predicted that voice would fall, so it moved into other services, which currently account for more than 70% of its revenue creation.

To increase its attractiveness to international investors, Zimbabwe's government has just placed TelOne under its sovereign wealth fund, Mutapa Investment Fund.

The Mutapa Investment Fund is Zimbabwe's equivalent of a Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF). It, like other SWFs, is a state-owned investment fund that invests in a range of assets.



Lawrence Nkala, TelOne CEO

# Rwanda bankers' association launches its research centre



RWANDA BANKERS' ASSOCIATION

Together for a better banking

KIGALI

Rwanda Bankers' Association (RBA) was formally established in 2009, to serve as an advocate for the banking sector in Rwanda. Its membership consists of all banks duly licensed by the National Bank of Rwanda pursuant to Chapter II, Article 5 of the Law. The Association's main objectives, among others, are to be the Bankers' voice on non-competitive issues and promoting standards of professional competence. While the National Bank of Rwanda is not a member of RBA, its representatives are often invited to any of the Association's meetings or activities, whenever there is a need.

Pioneering a research centre sets sail to transform the banking landscape

In a remarkable stride towards shaping the future of Rwanda's banking industry, the Rwanda Bankers' Association (RBA) has officially launched its research centre. This momentous occasion marks a pivotal step towards creating a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable

banking sector in the heart of Africa.

Harnessing the power of data

At the core of the RBA Research Centre's mission lies a commitment to harness the transformative power of data. With the vision of driving sustainable change, this new research centre is set to be a dynamic force, influencing the direction of the Rwandan banking sector. Data, often called the lifeblood of the modern economy, is primed to be the engine driving innovation, policy formulation, and informed decision-making.

The launch of the research centre is a testament to RBA's dedication to adopting a forward-thinking approach to transform the Rwandan financial landscape. With the support of key industry stakeholders and the National Bank of Rwanda, the research centre is poised to elevate Rwanda's banking industry to unprecedented heights.

Fostering collaboration

One of the cornerstones of the research centre's philosophy is collaboration. RBA envisions a

sector where all stakeholders, from government bodies and policy regulators of financial institutions and the National Bank of Rwanda, come together in a unified quest for excellence.

The centre will become a hub of intellectual engagement and dialogue between scholars, practitioners, and policymakers in the financial market. It will spark debates and influence policies that drive the sector towards greater resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability.

Join the journey

It's a momentous time for Rwanda's banking sector, and we invite all stakeholders, industry experts, policymakers, and visionaries to embark on this exciting journey with RBA. The research centre's journey has just begun, but the destination is a more vibrant, inclusive, and prosperous financial sector for Rwanda.

Stay tuned for updates on the groundbreaking research, policy advocacy, and impactful initiatives that will define the future of banking in Rwanda.

# British investment fund puts Sh4 billion in African warehouses

**NAIROBI**

British International Investment (BII), the UK's development fund, has committed Sh3.99 billion (\$26.5 million) to African warehouses in three countries including Kenya to support smallholder farmers in storing grains and combat food insecurity.

"The funds will be disbursed to Afex, Africa's commodities platform, which operates more than 200 warehouses in Nigeria, Kenya, and Uganda and serves more than 450,000 farmers. It did not say whether investment is in the form of debt or equity.

The funds will be used to construct 20 modern warehouses in Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda, scale warehouse technology and advanced software to capture post-harvest pricing.

"This investment from BII is a landmark moment in our mission to revolutionise agriculture and elevate food security across Africa... directing fresh capital towards the development of technologically advanced warehouses and critical facilities, we are significantly enhancing market access and income potential for smallholder farmers," said Ayodeji Balogun, Afex chief executive.

"The World Bank estimates that Africa's food import bill has reached \$30 billion in recent decades... This is why we need to back technology-



driven companies like Afex because they help reduce that import cost by supporting smallholder farmers

to increase local food production, while also boosting their incomes," said Mr Nick O'Donoghue, BII's chief

executive officer. Afex was licensed as a warehouse receipt operator in Kenya by the

Warehouse Receipt System Council earlier this year. Small-scale farmers face many

challenges including poor sales from crop harvests, difficult financial outlook due to macroeconomic uncertainty, limited market access and proper storage for produce.

Poor crop harvests hurt farmers' incomes as prices of agricultural inputs keep rising under extreme weather.

The new warehouses are projected to provide 230,000 tonnes of storage capacity, enabling up to 200,000 more farmers to access low-cost storage and maximise sales from crop harvests, potentially helping to increase farmer incomes.

"BII's capital will also be used to develop a soybean processing plant in Ibadan ... and a drying facility in Uganda. The construction of the storage facilities and soy processing facilities will generate over 700 temporary jobs and more than 80 permanent roles," said BII in a statement.

## CORRECTION

In yesterday's issue we carried a story about the transport sector achievements in Shaanxi province. The story carried a wrong caption against the photo. The caption was supposed to read 'A side view of Xian city in Shaanxi province.'

# NCSA official talks major cyber threats, mitigation strategies

**KIGALI**

Cyber threats are on the rise worldwide, becoming progressively more sophisticated and challenging to counter.

According to a recent report by Check Point, a global cyber security solutions firm, weekly cyber-attacks have increased by 7 per cent in quarter 1 of 2023 compared to the same period last year, with each firm facing an average of 1,248 attacks per week.

While the rapid advancement of ICT in Rwanda holds promise for the nation's economic growth, it also introduces a significant challenge in the form of cyber threats that demand attention.

In an interview with The New Times, Amos Kamugabirwe, the Chief Technology Officer at the National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA), shed light on the primary cyber threats within the country and discussed strategies for their mitigation.

Kamugabirwe said the top cyber threat in Rwanda is phishing, which involves scammers or attackers using deceptive methods to send links or messages, often using enticing offers such as lottery wins, free visas, job opportunities, or fake banking alerts to lure potential victims.

"These messages are sent to as many people as possible, with the aim of tricking them into clicking the links without due consideration," he said.

"Once someone clicks on these links, they are taken to a webpage that may resemble their bank's official site or another legitimate source. Victims are then promptly

ed to enter their personal information, such as their name and password. After submitting this information, the page may appear to malfunction, but in reality, the attackers have successfully collected the victim's data."

According to Kamugabirwe, phishing attacks can take various forms, including email messages, text messages, or even links shared in messaging apps like WhatsApp.

In some cases, clicking on a malicious link can lead to the attacker gaining access to the victim's contacts, potentially spreading the attack further, said the expert. Kamugabirwe also emphasised the difficulty in preventing phishing attacks since they often appear as seemingly legitimate links or messages. Additionally, many security measures may not detect the threats until they have already reached the individual.

He said that the most effective way to protect oneself from phishing is to be cautious and aware.

"Users should carefully examine any message or link before clicking, and they should never provide sensitive information like usernames and passwords to unsolicited requests, even if they appear to be from trusted sources," he advised.

Malware, which stands for "malicious software," is a harmful file or code that is usually sent over a network. It can infect, investigate, steal, or carry out various actions as directed by an attacker. Since there are many different types of malware, there are many ways it can infiltrate computer systems.



SATURDAY 4 Nov		SUNDAY 5 Nov		MONDAY 6 Nov	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:00	HABARI
7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	6:40	Kumekucha
8:00	Ai Jazera	8:00	Ai Jazera	7:00	Habari
9:00	Watoto wetu	9:00	Watoto wetu	7:00	HABARI
10:05	Shika Bamba 5	10:05	Shika Bamba 5	7:30	HABARI
10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	8:55	Habari za saa
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
12:50	Art and Lifestyle	12:50	Art and Lifestyle	9:55	Habari za saa
13:20	Shamba lulu	13:20	Shamba lulu	10:00	Watoto wetu
13:50	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	13:50	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:25	Jajina
14:15	Igizo: Mizenge	14:15	Igizo: Mizenge	10:55	Habari za saa
15:40	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	15:40	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	11:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
16:10	Jijili Letu	16:10	Jijili Letu	11:00	Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa
16:15	ITV Top 10 rpt	16:15	ITV Top 10 rpt	11:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
19:00	Jungu kuu	19:00	Jungu kuu	11:30	HABARI
19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	12:00	Kumekucha Michozo
20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	12:30	HABARI
21:05	Igizo: Slay Queen	21:05	Igizo: Slay Queen	12:55	Habari za saa
21:30	Art and Lifestyle	21:30	Art and Lifestyle	13:00	Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa
22:00	ITV Top 10	22:00	ITV Top 10	13:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
22:40	Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:40	Hawavumi lakini wamo	14:00	HABARI
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	14:00	Kumekucha Michozo
00:30	Ai Jazera	00:30	Ai Jazera	14:00	HABARI
02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	14:00	HABARI

## All attempts to sow xenophobia between peoples of Russia doomed to fail, Putin says

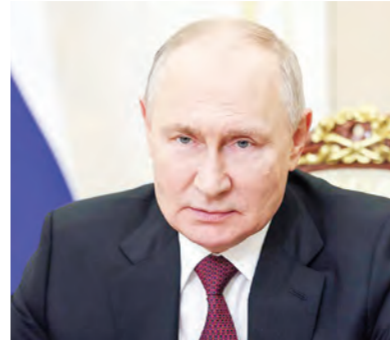
MOSCOW

ALL attempts to sow enmity, mistrust and xenophobia between peoples of Russia and all provocations against the country are doomed to fail, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in his address to the 'Peoples of Russia' national forum.

"I am certain that all attempts to sow seeds of enmity, mistrust and xenophobia between us, all provocations and aggressive actions, aimed against Russia, are doomed to fail.

Because we are a single nation, united by the common history, by brotherly ties of friendship and mutual understanding," the president said, according to the Kremlin website.

The diversity of languages, reli-



gions and customs is Russia's true wealth, and therefore the state pays great attention to preservation of the uniqueness of every ethnicity within the country, the president underscored. He noted that it has been and it remains a key and fateful mission to ensure inter-ethnic peace and accord in the country, the strengthening of the Russian culture

and traditional values.

"It is important to fully engage a serious potential of religious, public, scientific organization and ethnic-cultural associations in this wide-scale work," the head of state noted.

The Russian leader noted that the 'Peoples of Russia' forum has proven itself as a reputable platform for a deep and comprehensive analysis of the state national policy and for improvement of its effectiveness.

The 'Peoples of Russia' is an annual nationwide forum, established in 2020. The forum contributes to research and development of the mechanisms of reinforcement of the nationwide civic identity and the unity of the Russian nation, inter-ethnic peace and accord. Participants of all regions of Russia take part in the forum every year.

## UK PM Rishi Sunak announces launch of AI Safety Institute

NEW DELHI

THE two-day Artificial Intelligence (AI) summit in the United Kingdom came to a close on Thursday with the creation of the AI Safety Institute, the British High Commission in India said in a statement.

The AI Safety Institute, which has become the first task force within G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the European Union) has evolved from the Frontier AI Taskforce, with Songkick founder, Ian Hogarth continuing as its Chair.

The External Advisory Board for the Taskforce will have a number of industry heavyweights from national security to computer science, who will now advise the new global hub.

The Institute intends to carefully test new types of frontier AI to address the potentially harmful capabilities of AI models. In undertaking this research, the AI Safety Institute will look to work closely with the Alan Turing Institute, the UK's institute for data science and AI.

In attendance was Indian Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

Chandrasekhar said that the innovation ecosystem is growing at "about two and a half to three times faster than the non-digital part of the GDP" in a speech at the summit, shared on X.

In a post on X, Chandrasekhar praised the work of the international community at the UK AI safety summit writing, "Future of tech should be driven by international collaborations rather than just a few countries!"

The collaborative backing of key players like AI leaders Japan and Canada to AI companies OpenAI and DeepMind will strengthen international work on the safe development of frontier AI.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said, "Our AI Safety Institute will act as a global hub on AI safety, leading vital research into the capabilities and risks of this fast-moving technology."

Michelle Donelan the UK's Secretary of State for Science, Innovation, and Technology said, "The AI Safety Institute will be an international standard bearer. With the backing of leading AI nations, it will help policymakers across the globe in gripping the risks posed by the most advanced AI capabilities, so that we can maximise the enormous benefits."

The formation of the AI Safety Institute aims to prevent damages that AI may cause in the future, in order to protect "humanity from rapid and unexpected advances in AI".

New AI models are due to be released next year whose capabilities may not be fully understood, including the launch of Google's generative AI model due to be released this year.

The Safety Institute's first task will be to quickly put in place the processes and systems to test them before they launch - including open-source models.

AI Safety Institute Chair Ian Hogarth, said, "Through the AI Safety Institute, we will play an important role in rallying the global community to address the challenges of this fast-moving technology."

The AI Safety Summit has set the foundations for further talks on the safety of frontier AI, with South Korea set to host the summit next year.

ANI



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Kirya military headquarters in Tel Aviv yesterday. (ANI Photo)

## How Effective is Israeli Inspection of Aid Flowing to Gaza?

TEL AVIV

TRUCKS carrying goods into the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip are being inspected by Israeli authorities at the Nitzana Crossing to Sinai in southern Israel, a former senior Israeli official told the Tazpit Press Service.

"They have the ability to check goods using advanced technology at the checkpoint. In the past they used sniffers and scanners," said Col. (res.) Grisha Yakubovich, a former head of the Civilian Department in the Defense Ministry's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) unit.

The trucks are then escorted by Israeli forces some 30 miles to the Rafah Crossing between Egypt and Gaza to "ensure there is no interference" before they enter the Strip, added Yakubovich.

Last month, Reuters cited an Egyptian Foreign Ministry statement as saying: "The trucks must be inspected at the Israeli Nitzana crossing before they head to the Rafah ... which causes obstacles that significantly delay the arrival of aid." COGAT previously stated that "only water, food and medical equipment" was being allowed into the Palestinian enclave, and that "all equipment was inspected before entering Gaza."

The statement was issued after The New York Times on Oct. 22 cited U.N. official Stephane Dujarric as saying that the first batch of aid to enter Gaza some three weeks ago had not been screened.

When contacted by TPS, a COGAT spokesperson declined to revisit the matter or confirm whether goods were indeed being searched at Nitzana.

"The inspection mechanism is a security-operational matter," said the spokesperson.

Eylon Levy, spokesperson in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, recently told TPS, "We do have an ability to make sure aid is not being smuggled to Hamas, that [the terror group] is not using humanitarian corridors in order to smuggle war materiel."

Earlier this week, the Prime Minister's Office said that goods sent to Gaza provide Israel with "important leeway in which to act to realize the goals of the war," and reiterated that they are intended only for non-combatants.

Gershon Hacohen, who retired with the rank of major-general after serving in the IDF for 42 years, told TPS that this was unrealistic. "We're at war, and in times of war there is no true or efficient way to control where the aid goes," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Gu-

terres has called for the verification system for the movement of goods through Rafah "to be adjusted to allow for more trucks to enter Gaza without delay." Gu-terres also raised the issue of fuel being allowed into Gaza.

The Rafah crossing is not equipped to handle large numbers of commercial deliveries. Before Oct. 7, commercial deliveries to the Strip from Egypt were routed through Israel's Kerem Shalom crossing, which is adjacent to the Egypt-Gaza border. The Kerem Shalom crossing is closed for security reasons.

### Hamas Operations Rely on Fuel

Yakubovich explained that hoarding fuel was part of the Hamas planning of the Oct. 7 cross-border massacre that killed more than 1,400 people and wounded thousands more. "They bought millions of litres from Egypt. Sure, some of it went to the power plant and the hospitals but they also kept massive reserves," he said.

The supposed "fuel crisis" in Gaza is just "Hamas's newest fake news," he added, "and now that they pulled this card on the international community, we will hear the whole world talk about it."

Israeli authorities released on Oct. 24 released aerial images of Hamas storage tanks in Gaza containing at least half a million litres of fuel. On Wednesday, the IDF shared an intercepted phone call confirming Hamas is stealing fuel from civilians and hospitals.

Yakubovich said that Hamas has been pocketing money from the Palestinian Authority budget and from Qatar and using it to buy diesel fuel from Egypt. "Of the \$30 million monthly aid Qatar used to send Hamas, \$10 million alone was used to buy fuel," he said.

"Every single aspect of Hamas's operation relies on fuel, it is the oxygen they need to move underground and build rockets," he added. "I've even seen them using ambulances and firetrucks to move terrorists around."

Col. (res.) Miri Eisen said, "Hamas has been building for the last 10 years an underground system that needs electricity, water and air. They have no problem making the situation in the Gaza Strip worse. That serves their purpose."

"Hamas's manipulation consists of boosting numbers of casualties and constantly hyping the humanitarian crisis," added Eisen.

Middle East expert Guy Aviad emphasized to TPS that Hamas has ruled the Strip since 2007. Had Hamas focused on economics instead of terrorism, Gaza would be prosperous, according to Aviad.

ANI

## Hunter says his addiction used as disinformation against Joe Biden

WASHINGTON

HUNTER Biden on Thursday said his history of substance abuse has become fodder for a disinformation campaign against his father's re-election bid.

Hunter Biden made the statement in an op-ed article for USA Today, rare public remarks on a political and legal controversy expected to feature prominently in the 2024 election.

"My struggles and my mistakes have been fodder for a vile and sustained disinformation campaign against him, and an all-out annihilation of my reputation through high-pitched but fruitless congressional investigations and, more recently, criminal charges for possessing an unloaded gun for 11 days five years ago - charges that appear to be the first-ever of their kind brought in the history of Delaware," he wrote.

Hunter Biden, 53, was charged in September with three counts related to lying on a federal form to acquire a handgun in 2018 and for being an illegal drug user in possession of the gun. He pleaded not guilty.

Republicans have accused Hunter Biden, who has worked as a lobbyist, lawyer, investment banker and artist, of wrongdoing relating to his business activities and have made him a focus of a congressional impeachment inquiry of Joe Biden. Republicans allege Biden and his family profited from policies he pursued as vice-president during



President Joe Biden (right) and his son Hunter Biden arrive at Fort McNair, June 25, 2023, in Washington. AP

former president Barack Obama's administration between 2009 and 2017. Separately, they also allege the Justice Department interfered with the criminal investigation of Hunter Biden.

They have not found any evidence of misconduct by the senior Biden. Congressional hearings so far have included personal emails and photos of Hunter's personal life and addiction history, much of them allegedly culled from a laptop owned by the president's son.

"I am not a victim," Hunter wrote, citing the privilege and opportunities he has had in life. "What troubles me is the demonization of addiction, of human frailty, using me as its avatar and the devastating consequences it has for the millions struggling with addiction."

The gun case marks the first-ever criminal prosecution of a sitting US president's child, an unwanted backdrop to the president's re-election campaign.

US Special Counsel David Weiss, who is prosecuting the gun case, has been conducting a wide-ranging investigation of Hunter Biden to review whether he violated federal tax and gun laws.

The Biden campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Campaign aides have previously said that Hunter Biden's statements are not coordinated with the president's political aides.

Biden's likely 2024 Republican rival, Donald Trump, faces four upcoming criminal trials of his own, two of which are tied to his attempts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Biden, which he continues to falsely claim is the result of fraud.

Hunter Biden has never held a position in the White House or on his father's campaign. The president has said he has not discussed foreign business dealings with his son and has said his Justice Department would have independence in any investigation of a member of his family. **Agencies**

## UN votes overwhelmingly against US embargo on Cuba

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN General Assembly on Thursday voted by a large margin against the United States' economic and trade embargo against Cuba, first imposed in 1960.

Titled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba," the resolution put forward each year against the embargo garnered sup-

port from 187 states, with only the United States and Israel casting against and Ukraine abstaining. Debate on the resolution began Wednesday and extended into Thursday.

The General Assembly reiterated its call for all states to refrain from promulgating and applying such restrictive laws and measures in line with their obligations under the UN Charter and international law.

The more than 60-year

blockade violates the rights of all Cubans, said Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, noting that 80 percent of the population in his country has never known life without the crippling U.S. blockade.

He added that it is "an act of economic warfare, in times of peace," creating a situation of ungovernability and an attempt to destroy the constitutional order.

Aurelie Flore Koumba

Pambo, representative of Gabon to the UN, voiced her country's concern over the continuing embargo. "The scale of its impact is more and more harmful to the Cuban people," she said during the debate, noting that the economic blockade is "clearly a hostile act to region and continental cohesion." She called it an "obstacle to the social and economic development of Cuba."

Xinhua

## Tourism summit advocates for sustainable tourism industry in Africa

KIGALI

DELEGATES attending the 23rd World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) Global Summit in the Rwandan capital of Kigali on Thursday called for collaborative and concerted efforts to promote sustainable travel and the tourism industry in Africa to drive economic growth and create employment opportunities.

They were speaking at the formal opening ceremony of a three-day conference that brought together more than

1,000 participants, including heads of state, policymakers, government officials, travel leaders, and champions of conservation from across the globe, to discuss the future of global travel and tourism.

"This summit is not about Rwanda; it's about Africa. Africa, a remarkable continent, has transformed," said Julia Simpson, president and chief executive officer of the WTTC.

Simpson forecasted that over the next 10 years, Africa's tourism sector is set to grow by 5.1 percent annually, emphasiz-

ing that the promotion of sustainable travel and tourism in Africa holds the key to strong economic development on the continent.

"Tourism and travel progress is not just about the makeup of our sector, but it is about how we welcome differences, how we take care of people -- our own people and customers, how we create a sense of belonging, a sense of home," she said.

Speaking at the event, Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan said Africa is endowed

with rich, abundant natural and cultural tourist attractions, and tourism contributes considerably to most African economies. "Africa should continue to prioritize sustainable tourism practices by minimizing the environmental footprint of tourism activities, promoting the conservation of natural resources, and supporting community-based tourism initiatives," she added.

According to her, Africa should also emphasize ecotourism, which promotes responsible travel to natural areas,

contributing to conservation efforts, and providing sustainable economic benefits for local communities.

Hassan highlighted that the tourism sector contributes up to 17.2 percent of Tanzania's gross domestic product (GDP) and 25 percent of the country's total export earnings.

"Africa can leverage tourism to drive economic growth and create employment opportunities."

Speaking at the summit, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said globally, the travel

and tourism industry has recovered strongly, but the high cost of air travel to Africa and within Africa remains a barrier.

"Implementation of the single African air transport market is, therefore, an important priority. We should not lose sight of our own continental market. Africans are the future of global tourism as our middle class continues to grow at a fast pace in the decades to come," he added.

Kagame said Rwanda identified tourism as a key driver of the country's economic growth

and employment.

"Every year, we welcome so many visitors who come to Rwanda to enjoy the unique natural beauty, attend sporting events, or participate in gatherings."

This is a privilege and trust that we do not take for granted." The WTTC Global Summit, being held for the first time on the African continent, will deliberate on efforts to support the sector's recovery and move to a safer, more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future.

Xinhua



# Shenzhou-17 manned spaceship successfully launched

By Liu Shiyao, Gu Yekai

At 11:14 a.m. on Oct. 26, a Long March-2F carrier rocket was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, sending three astronauts on the Shenzhou-17 manned spaceship into preset orbit. The launch mission was a complete success.

The Shenzhou-17 manned spaceship is the second mission to China's space station since the space station entered its development and application stage. The mission's primary goal includes completing the in-orbit crew rotation with the Shenzhou-16 trio, before they carry on to conduct an approximate six-month stay in space.

During this period, the crew will engage in in-orbit trials of space science and application payloads, conduct astronaut extravehicular activities, and perform payload extravehicular operations, which will also involve the installation of extravehicular payloads and maintenance tasks on the space station.

Besides, the mission will continually evaluate the functional performance of the space station assembly, accumulating precious data



The Shenzhou-17 manned spaceship, atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket, blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China at 11:14 a.m., Oct. 26, 2023. (Photo by Wang Xiaobo/People's Daily Online)

and experience regarding space station operations. This initiative aims to assess the coordination and compatibility of the ground support center in managing space station operational tasks, thereby enriching the operational efficiency and troubleshooting capabilities of the space station.

So far, the Shenzhou series of manned spacecraft have all been developed under

the leadership of the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST). As the Chinese space station has entered the development and application stage, there will be frequent launch missions of the Shenzhou series, which raises higher requirements for spacecraft development.

"Previous Shenzhou models were produced using a 2D blueprint manufacturing method. Newer models like

the Shenzhou-17 have been transitioned to 3D digital manufacturing. Utilizing 3D models to fully convey product definition and process information improves design efficiency and enables 'visualization' of the production process," said an employee with the CAST.

As the Shenzhou-17 spaceship approached the space station combination, the microwave radar independently developed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation played a critical role in measurement during the rendezvous and docking process.

The radar can accurately output the distance, velocity, angle and other relative motion parameters between the spacecraft and space station, with low transmit power, high measurement accuracy and strong anti-interference capability.

At the same time, the laser rendezvous and docking radar developed by China Electronics Technology Group Corporation provided precise positioning and measurement support, accurately guiding the rapid rendezvous and docking.

With the full activation of the space station application and development phase,



Chinese astronauts Tang Hongbo (R), Tang Shengjie (C) and Jiang Xinlin attend a see-off ceremony at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on Oct. 26, 2023. (Photo by Wang Xiaobo/People's Daily Online)

astronauts are playing an even more prominent role in manned spaceflight missions. To better support astronauts working and living in space, the performance of supporting products for the Shenzhou-17 crew has also been further improved.

Through innovative applications of new technologies, in-orbit physical exercise equipment and living supplies for astronauts have been upgraded. They will provide more reliable and convenient guarantees for the astronauts' safe, healthy and efficient work during their six-month stay in orbit. So far, the environmental control and life

support system has been operating stably in orbit for approximately 900 consecutive days.

China's Shenzhou-16 crew returned to Earth on October 31. Prior to the separation, the Shenzhou-16 crew and Shenzhou-17 crew carried out handover work, and completed in-orbit work experience exchange, and the transfer and installation of materials and samples.

As a national space laboratory, the orbiting Tiangong space station has carried out applications in an orderly manner, with remarkable outcomes in technology transfer and transition.

During their stay in orbit, the Shenzhou-17 crew will continue conducting space science experiments and various technology tests.

So far, with close cooperation between astronauts and ground technicians, 70 space experiments have been completed in fields like aerospace medicine, life ecology, biotechnology, materials science, fluid physics, fluid dynamics and others, as well as eight research efforts on human-factors engineering.

A large amount of experimental data has been obtained, and some experimental samples returned with the Shenzhou-16 spacecraft. Some projects have already yielded phased application results.

Lin Xiqiang, deputy director of the China Manned Space Agency, noted that China has a well-equipped near-Earth manned space station and manned transportation system, a mature system for astronaut selection, training and support, as well as manned flight missions scheduled at a frequency of twice per year.

"China is now ready and has made preparations to invite foreign astronauts to participate in flight missions to the Chinese Space Station," Lin added.

## Five years on, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge promotes closer exchanges in GBA

By Hu Jian, He Linping

SINCE the beginning of this year, traffic on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge has become increasingly busier.

Hong Kong youth Wong Yeukyun commutes between Hong Kong and Guangdong province each week, and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge is the passage he uses most frequently. During the eight-day Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holiday this year, Wong and his family had a wonderful time touring the Zhuhai countryside, soaking in the hot springs in Jiangmen, and shopping for souvenirs in Macao.

On Oct. 23, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge celebrated its 5th anniversary. Over the past five years, it has facilitated 36 million cross-border passenger trips and 7.5 million vehicle trips.

Traffic flow on the bridge has reached 2.35 million this year, and 702 million trips have been made by residents from Hong Kong and Macao passing through it. In particular, the bridge saw over 500,000 cross-border traveler trips during the Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holiday.

With the frequent flows of personnel, capital and logistics, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is fastening its pace of integrated development with the accelerated construction of major cooperation platforms.

At 8 a.m., tour guide Su Guiping led 38 tourists from central China's Hubei province to Hong Kong through the bridge's Zhuhai land port, kicking off a 4-day tour in Hong Kong and Macao. "Many tourists want to have a glimpse of the bridge," Su said.

The increasingly vibrant exchanges among Guangdong province, Hong Kong and Macao are driven by a strong mutual demand for each other. Many Hong Kong and Macao residents who have traveled to the mainland noted that they have had brand-new tourism experiences.

A Hong Kong resident surnamed Lai told People's Daily that he purchased a lot of specialties in the mainland for his family and friends, with so many bags and packages that filled his car.



Photo shows the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. (Photo by Luo Linghao/People's Daily Online)

Similarly, tourists from the mainland are also showing an increasing enthusiasm for visiting relatives, shopping, visiting exhibitions and seeing concerts in Hong Kong and Macao. A total of 610,000 tourists from the mainland visited Hong Kong on the first four days of the holiday.

In the early morning of Oct. 20, the Zhuhai land port of the bridge witnessed another peak of truck departures. Lines of fully loaded trucks, carrying goods destined for Hong Kong or for export via Hong Kong, were waiting to pass the port.

Zhuhai-based Haimiao aquaculture trade company was the first enterprise to supply fresh seafood to Hong Kong after the opening of

the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. Seafood harvested in the afternoon could make it to Hong Kong around midnight and be on the tables of Hong Kong residents by noon the next day.

"Our efficiency has been significantly improved, and the shipped seafood can keep fresher," said Weng Xipeng, general manager of the company.

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge has significantly reduced the travel time between Hong Kong and Zhuhai, as well as between Hong Kong and Macao, from three hours to just 45 minutes. The 24-hour customs clearance service at the port makes the bridge a logistics artery of

the GBA.

Zhuhai is promoting the construction of a new economic and trade corridor along the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. With the bridge extension as the axis, important facilities such as cross-border e-commerce operation centers, a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao logistics park, an airport-based international smart logistics park, and the Gaolan Port Comprehensive Free Trade Zone are located from east to west. This has actively facilitated the deep integration of personnel, logistics, capital, information, and innovation flows between the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao.

By the end of September, the total value of goods imported and exported through the Zhuhai land port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge reached 718.75 billion yuan (\$98.24 billion). The market has expanded

to involve more than 230 countries and regions, compared to 105 in 2018.

"The transportation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong is very convenient. Starting a business here, I can enjoy in-store decoration support, brand promotion and other aspects. This is very appealing to me," said Chen Jiacong, a young man from Hong Kong who just graduated this year and runs a shop in a night market in Shenzhen.

Currently, cities in the Pearl River Delta, represented by Shenzhen, have basically established a well-functioning incubation system of innovation and entrepreneurship for young people from Hong Kong and Macao. This system supports entrepreneurial projects through measures such as entrepreneurial guaranteed loans, as well as subsidies for employment and entrepreneurship.

With continuous policy innovation, cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao is deepening in areas such as education, healthcare, social security, and culture. The exchanges and connectivity among the three have expanded from tourism and family visits to employment, entrepreneurship, and people's livelihood.

"The GBA is one of the most open and economically vibrant regions in China," said Mao Yanhua, director of the Institute of Regional Openness and Cooperation at Sun Yat-sen University, and professor with the Center for Studies of Hong Kong, Macao and Pearl River Delta.

As the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge keeps playing its role as an efficient transportation route for people and an artery for economic and trade activities, the increasingly integrated GBA will undoubtedly usher in a new period of rapid development, Mao noted.

## Climate dialogue held to explore new opportunities of China-US cooperation on green development

By Zhang Penghui

THE Great Wall Climate Dialogue co-hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the California-China Climate Institute was held at a hotel near Yanqi Lake in Beijing's northern outskirts on Oct. 26.

Both Chinese and American guests attending the dialogue believe that addressing climate change requires global action, especially close cooperation between China and the United States. There exist tremendous opportunities for cooperation between China and the United States in areas such as green development and climate change response.

China's Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu said in his remarks that the Chinese path to modernization is a process of modernization of harmony between humanity and nature, and China always attaches high importance to addressing climate change.

To jointly address global environmental and climate challenges, China and the U.S. should further consolidate cooperative mechanisms, maintain good partnership, play an exemplary leading role, promote comprehensive

cooperation at all levels, and strengthen joint efforts to advance global environmental and climate governance progress.

China-U.S. environment and climate cooperation dates back to the 1980s and is an important part of bilateral relations. The leaders of the two countries successively issued three joint statements on climate change, providing political solutions and making historic contributions to the successful conclusion and rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

In 2022, China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation with California. Since then, the two sides have carried out a series of policy dialogues in areas including carbon markets and nature-based solutions.

California Governor Gavin Newsom said in his speech that climate change is a common challenge faced by all countries, and in recent years, California has been deeply affected by climate change, with frequent extreme weather events like heatwaves, droughts and floods.

As the world's two largest economies, the United States and China bear major responsibilities in addressing climate change, Newsom remarked. He noted California is at the forefront of U.S. states in green development, but still has limitations and room for improvement. The two sides should fully utilize innovation and investment tools, find solutions to tackle climate change.

He hopes that the United States and China can share wisdom and experience, deepen green cooperation, and jointly contribute to global climate change response.

Yang Wanming, president of the Chinese People's



The Great Wall Climate Dialogue is held at a hotel near Yanqi Lake in Beijing's northern outskirts, Oct. 26, 2023. (Photo by Zhang Penghui/People's Daily)

Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, said climate change is a common challenge faced by humanity, and strengthening sub-national cooperation between China and the United States in addressing climate change and promoting green development helps advance the two countries' respective green development, is beneficial for the global population, and contributes to the healthy and stable development of the China-US relationship.

Leaders from the Chinese provinces and autonomous regions of Inner Mongolia, Jiangsu, Guangdong, Hainan and Sichuan introduced specific actions and successful experiences in implementing the green development philosophy, expressing their willingness to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the California government in areas such as clean energy, technological innovation, low-carbon transportation and green agriculture.

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, said via video link that California has set ambitious goals for achieving sustainable development, and the next it will ensure these goals are implemented. The United States and China can learn from each other in areas like improving air quality, Crowfoot noted.

Chair of the California Energy Commission David Hochschild congratulated China on its leading achievements in the new energy industry.

He highlighted that the United States and China are located on both sides of the Pacific Ocean, the ocean winds provide endless energy for wind power projects in both countries. He expressed his hope for closer cooperation with China in the development of clean energy.

Newsom said he opposes the view that U.S.-China cooperation is a zero-sum game, noting that decoupling is not an option for the two countries. He said the two sides should strengthen communication, and join hands to cope with climate change and other challenges facing the world.

He noted that China plays an important role in addressing climate change and California is a long-term, strong and reliable partner of China in promoting sub-national cooperation between the two countries.

# Ngorongoro Queens closes in on winning 2023 Women's Cricket Premier League

By Guardian Reporter

**N**GORONGORO Queens have boosted their chances of lifting the 2023 Tanzania Women's Cricket Premier League title after securing a comprehensive 23-run win over Mount Meru Queens at Leaders Club ground in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Following the victory in the first of the Qualifier encounters, Ngorongoro Queens have secured progression to the tournament's final, slated for tomorrow at the venue.

Ngorongoro Queens will, in tomorrow's trophy duel, lock horns with winners of another Qualifier tie between Kilimanjaro Queens and Usambara Queens slated to be played at the same ground today.

In yesterday's match, Ngorongoro Queens posted 90/7 in the meeting which was reduced to 15 overs because of the ongoing downpour once the squad took the crease first.

Key players led by Mwanai Ammy showcased their ruthlessness at the crease, seeing to it Ngorongoro Queens finish 10 runs short of triple digits.

Mwanai was the most impressive of the batting unit having ended with 35 runs after she was slotted in as the opening batter.

The skilful opener that had opened the innings with Neema Justine propelled Ngorongoro Queens to 66 runs in 10.2 overs at the time the former was sent back, leaving Neema to push for the squad's dominance.

The in-form Neema went on to post 24 runs, returning to the pavilion after the following three balls.

There was also a worthy showing put to show by the equally gifted Shufaa Hamza who notched 20 runs not out for the batting squad.

Efforts by Mount Meru Queens' bowling unit to curtail Ngorongoro Queens' determination to amass a bigger score to some extent paid off as the former took five wickets in quick succession.

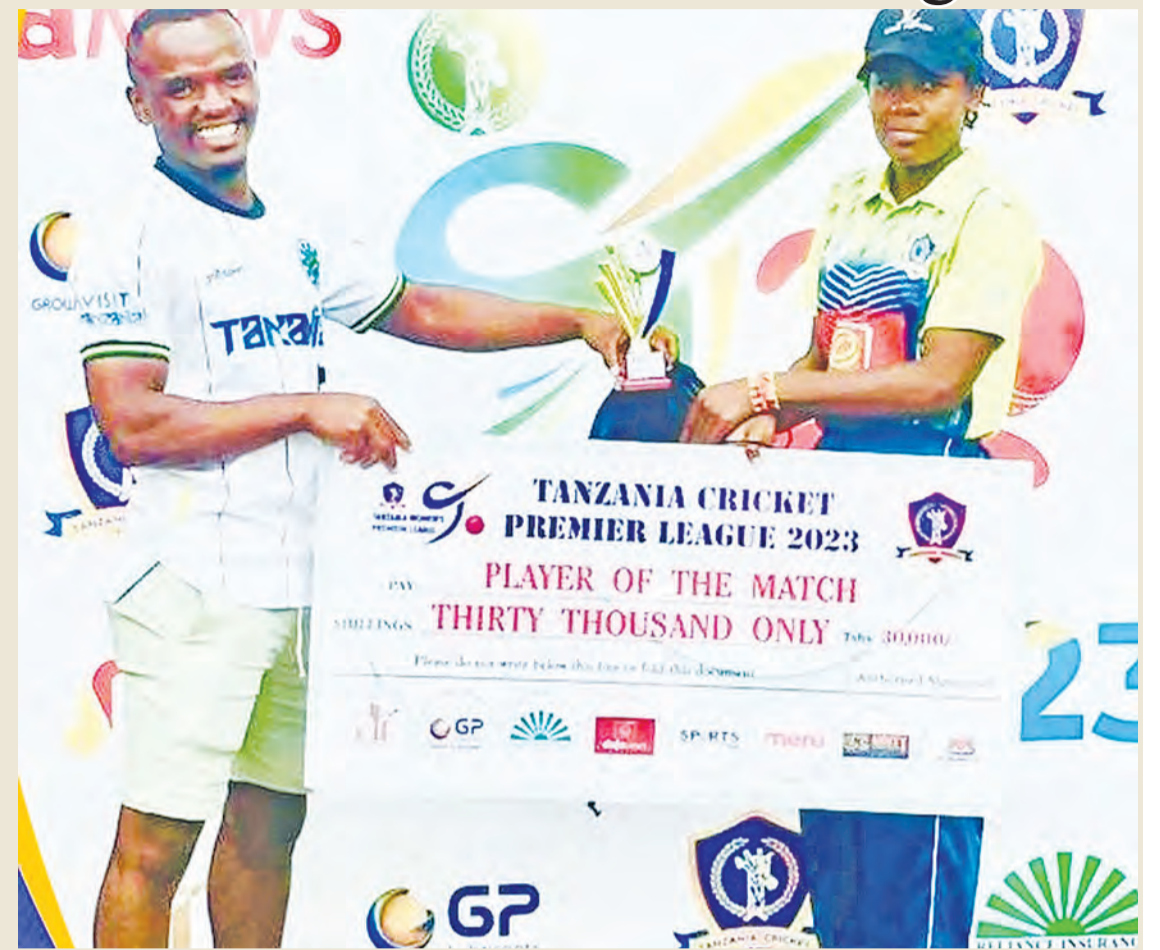
Zena Hassani grabbed two wickets for 13 runs in her three-over spell for Mount Meru Queens as was the case for the other bowler Farida Amiry, posting 2-12 in three overs.

Much as Mount Meru Queens were presented with an achievable target, the cricketers lost steam in the chase, having managed to notch 67/9 in the scheduled 15 overs.

The batting squad got off to a frustrating start following the loss of the openers, Gertrude Mushi and Aisha Mohamed, within the opening over.

It was for that matter down to team captain Monica Pascal to put her experience to use and have the outfit keeping alive hopes of mounting a successful chase.

Monica, slotted in at number three, did all she could to live up to expectations having scored



Ngorongoro Queens' Mwanamvua Hamisi (R) is pictured receiving the Player of the Match prize from a senior national cricketer, Karim Kiseto, once the outfit played against Kilimanjaro Queens in the 2023 Tanzania Women's Cricket Premier League tie which took place in Dar es Salaam early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

25 runs in her 32-ball stint.

The skipper showcased her composure and propelled Mount Meru Queens to 53 runs in the 10th over, leaving the crease with two balls left in the over after she was caught by Ngorongoro Queens' Mwajuma Matheo from a delivery from Neema.

Jenipher Gabriel, coming in as the top-order player, also put her virtuosity to show and ended with two digits, scoring 19 runs.

Neema successfully led Ngorongoro Queens' bowling unit to keep Mount Meru Queens' performers in check, notching two wickets in three overs.

The Ngorongoro Queens skipper was ably assisted by fellow bowlers, Dorice Helment and Mwajabu Hussein, as the two also completed their spells with two wickets apiece.

The comprehensive victory, for that matter, witnessed Ngorongoro Queens coming out victorious in three of the four encounters pitting the squad against Mount Meru Queens.

The Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-organized Tanzania Women's Cricket Premier League involves Mount Meru Queens, Ngorongoro Queens, Usambara Queens, and Kilimanjaro Queens, seeking to improve women's cricket in the country.

Cricketers making Mount Meru Queens include Foide Ezekiel, Mwamvita Mwasiga, Zakia Ally, Lightness Eladius, Bilhuda Salum, Jenipher Gabriel, Farida Amiry, and Gertrude Mushi.

Asha Lugali, Zena Hassan, Sophia Frank, Mwapwani Ally, Aisha Mohamed, Malizia Salum, and team captain Monica Pascal are the team's other cricketers.

Ngorongoro Queens' cricketers are Mwajabu Omary, Mwa-

juma Matheo, Remmy Mkina, Dorice Helment, Lonsina Separatus, Maua Alfani, Mwanai Sufiani, and Gertrude Faustine.

Mwana Ushanga, Tabu Said, Shufaa Hamza, Neema Justine, Joan Jackson, Mwajabu Salum, and Mwanai Ammy are also on the list.

Kilimanjaro Queens are made up of Florida Peter, Halima Ramadhani, Mariam Hussein, Zuhura Masoud, Angel Paschal, Sharifa Rashidi, Mwanai Mohamed, and Maimuna Fikiri.

Shania Fikiri, Swaum Godfrey, Saum Deo, Gift Omary, Nasra Hamza, Fatuma Omary, and Maria Joseph also turn out for the outfit.

Cricketers making Usambara Queens are Perice Zakayo, Fat'ha Salum, Nice George, Margreth Patrod, Mwanai Amani, Lucy Raymond, Esther Frank, and Fatuma Hatibu.

Zulfa Hussein, Hadija Juma, Sheila Shamte, Hudaa Mrisho, Catherine Dominic, Saum Borakambi, and Happy George also made the team.

Dafa News is the main sponsor of the league which is also supported by Unity Computers, Sports Box, Delaware Investments, Reliance Insurance Tanzania, G1 Security, Meru, and General Petroleum Tanzania.



Tanzania House of Talent (THT)'s Director, Kemi Mutahaba, addresses attendees of the launch of a new project dubbed 'Kipepeo Mweusi' in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The project, coordinated by THT, gears towards empowering young domestic female artists. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JAMES KANDOYA

## THT launches project to empower young female artists

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA House of Talents (THT) has launched a new project aimed at empowering young girls to overcome challenges they encounter in arts.

The project dubbed 'Kipepeo Mweusi' has embarked on empowering young girls' financial literacy and the formalization of their artworks through the National Arts Council (BASATA).

The project further gears toward championing for provision of reproductive health knowledge and economic empowerment.

Speaking at the function for launching the project in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, Gerson Msigwa said that the project has come at the right time as the government plans to improve the country's arts.

Msigwa noted: "I commend THT for introducing a new, important project in the arts and entertainment sectors. The project implements what research and reports highlighted to be a hindrance factor for girls' development in the arts sector."

"Since we have girls in this sector, the project will therefore help to bring positive contribution in the sector, their lives, and the national economy," he said.

Msigwa said since it was established by Ruge Mutahaba 18 years ago, THT has embarked on empowering talented youths by giving them a platform to shape their talent while learning different issues including

music.

He said through experience, THT has set up a system of innovation to improve chain value and connect innovation stakeholders.

Kemi Mutahaba, THT Director, said they had earlier conducted a pilot project to know the challenges facing girls in the arts sector.

"In the pilot project we involved a variety of groups in the arts from all districts in Dar es Salaam and we conducted training for five days to know the source of the problem and the way forward," she said.

"Through response from stakeholders, we hope to collaborate with the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, private sector, and arts stakeholders to solve all challenges a girl encounters and ensure she succeeds," she added.

Kemi said that the project will commence in Dar es Salaam and move to other parts of the country and will embark on training and workshops for female artists.

The project, she disclosed, will also connect female artists with financial institutions and famous people to develop their works.

The Project Manager, Mwasiti Almasi, said that as a female artist, she knows the challenges female artists encounter.

"I feel happy to be part of the transformation in the arts as a coordinator of the project, we shall embark on four pillars- difference, target, assertiveness, and 'big dream'," Mwasiti, also a popular artist, said.

## Joel Embiid says James Harden 'did a lot of great things' in Philly, but it's time to move on

PHILADELPHIA

JOEL Embiid envisioned winning an NBA championship with James Harden at his side. Embiid has a new idea of how to win one with the 76ers – play his former teammate and the Los Angeles Clippers in the NBA Finals.

"He's on the losing side of it," Embiid said with a laugh. "We're on the winning side of it."

Embiid and the 76ers are relieved they are no longer tethered to the daily Harden

soap opera that has enveloped the franchise since the summer.

The 76ers traded Harden this week to the Clippers for a package of players and draft picks, ending the promise of two NBA MVPs chasing a championship in Philly.

"He got what he wanted," Embiid said.

**The Sixers did, too.**

They are, perhaps for the first time since former guard Ben Simmons issued his trade demand in 2021, a complete team without the headaches that come along

with All-Stars bellyaching about their role, their contract, their feelings inside the locker room.

**Winning helps.**

The 76ers are perhaps an uncalled travel away in the season opener from being 4-0. As it is, the 76ers are 3-1 with Embiid putting up numbers like a player intent on defending his MVP crown. Tyrese Maxey has blossomed into the true, unselfish No. 2 role that Harden never really embraced over 79 regular-season games. And Tobias Harris and Kelly Oubre Jr.

are playing more like pivotal contributors rather than oft-forgotten role players.

Harden took some parting shots at the Sixers on Thursday in Los Angeles with the 10-time All-Star saying the team had him "on a leash" in his short stint. Harden complained he didn't get enough credit in Philly for sacrificing millions on his last contract in the summer of 2022 so the team had enough money to spend on free agents. And he said under former coach Doc Rivers, the Sixers didn't play an offense that fit his ball-

dominant, freelance-style of offense.

"I'm not a system player," Harden said. "I am a system."

Embiid scoffed at the notion that Harden – who fell out of favor among Philly fans with a combined 22 points in Games 6 and 7 second-round playoff losses last season to Boston – was hamstrung by the Sixers' scheme.

"We gave him the ball every single possession to just go out and do his thing," Embiid said. "From there, he had to make decisions as far as getting guys open or look-

ing out for himself. I thought he did a pretty good job just getting us into an offense."

If the Sixers missed Harden, it sure didn't seem like it in the locker room.

The Sixers beat Toronto on Thursday night in a game where almost everyone contributed. Embiid had 28 points, 13 boards and seven assists. Harris and Oubre each scored 23. Maxey had 18. Harden's nameplate was, of course, removed from his locker and there wasn't a shred of his merchandise found in team stores on

the Wells Fargo Center concourse. Not even on the discount rack.

Embiid, though, noted how it's still kind of hard to imagine how much more of a threat the 76ers might have been with a healthy, happy, well-paid Harden still on the roster.

"That was out of our control," Embiid said. "In that situation, you've got to roll with it. But I still believe we have a chance. We are right there. Especially with the team we have right now."

AP



Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) football squad's Said Issa (L) negotiates his way past College of Business Education (CBE) squad's Patrick John as the teams locked horns in a friendly game at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Wembanyama dazzles in 5th NBA game, shows why he's most-hyped prospect in years

PHOENIX

VICTOR Wembanyama strolled through the hallways at Footprint Center after the best game of his short NBA career when he passed 13-time All-Star Kevin Durant, stopping for a quick handshake and quick hug.

Some say the 7-foot-4 Frenchman is a taller version of Durant.

Durant's first impression is that the budding San Antonio Spurs star might be even better.

"His enthusiasm for the game – you can tell that through the TV and playing against him," Durant said. "He's his own player, own person. He's going to create his own lane and is much different than anyone else who has played."

In just his fifth NBA game, the 19-year-old Wembanyama showed why he was one of the most-hyped prospects in years, scoring 38 points and grabbing 10 rebounds in a standout performance during a 132-121 victory over Durant and the Phoenix Suns on Thursday night.

Wembanyama produced several highlight-reel plays in the game, including a soaring dunk while running the floor during the second quarter. But it was his poise in the fourth quarter that was the real eye-opener.

The Spurs built a 27-point lead in the first half and still had a 14-point lead entering the fourth quarter before the Suns clawed back to tie it 116 with about four minutes left. That's when Wembanyama took over, with the precocious rookie making a 3-pointer, three free throws, a dunk and an 18-foot jumper to push the Spurs on a 12-0 run that sealed the win.

Wembanyama shot 15 of 26 from the field and added two assists, two blocks and a steal to help the Spurs complete a two-game sweep in Phoenix. He said the game also taught him an important lesson.

"I'd say it's that a 20-point lead is nothing," Wembanyama said. "It works both ways. It's also something we've seen in FIBA when we play team U.S. or scout U.S. You could be up 15 and in a blink you'll be down one and you don't know what happened because they ran the fastbreak like crazy and got some defensive stops."

AP

## Harry Kane's first 'Klassiker' at Bayern overshadowed by de Ligt injury and shock cup exit

DUESSELDORF, Germany

HOWEVER Harry Kane imagined preparing for his first "Klassiker" for Bayern Munich against Borussia Dortmund, it probably didn't involve losing to a third-division team.

The England captain watched on as an unused substitute as Bayern was knocked out of the German Cup 2-1 by Saarbruecken on Wednesday in one of the competition's biggest ever upsets. Bayern now has to turn it around to play Dortmund on Saturday.

It wasn't just an embarrassing loss that knocked Bayern out of contention for a trophy. Matthijs de Ligt suffered a partial knee ligament tear in the game, leaving the team with a gap in defense, and Thomas Müller indicated a possible rift in the squad when he publicly criticized teammates for disrespecting the fans.

Even at Bayern, where any one loss tends to tip the club into crisis mode, that's a lot to deal with.

All the more so for Kane in his first "Klassiker" in front of Dortmund's famed – and loud – "Yellow Wall" of fans. Kane indicated last week that his experience of the North London rivalry between Tottenham and Arsenal might come in handy.

"It's going to be a tough match. Obviously Dortmund have started well this year as well. It'll be my first one but I've played in a lot of derby games, rival games so I'm looking forward to it," Kane said Saturday after scoring a hat trick in Bayern's 8-0 win over Darmstadt. "I'm sure it'll be a great atmosphere from both teams."

History is on Bayern's side against Dortmund – it hasn't lost to its rival since 2019 – but de Ligt's injury leaves coach Thomas Tuchel scrambling to patch together the defense. Bayern said Thursday that a scan showed de Ligt had a partial tear in a ligament in his right knee and that he would miss "upcoming games," without giving a timeline for his return. De Ligt had only last month returned from another knee injury he picked up in September.

Tuchel said Wednesday the injury was "very painful" and now he needs to find someone in the squad to partner Kim Min-jae in the center of defense. Midfielder Joshua Kimmich stepped in against Saarbruecken, but is suspended for the Dortmund game. Tuchel could try to rush Dayot Upamecano back from his hamstring injury, and while he has done some training, he hasn't played in nearly a month.

AP

# Spurs managers old and new face off as Postecoglou awaits Pochettino's Chelsea

MANCHESTER, England

ALOT has changed at Tottenham since Mauricio Pochettino was shown the door four years ago this month. The club is on its fourth different manager since then, for a start.

But by design or sheer luck, Spurs have stumbled across a coach in Ange Postecoglou who has re-energized the club in double quick time and brought the kind of feel-good factor that hasn't been present since Pochettino's departure.

Pochettino takes his Chelsea team to Premier League leaders Tottenham on Monday and Postecoglou was quick to acknowledge his predecessor's "unbelievable impact" in five years at the club.

"All of us in our roles, that is our ultimate goal and ambition that whatever doors we go through, we make an impact and he has had an undeniable impact on this football club in his time here," the Australian said Thursday. "He almost took the club to the ultimate summit of the Champions League, got close to the league, so his work is unquestioned."

Postecoglou's own impact since being hired at the end of last season has defied expectations, with Tottenham undefeated



Mauricio Pochettino

and at the top of the Premier League after 10 games.

He is the first coach to win the Premier League manager of the month award in his first two months in England's top flight – a feat even Pep Guardiola did not manage. And he could make it a hat trick after being nominated again for October.

Even the most optimistic of Spurs fans could not have hoped for such an impressive start – particularly on the back of a chaotic period post-Pochettino.

Jose Mourinho sparked hope that his pragmatism could bring trophies to a club starved of success, but lasted less than two years.

Nuno Espirito Santo always felt like an underwhelming choice to succeed one of the most successful coaches in

modern history and he was promptly fired barely three months into his first season. Then came the combustible Antonio Conte. Like Mourinho, he was a proven winner. But, like Mourinho, he was also gone in under two years.

After the stability of Pochettino and the joy he spread around the club by leading an exciting team to the Champions League final in 2019, Tottenham was swept up in the turbulent cycle of trying to recapture his magic.

After a revolving door of managers saw the club fail to qualify for Europe for the first time since 2009 last season, fans demanded action.

Postecoglou was the man who under-pressure chairman Daniel Levy turned to. The straight-talking former Australia coach had just won a tro-

phy treble with Celtic in Scotland, but turning Tottenham's fortunes around had already proved too much for more celebrated managers than him.

And he had to do it without record goal scorer Harry Kane, who was sold to Bayern Munich in the offseason.

Which only makes his achievements so far all the more impressive after winning eight and drawing two of the opening 10 league games, which have included clashes with Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United.

Next up is Pochettino's Chelsea in a game that will see Tottenham in the rare position of being the favorite against its fierce London rival.

Chelsea has dominated this matchup in recent years. Its loss to Tottenham in February was its first league defeat against Spurs since 2018.

But under Chelsea's new owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital, the 2021 Champions League winners have undergone a period of major upheaval that saw it record its lowest points total in the Premier League era last season and fail to qualify for Europe. After spending more than \$1 billion on new signings, Chelsea still looks set for another disappointing campaign, with qualification for the Champions League unlikely following a run of just three wins in its first 10 league games.

There have at least been some signs of improvement in recent weeks, with Pochettino guiding the team to the quar-

terfinals of the League Cup on Wednesday.

Monday is likely to be an emotional occasion for the Argentine and a potentially chastening one if Postecoglou's impressive start at Tottenham is extended with another win.

**UNITED CRISIS**

Erik ten Hag says he must take responsibility for Manchester United's ever-worsening form. A loss against Newcastle on Wednesday ended his team's title defense of the League Cup and delivered another blow to the under-pressure manager. United travels to Fulham on Saturday in desperate need of a win to take the heat off Ten Hag after eight losses in all competitions.

"I am a fighter and I am in that fight and I have to make sure that I share the responsibility with my players and that we stick together and fight together, and get better results," the Dutchman said.

**NEWCASTLE VS. ARSENAL**

The question facing Arsenal and Newcastle this season was whether they could go again after exceeding expectations last term. Arsenal led the way in the Premier League for most of the campaign until a late collapse cost the Londoners their first title since 2004. Newcastle, backed by Saudi money, secured qualification for the Champions League after a 20-year absence.

AP

## Ballon d'Or winner Bonmatí helped get a win over sexism in Spain. Now it's time to 'focus on soccer'

SANT JOAN DESPI, Spain

IT'S BEEN a whirlwind last few months for Aitana Bonmatí, the newly crowned Ballon d'Or winner, with memorable victories on and off the field.

Far from the days of being the only girl playing on her village's soccer team, Bonmatí led Spain to Women's World Cup glory in August after helping Barcelona win the Champions League for a second time, while being named the best player at both competitions.

The 25-year-old midfielder was also named the best player in the world along with Lionel Messi.

Amid all the huge successes, it has also been a fraught time for Bonmatí after she and her fellow Spain teammates decided they would not be silent when the now-former president of the Spanish soccer federation Luis Rubiales kissed forward Jenni Hermoso on the lips without her consent during the World Cup awards ceremony, drawing attention away from their greatest achievement.

While Bonmatí says that taking a stand was a source of pride and strength for the players in their struggle for equality, it has taken its toll – even if Spain has been crushing its opponents in the Nations League in the aftermath of the worst of the crisis caused by Rubiales.

"Right now both Barça and Spain are playing



FC Barcelona and Spain's national team midfielder Aitana Bonmatí holds the 2023 Women's Ballon d'Or trophy, during a press conference in Barcelona, Spain, Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023. (AP Photo)

great, so perhaps the fight for social causes and equality have brought us together even more, but this is also a question of just being professionals," Bonmatí told The Associated Press on Thursday at Barcelona's training grounds in an interview conducted both in English and Spanish.

Bonmatí and her teammates for Spain had to rebel against their own federation and refuse to play not once, but twice, over the past year to denounce what they considered to be discriminatory attitudes and practices inside the governing body of Spanish soccer. Leveraging their new status as world champions, they were able to finally force the ousting of Rubiales, and their coach, along with securing improvements in staff, travel and assistance for players with young children. That has also coincided with a strike by players for Spain's women's league to get a higher minimum wage.

"It has all gone so

fast, and what all we are thinking about is the time when we can only focus on soccer and leave other issues behind us," she said. "We have enough to think about just with training and winning games for on top of that to have to pay attention to other things that sap our energy, generate stress and are not good for our health. So we are all ready to get back to soccer."

Part of the overhaul of the federation has

included the removal of the term "women's" from its national soccer team. Both the men's and women's teams are now called officially Spain's national football teams.

"If you talk about 'soccer' and 'women's soccer' you are differentiating between them and giving more importance to men's soccer by calling it 'soccer'," she said. "Soccer is soccer, no matter who plays it."

Bonmatí, who was also named the UEFA player of the year, won the Ballon d'Or award after her Spain and Barcelona teammate Alexia Putellas had prevailed the previous two years. Only one Spanish man has won the award: Luis Suárez in 1960.

With Alexia playing limited minutes at the World Cup after missing most of Barcelona's season due to a long injury layoff, Bonmatí took on a key role for both teams as their top playmaker

and an improved scoring threat. At the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, she scored three goals and provided two assists while driving Spain's attack that beat England 1-0 in the Aug. 20 final.

Her light frame, combined with great vision, ball handling and passing ability, has drawn comparisons to the great Barcelona midfielders Andrés Iniesta and Xavi Hernández she admired as a child. Former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola has said that he is "completely in love" with Bonmatí's playing style.

For Bonmatí, she is cast in the Barcelona mold because from a young age she based her game on Barcelona's mantra that having the ball is a prerequisite of the best attack, and also the best defense.

"Everyone says that we have a similitude with Guardiola's teams and especially when he was the coach of Barça," Bon-

matí said. "I don't want to compare (because) we are different players, but we have the same style. We understand the same style of football."

An avid reader as well as a student of English, Bonmatí is dealing with her transformation into a star who has her image shown everywhere, including on a mural in her home town of Sant Pere de Ribes, where she still lives just south of Barcelona.

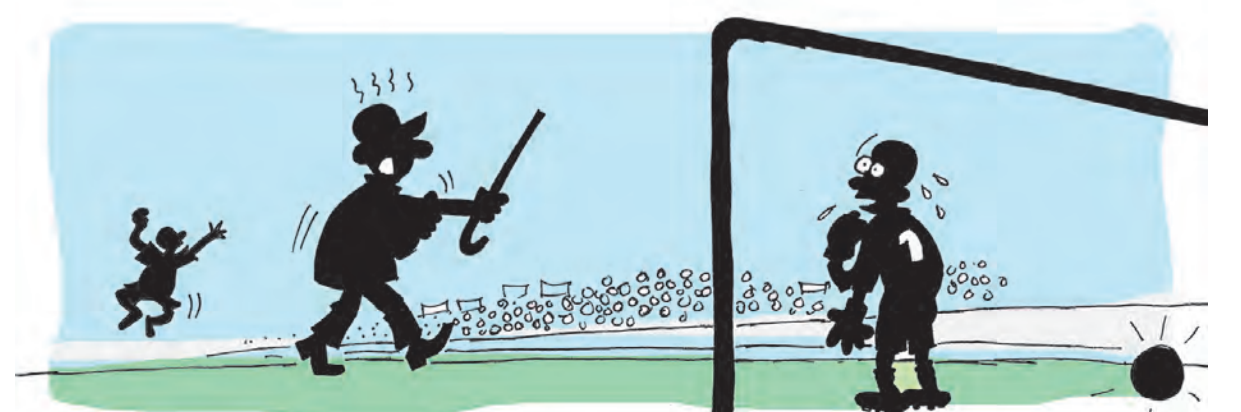
Long gone are the days when she can meet up in public with friends and go unnoticed, but, she said, "people treat me well and I have to give something back for all the support they have shown me."

She now faces the challenge of all elite athletes who have won absolutely everything. How to stay at the pinnacle of her game?

To do so, Bonmatí believes she can still get better as she is entering the prime of her career.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Spurs managers old and new face off as Postecoglou awaits Pochettino's Chelsea

PAGE 19

## Stellar women's field takes aim at New York City Marathon record

NEW YORK

THE New York City Marathon women's record, which has stood for 20 years, could go down Sunday with one of the strongest fields assembled in the history of the race.

Reigning champion Sharon Lokedi looks to defend her title against a stellar group of female runners that includes Boston Marathon champion Helen Obiri, Olympic gold medalist and 2021 New York champion Peres Jepchirchir and former marathon world-record holder Brigid Kosgei.

"It was very life-changing," Lokedi said of winning last year. "Very excited to be back here again." She'll have some added support from her mother, who flew to New York from Kenya and will be waiting at the finish line in Central Park.

All will be aiming for the \$50,000 bonus if they can beat the NYC event record of 2:22:31 set by Margaret Okayo in 2003. Obiri won the Boston Marathon in April, lowering her personal best to 2:21:38.

"The field will be very strong when I'm together with them," Kosgei said.

Lokedi won in her marathon debut last year, taking the New York laurel wreath crown in 2:23:23. She pulled away in the final two miles of the race, winning in unseasonably warm temperatures in the 70s.

It was one of the hottest days in race history since the marathon was moved to November in 1986.

The temperatures on Sunday are expected in the high 50s, considerably better for the 50,000 runners expected to start the race.

"I'm happy it will be cooler," Lokedi said.

The four Kenyans all have a chance to win the race. There likely won't be many American runners in contention because the U.S. Olympic marathon trials are three months away.

Kellyn Taylor and Molly Huddle are the top U.S. runners in the race, returning after giving birth to daughters in 2022. Huddle finished third at the 2016 NYC Marathon in her debut at the distance.

"We've got a really strong group," Taylor said. "When I look at the people seeded ahead of me, I'm like 'holy moly.' Their accolades are light years ahead of mine. But that's the beauty of New York is that you can put all of that aside and anything can happen on that day."

The current women's world record is 2:11:53, set by Tigist Assefa of Ethiopia at the Berlin Marathon in September.

While the men's field may not have the star power of the women's side, there's still a lot of intrigue. Defending champion Evans Chebet and two-time winner Geoffrey Kamworor pulled out of the race a few weeks ago, leaving it more wide open.

World Championship medalists Maru Teferi of Israel and Mosinet Geremew of Ethiopia could win the race, along with 2021 New York Marathon champion Albert Korir.

There's also marathon newcomer Edward Cheserek, who moved to the U.S. in 2010 and won 17 NCAA titles in his college career.

Ethiopia's Tamirat Tola also hopes to improve on his consecutive fourth-place finishes in 2018-19. He placed third in the 2022 Tokyo Marathon and the London Marathon this year. He's seeking his first major marathon victory.

### TICKET TO PARIS

The New York City Marathon serves as the U.S. Paralympic Trials, with up to four wheelchair racers set to become the first athletes across all sports to make the team for the 2024 Paris Games.

The top two Americans in the men's and women's NYC Marathon will qualify, provided they also record a minimum qualifying time since last October and are ranked high enough.

Susannah Scaroni has already posted that time and ranking.

"It would mean a lot. So much gratitude," she said. "Would love to make the team in one of those two slots Sunday. It would be incredible to know I'm going to the Paralympics."

AP

# Azam FC seeks win over Ihefu SC to build momentum



Azam FC's forward Abdulhamis Suleiman (2nd L) races past Ihefu SC midfielder, Raphael Alpha (L), and right-back Nicholas Wadada (down) when they met in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League tie in Mbeya in March this year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

ON Saturday afternoon, Ihefu SC and Azam FC go head-to-head at Highland Estate Stadium in Mbeya as the home team looks to end a woeful recent run of form in the NBC Premier League.

Ihefu SC recorded a 2-2 draw with Singida Fountain Gate FC in Singida on Wednesday to extend their winless run to four games.

Since beating Young Africans SC 2-1, Ihefu SC has registered losses against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC and Simba SC as well as two draws.

In terms of the bigger picture, Ihefu SC has taken eight points from a possible 24 this term, leaving the club languishing in the bottom half of the table.

They dropped down to 11th

place, just two points clear of the relegation zone.

The result against Singida Fountain Gate FC was good, however, Ugandan coach Moses Basena and his players will be acutely aware that victories are required to make positive movement up the table.

Coach Basena who took

over two weeks following the exit of Zubeir Katwila is still searching for his first victory after three games.

Basena may regard Azam FC's visit as the best opportunity to draw attention to himself with a victory against one of the league's big boys.

Such a point of view

might come about because his team tends to show up in big games, having already beaten Young Africans SC and coming from behind to grab a 2-2 away draw last time out.

Former Azam FC midfielder, Never Tigere, has found his footing at Ihefu SC and has been delivering

decisive performances recently.

The big Zimbabwean midfielder is in excellent shape and a joy to watch and he will be hoping to shine again against his former employers.

Azam FC returned to winning ways on Wednesday, claiming a 3-0 victory at Mashujaa FC, thanks to goals from Kipre Junior, Al-lasane Dia, and Gibrill Sil-lah.

While the midweek result was a big relief, they are still in desperate need of victory to stay in touch with their title rivals.

The ice cream makers could fall as many as five points behind leaders Young Africans SC - and be leapfrogged by Kinondoni Municipal Council FC - should they lose against Ihefu SC.

As well as emerging from their Kigoma trip with all three points, Azam FC did not report any fresh fitness concerns.

It is also worth noting that only leaders Young Africans SC (24) have scored more league goals than Azam FC (16) this term, underlining the team's attacking threat.

In head-to-head, Azam FC has won three of their previous four topflight matches against Ihefu SC, nicknamed 'Mbogo Maji', keeping three clean sheets along the way.

## Reliance Simba Kings close in on 2023 Cricket Premier League silverware

By Guardian Reporter

RELIANCE Simba Kings' cricketers have kept on pushing for progression to this season's Tanzania Cricket Premier League's final following the club's nine-run victory over GI Buffalo Blasters in the Qualifier that took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) yesterday.

Amal Rajeevan was the most impressive cricketer at the crease as Reliance Simba Kings went in to bat first and ended with 120/10 in the fixture which was reduced to 18 overs.

The opening batting pair of Sadiq Halari and Seif Khalifa had earlier given the batting squad a good start, as Halari recorded 22 runs and Khalifa notched 12 runs.

There was a slight drawback in the form of the quick exit of Abbas Adamji, slotted in at number three, in which the performer managed six runs in his brief show.

Rajeevan, who took the crease with the squad having recorded 83 runs in 12 overs, tremendously boosted his outfit's score after nailing 30 runs.

His batting exploits had helped Reliance Simba Kings reach 98 runs in the 14th



Reliance Simba Kings' cricketer, Yalinde Maurice (R), is presented with a Player of the Match prize by umpire Zamoyoni Ramadhan upon the conclusion of the 2023 Tanzania Cricket Premier League clash pitting the squad against GP Chui Challengers played in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

over at a time he returned once he was caught by GI Buffalo Blasters' Ally Mpeka from Abubakar Selemani's delivery.

They were dealt further blow brought about by the exit of key members- Sanjay Bom, Johnson Nyam-

bo, and Suraj Palawith the trio leaving the crease whilst failing to post two digits.

Bom, one of the feared performers, had a day to forget during his outfit's turn with the bat, ending two runs short of the two digits once he

was caught by GI Buffalo Blasters' Abdullah Jabiri from Selemani delivery after 12.1 overs.

Yalinde Maurice was one run short of the two-digit figure when the promising all-rounder vainly sought to have Reliance

Simba Kings end with a much bigger total.

Selemani had the best bowling figures once GI Buffalo Blasters fielded, given the skillful youthful cricketer took three wickets leaking 20 runs in four overs.

There were also good displays by fellow bowlers, Asuri Rajendra, and Mpeka which were instrumental in GI Buffalo Blasters' quest to see to it Reliance Simba Kings hardly posts a challenging target.

Rajendra ended with 2-15 in four overs and Mpeka made his way back with 2-16 in three overs. Fellow bowlers Maker Mukesh and Kassim Nassoro ended with one wicket apiece.

Even though GI Buffalo Blasters put on a spirited showing once they took the crease, they could not live up to their expectations considering they managed to amass 111/9 in the scheduled 18 overs.

Solid batting by Jabiri, Mukesh, Mpeka, and Dhruvit Mehta ultimately helped the GI Buffalo Blasters amass a

respectable figure.

Jabiri, slotted in as the opener, stood out of the rest with his 25 runs, with his stint having been brought to an end by Reliance Simba Kings' Nyambo who ran the batsman out.

Mukesh, stepping in after early dismissals of key performers, Nassoro and Nisar Ahmed, attempted to improve his squad's figure- scoring 22 runs.

Mehta and Mpeka continued to see to it that GI Buffalo Blasters stayed within reach of the successful chase as Mehta posted 17 runs, whereas Mpeka made his way back with 20 runs.

GI Buffalo Blasters in the end could not reach the target considering the other members of the batting unit could not withstand Reliance Simba Kings' onslaught.

Maurice's 2-18 in four overs and Bom's 2-21 in four overs were instrumental in Reliance Simba Kings' successful efforts to contain GI Buffalo Blasters' batting unit.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

We would like to name a storm after you!

