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EACOP: 5,000 pipes delivered, to build the first 100 kms portion

The onward transportation of pipes to their point of use will be conducted using new, high specification, trucks and trailers

By Guardian Correspondent

CONSTRUCTION work for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) from Hoima in northwest Uganda to Chongoleani port entry in Tanga is in the offing with the arrival of 5,000 pipes yesterday. The pipes suffice for a 100 kilometer stretch in the project's 1,443 kilometers, with the construction slated to start in two months, while the whole project is expected to be completed in 2025.

Tanzania Petroleum Development (TPDC), said after a tour of the storage facility by officials from the partner states that delivering the pipes signals the coming into reality of the project. The pipes will be hauled to the main infrastructure centre at Nzega in Tabora Region ahead of commencement of the works, he affirmed, while Stevan Miller the African Logistic Solutions (EALS) project manager for EACOP said laying of the pipeline starts more or less immediately.

Col. Fred Mwesigye, the resident Ugandan

Safiel Msovu, the project coordinator at the

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Lt. Col. Ramadhani Shaaban Ramadhan (L) of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) and head of the Tanzania peace keeping unit in the Central African Republic, hands over the national flag to Lt. Col. Joseph Mushiru to signal end of mission at TPDF premises in Dar Salaam yesterday. The peace keeping mission lasted for one year from 9th December, 2022. Photo: Courtesy of TPDF.

SPORTS

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Gamondi explains Skudu's lack of Yanga game time

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African Footballer of the Year: Double success for Nigeria as Victor Osimhen and Asisat Oshoala win awards

EU hands REA 1.9bn/- for 21 project supervision cars

A total of 3,567 villages and 1,332 parts of villages were connected via these grants, along with 316 health centres and water pumps

By Francis Kajubi

THE European Union (EU) has extended 1.9bn/- to the government for Rural Energy Agency (REA) projects, especially the procurement of 21 monitoring and supervision vehicles for rural electrification projects in 1,005 villages.

Judith Kapinga, deputy Energy minister, said in remarks to receive the vehicles in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the EU is en-

abling the procurement of 29 vehicles, with the remaining batch expected early next year.

Upwards of 11,313 villages out of 12,318 villages in Mainland regions have been connected with electricity, with contractors laying out power networks to connect the remaining villages before June 2024, she said.

The European Union, through various initiatives and projects, has demonstrated

a commitment and understanding in enhancing development projects that have been essential in REA performance, she said, underlining that the EU has been a loyal and truly supportive development partner in financing projects in different sectors.

Cedric Merez, the head of development cooperation in the EU delegation in Tanzania, said that the EU wishes to see people improving their livelihoods through access

to reliable energy. "Access to clean and sustainable energy is the center of socio economic development," he said, highlighting that the EU contribution is 179bn/- and it is ongoing until July 2024.

"We are pleased to provide this support in partnership with Sweden, Norway and the World Bank," he stated, noting that at least 30 percent of connected villages have been reached with EU support.

"This is why we are monitoring the implementation of this program with keen interest," he said, affirming that the delega-

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Prof Kitila Mkumbo (C), the Planning and Investment state minister in the President's Office, rings the bell to indicate the listing of the NMB 'Jamii Bond' at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday. On the left is the resident British high commissioner David Concar, the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) CEO Nichodemus Mkama (2nd L), DSE acting CEO Mary Mniwasa (R) and NMB Bank CEO Ruth Zaipuna.

NMB 'Jamii' Bond hits record 400bn/-

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has raised a record 400bn/- from the sale of its dual-tranche socially inclined trading instrument (Jamii Bond), which was yesterday listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

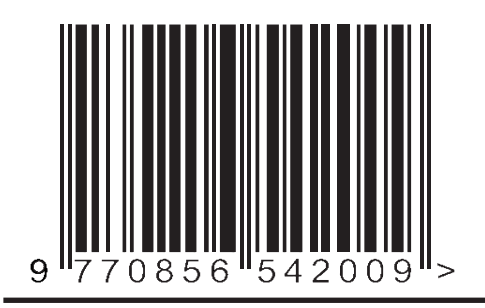
Prof Kitila Mkumbo, Planning and Investment state minister in the President's Office, graced the listing occasion and release of its initial offering results, saying the bond initiative supports national building efforts by advancing the financial inclusion agenda and attracting quality investments.

Such initiatives also help the government to formalise businesses and integrate ordinary people into more elevated economic activity

"The success of this bond could not have been possible without the supportive business and investment environment the government has been creating for development of capital markets and the wider financial sector," he noted.

Such products empower people and enable them to participate in the formal economy and uplift foreign direct investments, he stated, underlining the vital role of industrialization in the country's development

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EACOP: 5,000 pipes delivered, to build the first 100 kms portion

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high commissioner, saluted officials from the two countries saying their commitment illustrated intense ownership of the project.

Catherine Mbatia, the EACOP communications lead, said that announces arrival of the pipes at Dar port as the first shipment for 100km of line pipes, signals the kick-off of the main construction phase for the cross-border pipeline project.

EACOP shareholders held an event at the storage yard operated by the logistics firm Tanzanian partner, SuperDoll.

The pipeline will transport crude oil from Uganda's Lake Albert region to the Chongoleani peninsula near Tanga port, to then be loaded in tankers for world markets. It represents a major inward investment in both countries, she said.

EACOP is focused on ensuring that the work adheres to stringent social, environmental and safety standards.

The onward transportation of pipes to their point of use will be conducted using new, high specification, trucks and trailers.

The project has also invested in extensive driver training, focusing on defensive driving practices, route planning, and compliance with road regulations.

The best available technology has been incorporated for line pipe lifting operations, with vacuum lifting and 'roborigging' employed to en-

sure that personnel are kept out of the 'line of fire' during lifting operations, the official noted.

An online entry says roborigger products control the crane load orientation using radio control, where a linked cloud data platform updates logistics information automatically as the operation proceeds.

As the ground construction of the pipeline progresses, the project management expects to deliver this project with utmost responsibility, she emphasized on the importance of the 1,443km crude oil export infrastructure.

This major export system includes 1,443 km (296 km in Uganda and 1,147km in Tanzania) of insulated and buried 24" inch pipeline, six pumping stations, two pressure reduction stations and a marine export terminal in Tanzania.

Following the final investment decision (FID) taken on February 1, 2022 the partners had two weeks later concluded the formation of the company that will construct and operate the pipeline.

EACOP Ltd. is a special purpose company, governed by the shareholder agreement in which Total Energies hold 62percent shares, Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) 15percent, the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) 15percent and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) holding eight-percent shares.



Archbishop of the Northern Tanzania from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Rev Mark Malekana (L) speaks with Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's office (Policy, Coordination and Parliament) Dr Jim Yonaz (2nd L) after handing over 22.5m/- for the landslide victims in Katesh, Hanan's District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jamson

EU hands REA 1.9bn/- for 21 project supervision cars

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tion is glad to see the remarkable achievements of the program. "We are aware that our support also impacts businesses and education provision in rural areas," he specified.

Saidy Hassan, the REA director

general, said that so far Tanzania and the EU have signed two financing agreements that provide grants of 71.5m euros to support rural energy projects.

The first agreement was signed in March 2017 for 6.5m euros enabling the construction of 20 medium voltage and 220/33 kilovolt substations

in Ifakara town, he said.

The distribution network was extended in Kilombero and Ulanga districts, while a 50m euros grant was signed in November 2012 to support implementation of the third phase of the rural electrification project, he stated.

A total of 3,567 villages and 1,332

parts of villages were connected via these grants, along with 316 health centres and water pumps, he further noted/.

The EU has also provided funds to strengthen technical capacity like procurement of motor vehicles to reinforce the supervision of rural energy projects, he added.

NMB 'Jamii' Bond hits record 400bn/-

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prospects.

He asked banks to craft special bonds for promoting general industrial enterprises, whereas Ruth Zaipuna, the NMB chief executive officer said the three-year sustainability bond attained phenomenal success.

It attracted strong demands from local retail investors and offshore impact financiers, in the wake of an earlier instrument, 'Jasiri Bond' that the bank floated for a month from September 25.

It was meant to mobilise funds for financing social and green projects with shoe options, where the issuing company uses 'green shoe option' during its initial public offer (IPO) to ensure that the shares price on the stock exchanges does not fall below the issue price after issue of shares.

An online write up says the 'green shoe' is a kind of option which is primarily used at the time of IPO or listing of any stock to ensure a successful opening price. In this case collecting 25bn/- and \$5m for the two tranches respectively.

"The collective amount received from NMB Jamii Bond is more than three times the amount that was earlier approved by the Capital Markets and Securities Authorities (CMSA)," she stated.

Whilst its local currency tranche marked a 284 per cent subscription level, mobilising 212.9bn/- against the targeted 75bn/-, the subscription of the dollar tranche was 730 per cent, fetching \$73m from the initial target of \$10m, she elaborated.

Zaipuna said that upon receiving approval from CMSA to further increase the green shoe options, the lender accepted all the received applications of which 99 per cent were obtained through the branch network, altogether 231 outlets.

Apart from showing vibrancy of local capital markets, over-subscription of the first tranche of the bank's 12m/- medium-term note (MTN) illustrated the growing capacity for sustainable finance in the market.

The listing of the bond allows those who initially missed the op-

portunity to invest in the security to start buying it now and those possessing it to sell it whenever they wish.

Investors in the debt instrument will earn an annual interest rate of 9.5% payable quarterly throughout the three years for the TZS tranche and six months secured overnight financing rate (SOFR) is a broad measure of the cost of borrowing cash overnight collateralized by Treasury securities.

It shows the cost of borrowing cash overnight collateralised by Treasury securities, where in this case the yield was SOFR plus 250 basis points per annum paid semi-annually for the USD tranche.

"The net proceeds of the Jamii Bond will be used to finance activities that align to the bank's updated sustainability financing framework," the CEO noted, explaining that the funds will be principally used to finance eligible climate, social and environment-focused projects.

They are those that positively impact resilience against climate change, building sustainable infrastructure, promoting efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, she stated.

Nicodemus Mkama, the CMSA chief executive officer, said listing of the bond increases the value of corporate bonds in the capital markets by over 121 per cent from 325bn/- to 721.3bn/-.

The transaction has demonstrated that the market is ready for investments in debt instruments, he said, affirming that the results of the bond depict that with retail investors, accounting for 53.8 percent of the sale, while foreign investors absorbed 42.6 percent of it.

DSE acting CEO Mary Mniwasa said the NMB 'Jamii Bond' is corporate bond no 28 from a total of 15 entities to have been listed on the bourse since 1999.

It is the third sustainability security to be listed locally, signifying the growing appetite for green financing and the country's commitment to sustainable development, she added.



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Dr Hashil Abdalah, speaks during the opening of the 30th annual general meeting of Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

At least 15 killed in landslides in DR Congo

BUKAVU

AT LEAST 15 people have died in landslides in the city of Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, local sources said Monday.

The city, which is the capital of South Kivu province, has been hit by torrential rainfall which has caused landslides that have buried several houses.

In the Ndedere district of the

city, the neighbourhood Chief Albert Migabo Nyagaza told AFP that "a father, his five children and two grandchildren (were) buried by the earth and their house destroyed".

He said that the landslide occurred around midnight Sunday.

"We heard a loud noise like thunder," said local resident Medo Iguzi Munene.

He added that he saw "the wall of a house collapse onto another be-

low where eight people were sleeping."

In the neighbouring district of Panzi, at least seven people died in similar circumstances.

Bukavu has been hit by a series of landslides and building collapses this year.

The overcrowded city on the southern shore of Lake Kivu was originally designed for around 100,000 residents by Belgian set-

ters. Today there are around two million inhabitants, although the lack of a census makes it difficult to confirm the precise population.

In October the United Nations said a record 6.9 million people had been internally displaced in the DRC, due to a combination of conflict, insecurity and disasters such as floods and landslides.

AGENCIES



Tanzania Chief Sheikh Abubakari Zuber Bin Ali (C) speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the special 'Dua' (prayer) to be held on Friday on the ongoing calamities in the country. With him are Sheikh Hassan Chizenga (R) and Sheikh Hamid Jongu. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Villagers want Makete District divided to easy service delivery

By Guardian Correspondent, Makete Rhoda.

VILLAGERS in eleven wards in Makete District Council in Njombe Region have asked the government to split the council and establish the new one with the aim of providing them with services and stimulating travel activities.

They suggest that the new council to be established should be called the Kitulo District Council—a name derived from the Kitulo National Park which borders the area.

Speaking at the Matamba Valley Development stakeholders' meeting, villagers said that the Makete District's geography is large and has many mountains which cause them to spend a lot of money to navigate to the administrative area to get services from their district headquarters.

One of the villagers in Matamba ward, Valentino Malila, said: "We're having a hard time reaching the district headquarters to get various services due to the geography of the district."

"For example, if a citizen of Ikowo Village wants to go to Makete town, he/she has to go around Makambako via Njombe to reach Makete, which is more than 200 kilometers away, or go through Mbeya, which is also more than 170 kilometers away, in which case he/she will spend more than 80,000/- to go and to return," said Malila.

Another villager, Rhoda Msemwa said that in order for the people to take progressive steps, it is very important to establish a new council in the area with the aim of bringing services to the people.

She said there are councils at various levels, but what they are asking for is the District Council which they believe has the qualifications and criteria to have their request heard.

"We realize that there are Councils at various levels, but we are asking to be given a district council which we believe has the qualifications and criteria to be a council" said

She said that if their request is accepted by the government, they suggest the name of the new council to be established be called Kitulo Council, in honour of the Kitulo National Park which is located in the area.

Rhoda further said that the name is good and will not cause any tension because it does not have signs of ethnicity, religion or any conflict in their community, so it will unite them more.

Makete District Council Executive Director, William Makufwe asked villagers to follow the guidance in order to deliver the request to the government for implementation.

He said that Tanzania is run in accordance with the law, guidelines and instructions of the leaders, so the issue is legal and should follow the legal process before it is implemented.

Makufwe explained to the citizens that in order for the request to be recognized officially, they must start holding general meetings of all the villages in the 11 wards and summaries should be written which will be sent to their Ward Development Committees (KAMAKA) for discussion.

Makufwe said that the District Advisory Committee, when it finishes its work, will submit it to the Regional Advisory Committee, which also discusses and approves the request and it will be sent to the Minister in Charge to deliver it to the president who has the final decision.

The ruling CCM chairman in Makete District, Clemence Ngajilo asked villagers to build unity and solidarity in order to achieve the process of establishing the new district they need.

He said that in order for them to be successful, they must continue to have one voice in the struggle to get the new district they need because he believes the Central Government and its leaders are especially attentive to such a sensitive issue.

TBS destroys 837,075.07 tonnes of counterfeit goods worth 21.8m/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standard (TBS) has destroyed 837,075.07 tonnes of counterfeit goods worth 21.8m/- which were seized from various warehouses, hotels and shops from districts of Dodoma and Singida regions.

The counterfeit goods were destroyed at Chidaya in Dodoma after the seizure which was done in an operation conducted between April and November this year.

Speaking to journalists during

the destruction exercise, TBS central zone quality control officer, Vincent Tarimo said the goods which have been destroyed include those that have expired and those with poisonous contents.

"Most of the businessmen have been selling products which have already expired and this has mostly been done by unscrupulous business people," he said.

According to Tarimo the side effects of counterfeit goods in the market was that they affect the

economy and put the lives of the general public at risk.

"These products can cause short-term and long-term diseases including cancer," said Tarimo.

In terms of cosmetics containing toxic ingredients, he said its short-term and long-term effects include affecting the skin, eyes, reproductive system for women, risk to child development and skin cancers.

Tarimo said the inspections are continuous for all regions in the country calling on traders to

check their products regularly to be satisfied with its quality.

In addition, he asked them to take care of the products in accordance with the procedures of the producers, to avoid selling cosmetic products with toxic ingredients and to immediately stop editing the information of the end of their use.

He warned that strict legal action continues to be taken against unscrupulous traders in accordance with laws and regulations.

By Guardian Reporter

Dar school outlines secrets behind good performance in national exams

BROOKSIDE academy nursery and primary school in Kimara Suka, Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam Region has outlined secrets behind its successes in its national exams.

Speaking in an interview recently, school manager Masanja Maduhu cited determination and motivation as among the key factors that made the education institution to emerge number 10 in Dar es Salaam Region in the just released National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA)'s Standard Seven results.

He also said cooperation between all the school's stakeholders, parents, teachers and good leadership contributed to the successes.

"As school, we promise to do better in the near future," he said.

Maduhu said that they have put in place strategies to ensure that within the next few years their school becomes number one in Dar es Salaam region.

In this year's Standard Seven results Brookside was ranked first in Saranga ward, second in Ubungo Municipality and 10th in Dar es Salaam Region.

Some parents praised the school for providing a reputable education.

He also said that the school is determined to continue to be a good taxpayer with the aim of contributing to the

country's socio-economic development.

His remarks came barely a few days after the school scooped the award during taxpayers' appreciation awards 2023 held recently in Dar es Salaam.

The event was organized by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA). The school became among the best taxpayers in Tanzania.

"Our school is determined to continue offering competitive services in accordance with the country's laws and regulations governing the education sector," Maduhu said.

He said that in order to fully contribute to the national economy, "we'll continue to work hard to meet the country's expectations."

Maduhu said as English medium school it's our determination to provide quality education to Tanzanians.

"I call upon Tanzanians including Dar es Salaam residents to use the school for the country's bright future."

According to him, the school offers pre and primary school and that they are determined to continue providing quality education to the people.

Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania
Ofisi ya Rais
MFUKO WA MAENDELEO YA JAMII

TANGAZO LA MNADA WA HADHARA WA VIFAA CHAKAVU

Wananchi wote mnatangaziwa kwamba Mfuko wa Maendeleo ya Jamii (TASAF) itauza kwa njia ya mnada wa hadhara Magari chakavu katika Mkoa wa Dar es Salaam na Mbeya katika vituo na tarehe kama ilivyooneshwa hapa chini:

Na	AINA YA GARI ZITAKAZOUZWA	IDADI	KITUO	TAREHE YA MNADA
1	Landrover Defender 110	17	TASAF OFFICE DSM	21/12/2023
	Land rover 90	13		
	Suzuki Garnd	2		
	Nissan Patrol	1		
2	Landrover Defender 110	18	VETA KEKO DSM	22/12/2023
	Landrover 90	17		
	Suzuki Grand Vittara	4		
3	Landrover Defender 110	1	ILEJE MBEYA- OFISI YA HALMASHAURI	23/12/2023
JUMLA		73		

MASHARTI YA MNADA

- Gari itauzwa kama ilivyo na mahali ilipo
- Mnunuzi atalazimika kulipa papo hapo amana (Deposit) isiyopungua asilimia ishirini na tano (25%) ya thamani ya gari atakayonunua, na kukamilisha malipo yote katika muda wa siku kumi na nne (14) kuanzia tarehe ya mnada. Mnunuzi akishindwa kutimiza sharti hili atakosa haki zote za ununuzi wa gari husika na amana iliyolipwa haitarudishwa.
- Mtu yoyote atakaetamka bei ya juu kisha akashindwa kulipa atachukuliwa kuwa ni mwenye kutaka kuvuruga mnada na hivyo hatua kali za kisheria zitachukuliwa dhidi yake kwa mujibu wa Sheria ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania.
- Mnunuzi atatakiwa kuondoa gari atakayonunua katika muda wa siku saba (7) kuanzia tarehe ya kukamilisha malipo.
- Ruhusa ya kuangalia magari yanayokusudiwa kuuzwa itatolewa siku mbili (2) kabla ya tarehe ya mnada husika
- Mnada utaanza saa nne kamii (04:00) asubuhi katika kila kituo.

Kaimu Mkurugenzi Mtendaji
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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received application for Licence under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicant: -

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS / NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	Everyday Blessing Bread Group Limited	District Application Services Without Network Facilities and Network Services Licence	1. Eunice Mooshe Mollel- Tanzanian 2. Daniel Julius Chacha- Tanzanian	80 20

Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licence to the applicant to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the application.

Comments should be addressed to:

Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
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14414 DAR ES SALAAM
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Farmers strive for support with drip irrigation equipment to scale up their farming activities

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

FARMERS at Mkoka village, in Kongwa district, Dodoma Region have appealed for support from agriculture stakeholders to support them with drip irrigation equipment in order to scale up their activities which is the main source of income for their families.

Speaking to journalists during an irrigation training event, the chairman of Mkoka village farmers' association Omary Mpatati, said they have been using a lot of water to their farms adding that drip irrigation could save water usage though they do not have funds to purchase.

"We do not have money to buy drip irrigation equipment, so we ask the government and other organizations to support us," he insisted.

He appreciated ADDA Tanzania and Agricultural Markets Development Trust for their support which has enabled them to cultivate sunflower seed during the dry season. "We thank ADDA Tanzania for supporting us with water tanks, solar power and pipes to fetch the water from nearby rivers to our farms," he said.

However, Mpatati applauded AMDT for supporting them in training and provision of sunflower seeds freely.

"Some of farmers have attended short training on modern agriculture and we have now started to see changes," he said.

Narrating, he said before the course most farmers used to harvest three buckets of sunflower seeds per one acre, but now he can get up to 3 bags of the seeds for the same acre.

Another farmer, Victoria Mwelya, said more support is needed to help them access permanent sources of water for irrigation activities.

KOICA urges cashewnut farmers to use modern farming methods

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has called upon Cashewnut farmers in the country to follow modern farming methods to yield more and tap opportunities into the vast Korean market.

KOICA country director, Manshik Shin said made the call during his visit at Dundani Industrial Park of Mkuranga District, in the Coast region to see the cashew nut processing factory and witness the progress.

He said, Tanzania is endowed with suitable land that can help farmers to produce raw cashew nuts and sell them to Tan-ko Mirae Green Co. Ltd. "We are very happy to see what has been done so far because through Inclusive Business Solution (IBS) project supported by KOICA, Tan-ko Mirae Green Co. Ltd has managed to build two modern factories equipped with state-of-the-art machinery to produce high quality products for domestic and international markets," he said.

So far the company has been able to build two modern factories worth \$5 million that includes cashew nut processing factory and CNSL manufacturing factory at Dundani Industrial Park in Coast Region in collaboration with KOICA and the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA).

Elaborating on the IBS project, he said KOICA and partners have raised a joint fund to operate inclusive business solution models and conduct various activities aiming at job creation, increased income, and providing affordable and quality products.

He named partners of KOICA as domestic enterprises, (major companies) medium-sized firms, small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs), social enterprises and their subsidiary non-profit organizations.

According to him, IBS leverages private resources for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Creating Shared Values (CSV) to scale up for ODA, in strategic partnership and collaboration with private enterprises in promoting sustainable economic development and improving the quality of lives in the developing countries.

He called on Tanzanians engaged in this sector to utilize this opportunity because it will help them to transform

"We have river mkoka, which is usually being scrambled for, because farmers, herdsmen and villagers depend on it, as a result we are compelled to irrigate our farms outside normal hours," she said.

She said irrigation farming has changed the lives of most farmers in the village since some of them have managed to build modern houses, buy motorcycles and send their children to schools.

Earlier, the Chief Executive Officer of AMDT Charles Ogutu, said the organization would continue to support farmers particularly in market systems challenges.

He said a lot of efforts have been done by his organization to support sunflower, maize and pulse farmers in more than 12 regions in Tanzania.

Ogutu said they particularly focus on marginalized groups such as women and youth in Tanzania.

"Purposely, we target the productive poor women, men, and youth involved in smallholder agricultural activities, the majority of which are based in rural areas", he said.

According to him, the seed market system is the key driver for AMDT interventions especially in sunflower and pulses value chains due to its specific focus on production improvement.

He said in the sunflower sector, several testing of innovative seed delivery models were piloted including bundling seeds with inputs credits under the pro-poor contractual arrangement.

This resulted in increased seed uptake in the project areas, and most likely linked to AMDT interventions. This also increased community awareness and knowledge on improved seeds in project areas, he added.

their lives, create employment for young people, boost business links between two countries, help farmers to shift from traditional farming to modern farming and later on help Tanzania to be well-known in other foreign countries.

The company will produce biochar, cashew nut kernel and biofuel raw materials (Cashew Nut Shell Liquid) bio-heavy oil for ship oil as alternative fuel and export the products in South Korea and other foreign countries.

He said KOICA established its office in Tanzania in 2002, and as of 2021, Tanzania was the second largest recipient country of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in Africa.

In 2023, Tanzania expects to receive \$22 million as ODA from KOICA for the implementation of 12 Projects, nine PPP Programmes, 1 Multi-bi Program and eight Development Innovation (DIT) Programmes.

Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Planning and Investment Dr Tausi Kida said the company's visionary decision to invest in the establishment of the first cashew nuts processing plants, especially the factory producing shell liquid by using a new technology in our beautiful country, is highly commendable.

Currently the cashew nut production in Tanzania is characterized by small-holder farmers operating at subsistence level.

The PS said about 90- percent of Tanzanian cashew nut crop is exported to Asian countries as raw materials and only small portion which is less than 10 percent is processed locally and very little value addition in cashew by-products.

She said the establishment of Tanco processing plants will greatly contribute to the value addition to cashew nuts and give values to cashew by-products including the cashew nut shells which is being used to produce shell liquid and charcoal flake which also widen the availability of environmental friendly fuel sources.

Also training farmers on Good Agricultural Practices, strengthening research services through TARI and ensuring the availability of cashew farm inputs through bulk purchase system.

She lauded the South Korean government for continuing to support Tanzania and sharing hope and future in multiple sectors through KOICA.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Deputy minister Geophrey Pinda speaks with Kisaki villagers in Singida Region when he went to resolve land dispute between the residents and investor on Manday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

Wazo Kota residents in Dar are now free from water woes

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

RESIDENTS of Wazo Kota in Dar es Salaam are now free from water woes after the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) launched a project set to benefit more than 300 people in the area.

The residents were previously getting water services from Twiga Cement factory located in the Wazo area, a move which made the residents walk distances in search

of the precious liquid.

Speaking about the implementation of the project, DAWASA Tegeta project manager, Engineer Dominick Mkamba said the implementation of the project has been completed 100 percent and citizens are getting water.

"After receiving a request from the residents of Wazo Kota, we started the implementation immediately, which involved the laying of pipes for a distance of 2.7 kilometers to ensure that these citizens get services quickly," explained Mkamba.

He added that the DAWASA Tegeta office continues to receive requests for new water connections from the people of the area and urged them to come out in large numbers as the service is available.

"The customer must have the following items when requesting the service, which is a letter of identification of the resident from the local government where he lives, two small photographs, as well as a copy of the national identity card or voter ID card, car license or passport," said Mkamba

A resident of the area, Apolonia Kagaruki commended DAWASA for working on their requests on time and now they enjoy water service.

"Before, we didn't have DAWASA service, the water we used from the Twiga cement factory was very salty, causing us to use it more for domestic use and to buy water from cars for human use such as cooking," he said.

The Wazo Kota water project costs 26.2m/- and will serve more than 300 residents in the Wazo Kota area and Kilembera street who will get quality and satisfactory services at all times.



Songwe Region Police Commander Assistant Commissioner Theopista Mallya speaks with Shanta mining company workers to create public awareness about safe mining as the continuation of the concept of community participation for all groups so that the community has an understanding about various security issues yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Issa Mwadangala

Minister Nchemba underscores the need for the vital sectors were manned by the experienced and registered professionals

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Arusha

MINISTER for Finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has underscored the need for the vital sectors were manned by the experienced and registered professionals in order to plug loopholes of mismanagement of public funds.

Opening the 14th procurement and supply professionals annual general meeting here yesterday Dr Nchemba said that, it was very disconcerting, but also unprofessional that in some of the districts and councils public procurement processes are being worked out by unprofessional workers.

"This is one among the sensitive sectors for the metamorphosis of the national economy because it directly deals with at least 70 per cent of the total national annual budget," the Minister insisted.

Dr Nchemba ordered the Permanent Secretary (PS) in the parent ministry to meet with his counterpart in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) to discuss and set necessary strategies for ensuring the timely directive is implemented in all public offices and relevant departments.

Giving further information over development of the sector, the minister expressed that the

government will work round the clock to curtail a sharp shortage in the number of procurement and supply officials in the country.

"And in the whole process for rolling out supply tenders, it's high time for the procurement officials to prioritise the local service providers in order to help boost the home economy," he urged.

He detailed that, as per the government's set regulations, all procurement and supply processes are currently supposed to be processed through a tailor-made National e-Procurement System ("the NePS"), amongst others.

"I appreciate the professional manner through which the Procurement and Supplies Professionals and Technicians Board (PSPTB) is working teeth and nail to sharpen professionalism of the country's procurement and supply professionals, including assisting them to master use of the NEPS digital system," he appreciated.

He challenged the participants of the ongoing three-day forum which convened at the Arusha International Conference Center (AICC) to use the gathering effectively in order to discuss and set crucial strategies for the bright future of the sector.

Under the main theme of "Digital transformation For Improving Procurement and Supply Chain Management towards Sustainable

Development" the annually staged forum attracts nearly 2000 professionals in the procurement and supply chain management sector.

In his remarks during the event, the Chairman of the PSPTB board of directors, Jacob Kibona expressed some of the achievements they have so far attained, as well as the existing challenges.

"We have recorded a major stride in the general works to monitor and improve performance of the sector through organising several training towards the relevant professionals, examining, certifying and registering them according to regulations, including curriculum accreditation guidelines," he detailed.

And briefing over the challenges, he unveiled that the board, PSPTB, is not having enough financial muscle to execute its top role more professionally, including a task of inspecting the involved professionals.

However, for his part, PSPTB Executive Director Goodfred Mbanyi, said their current major focus was to ensure the professionals in procurement and supply within the country are equipped with vital skills needed in the use of digital systems.

The annually staged event which has been coordinated by the Procurement and Supplies Professionals and Technicians Board

(PSPTB) attracts procurement and supply practitioners, tender board members, accounting officers, auditors, engineers, architects, quantity surveyors, pharmacists, academicians, consultants, researchers, policy makers, business community, entrepreneurs, suppliers, contractors, Non-government organizations (NGOs), as well as any other stakeholders.

Apart from the local professionals and stakeholders, the gathering is also involving participants from outside the country.

The gathering is sponsored by a number of companies, which include Zanzibar Insurance Corporation (ZIC), Dynatech Solutions, Shades of Green Safaris, the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL), Bravado Solutions, Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), Bisech Tour Company, Nekira Company Ltd, Haier Tanzania, e-Government (e-GA), Tanzania Standard Newspapers (TSN), Soft Tech Consultant and UTT AMIS.

Others are Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), National Insurance Corporation of Tanzania (NIC), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), UCSAF, Fair Competition Commission (FCC), National Social Security Fund (NSSF), national Housing Corporation (NHC) as well as Workers Compensation Fund (WCF).



Stevan Miller, project operation manager, East African Logistic Solutions (EALS) who provides logistics for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) gives a briefing to EACOP partners after the arrival at the pipeline project yard in Dar es Salaam, yesterday. Photo: Christina Mwakangale

‘Census report has contributed a lot to the govt plans’

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE National Population and Housing Census (PHC) 2022, Commissioner Anna Makinda has said that the census report has contributed a lot to the government plans including control of fraud and cheating in mudflow hazard in Manyara Region.

Makinda made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at a two-day seminar organised by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for religious leaders on how to use the results of the census.

She said that the report PHC 2022 has also helped the government to allocate resources where needed mostly depending on the number of people adding that the aerial satellite images have helped in identification.

“NBC has conducted training to different groups of people and instructed them how to use the report of the census. We are coming with maps of every place to make them committed to development,” she said.

Home Affairs Minister Engineer Hamad Masauni, said that PHC 2022 report has helped security organs in Hanang District to work precisely and in the right ways during rescuing exercise and in identification of the missing people after the hazards happened.

“Even the ongoing exercise of identifying and ensuring all those lost houses are allocated to the new build houses once the logistics are over,” he said.

“I would like to thank NBS for a good and commendable job that enabled us as a government to get statistics that will help to improve the country’s security,” he said.

Dar es Salaam Chief Sheikh Alhad Mussa said that PHC 2022 report

will show them how they are going to implement plans set tops to serve their believers in the country.

“PHC 2022 report will help religious leaders convey our teaching depending on the nature and age of the group in the community in a given area,” he said.

Canon Julius Kiondo from the Anglican Diocese of Dar es Salaam the PHC report is crucial to reach their people in need of spiritual services.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan was quoted calling for effective utilisation of the 2022 National Population and Housing Census data in planning for social, economic and political programmes for the country to benefit more from the population mapping.

She spoke that last year after receiving the census publications at the Chamwino State

House in Dodoma, where she said effective utilisation of the census data will enable the national plans to be realistic and well implemented.

The census report has come at the right time when the government has formed a new Ministry of Planning and Investment as well as the Planning Commission to fully use the 2022 census data as the baseline in planning various development projects and national plans in general.

“Even the ongoing exercise of identifying and ensuring all those lost houses are allocated to the new build houses once the logistics are over”

DC gives 18-day ultimatum for invaders to leave forest reserve

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

THE government has given 18 days for people who have invaded the Mount Ketumbeine Forest Reserve in Longido District, Arusha Region, to leave the area and pave way for environmental conservation initiatives.

Villagers who are subject to vacate the area include those living in villages of Nadare, Losirwa and Ilorientito.

Most of the villagers are Maasai pastoralists who are accused of destroying water sources and sabotaging forest conservation activities by running agricultural

activities, building shelters, cutting down trees and grazing livestock in water sources.

Longido District Commissioner, Marko Ng’umbi said: “On December 30, this year, all the people who invaded the forest reserve should have left. I gave them three months; all the fences should be removed.

“We’ve have been given you enough time to prepare to leave. What you’re doing is intolerable,” he said.

Ng’umbi said: “The truth is that the condition of our forest is bad because people have invaded the water sources, people have gone

into the forest to do farming, cutting down trees for charcoal and firewood, people have established settlements, and they are bringing in cattle to the very top of the water sources,” the DC said, urging the intruders to get out of the forest reserve.

Land for Life Project Manager, Reguli Marandu, speaking about the campaign said: “We’ve been doing conservation in the area for the current and future generation.”

So far, the World Wide Fund (WWF) conducted a campaign to restore the natural vegetation in the forest reserve by planting more trees.

Ilorientito ward councilor, Sano Otusu, warned villagers to get out of the forest reserve and instead complement the government’s effort to conserve the environment around their localities.

Otusu explained: “I didn’t ask for votes to allow them to live in the forests, I said we’re going to bring them better social services including water, electricity and roads.”

Ketumbeine Forest Reserve, an isolated forest on a small protruding hill located in the dry area of northern Tanzania has unknown tree species diversity and dominance.

The Guardian Limited

VACANCY

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

FOR CONDUCTING MINIMUM RESIDUE LEVELS (MRLS) IN ZANZIBAR’S HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRY
RFP NO. [TAHA/CONS/004/2023]

ISSUE DATE: 13.12.2023

CLOSING DATE: 20.12.2023 AT 05.00 P.M EAT

SECTION A: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The agriculture sector is contributing about 24% to Zanzibar’s GDP. Within this share, crops (including horticulture) contribute around 10%. Horticulture in Tanzania in general is one of the fastest growing sectors with an annual average growth rate of 7%; contributing approximately 38% of foreign exchange generated through agricultural exports. Data on the exact proportions of Zanzibar’s contribution in this growth is not available, but certainly it’s a small share.

Unguja and Pemba have great potential for further development of the horticulture sector, thanks to its good soils, sufficient rainfall, and proximity to promising markets (Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Mombasa, the Middle East). The isles have 325,758 ha of arable land, but only 139,415 ha are under cultivation and only 800 ha are irrigated. The average yield of vegetables is 5 - 7 tons/ha while the potential yield for most vegetables is between 25 and 45 tons per hectare.

There is, however, an increase in the emergency of commercial horticultural farming activities (thanks to project interventions led by TAHA and others) and, in the last five years (2015 - 2020), there has been significant increase in the production of highly-demanded crops including tomatoes, sweet /red peppers, watermelons, and Traditional African Vegetables (okra, African eggplant, amaranth).

The Government of Zanzibar is committed to ensuring food safety for its citizens and consumers. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock, through its research institute (ZARI) in collaboration with TRIAS and TAHA, through the AGRICONNECT program have identified the need for a Minimum Residue Level (MRL) study to evaluate the safety of horticultural crops produced and consumed in Zanzibar. It is on this ground TAHA as an implementing partner seeks to engage a reputable consultant capable of conducting Minimum Residue Levels (MRLs) study in Zanzibar’s horticultural industry to determine the levels of pesticides, herbicides and other contaminants in these crops and ensure that they meet international safety standards.

SECTION B: BIDDERS INSTRUCTIONS

Interested eligible bidders are invited to confirm their intention to bid and request for a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) containing “all necessary instructions”. Interested bidders can send their intent to procurement@taha.or.tz. Please identify the name of the company, phone number and email address of the person who will serve as the key contact for all correspondence.

Govt issues an update on progress of search for people succumbed to mudslide in Hanang

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has issued an update on the progress of the search for people who succumbed to the devastating mudslide in Hanang District, Manyara region, saying the death toll remains at 89 as the exercise continues.

Government Spokesperson Mobhare Matinyi said in a statement that no dead body was found as of Monday. 88 of the bodies have been identified.

"The search was still continuing, the government was still on the ground administering the exercise including managing the burial costs," he said.

He said there were no changes to the number of people who were in hospital standing at 17 while the number of those who were injured was 139.

According to Matinyi, Manyara region referral hospital has 11 patients, Hanang district hospital (Tumaini) has (3) patients while Gendabi has (3) patients.

He added that the government through the Prime Minister's office has continued to coordinate support from various stakeholders both local and international which

was at 149m/- by yesterday.

He noted that by 3pm yesterday, the amount of support into the treasury registrar's account was 2.1bn/- making the total as 2.249bn/-.

He said victims who have been divided in three camps are 240 from 63 households which is a small increase of victims despite the fact that 70 other victims from 29 households managed to be reunited with their relatives until 12/12/2023 afternoon.

"In general, the victims continue to leave while being given food and essential items to enable them to continue with their lives," he added.

Matinyi said the government has enough reserves of food and items to help any victims who come forward saying preparations were being made to close the camps.

"The distribution in the camps of victims so far is as follows: Ganana Primary School has 22 victims; Gendabi Primary School has 155 and Katesh Secondary School 63," he noted.

According to Matinyi total of 89 victims in these camps have received psychological services while 1,637 victims outside the camps have also received psychological services.

COP28: African countries put their foot down on GGA on final day

By Akshit Sangomla

THE African Group of Negotiators (AGN) put its foot down on the last day of the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Dubai. It declared that it won't agree on any of the other agenda items at COP28 unless its demands on adaptation, especially the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework, are met.

"We will not agree on anything here unless Africa's top priorities are met, which to us, is a GGA framework. If we are serious about saving lives, livelihoods, and protecting ecosystems, then the GGA framework must have ambitious, time-bound targets with clear means of support for implementation," stated Collins Nzovu, Zambian Member of Parliament. He is also the country's minister of green economy and environment.

Nzovu, who is the chair of the AGN group, was speaking at a press conference by the AGN group. The AGN represents all 54 countries on the African continent.

This tough stance on the GGA has not been widely reciprocated by other countries and groups. That is because of the mounting adaptation needs of vulnerable communities across the African continent.

Many African countries have experienced massive floods, deadly tropical cyclones or droughts. The most impactful of these is the long drought in the Horn of Africa, on since 2020. It has pushed around 16.7 million people into acute food insecurity across Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya, according to the UNFCCC climate champions website.

A single tropical cyclone – Freddy – had caused damage to infrastructure and agriculture across three different countries in Africa in March this year.

These were Madagascar, Mozambique, and Malawi. The flooding from the cyclone across Malawi and Mozambique had destroyed 300 health centres during a cholera outbreak which brought compounding impacts. Overall, 1.4 million people were affected by the cyclone, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Affected people in the Horn of Africa, as well as the southern countries of Malawi and Mozambique, have to adapt to such impacts. Or else, they may have to face loss and damage.

Time-bound and measurable thematic targets on food and health under the GGA framework along with the means of implementation,

including finance, would have helped these countries come up with appropriate adaptation measures to tackle the crises. It would have also helped them keep track of progress towards those targets.

But the latest text of GGA does not have such targets or strong and clear language around means of implementation, especially finance.

Nzovu said at the conference: "We cannot agree at COP28 that the GGA is low in ambition, by having only process-based targets. This is about outcomes and it is about saving lives."

He further added: "The GGA outcome must address thematic and dimensional targets on equal footing. The targets must be measurable, and time-bound, so we can track progress."

Nzovu also spoke about the importance of having strong language on GGA in the Global Stock Take (GST), which is a kind of report card of the climate actions taken by various countries to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The AGN chair also highlighted the need of international public finance from developed countries for taking adaptation measures in light of the fact that African countries have been putting in domestic resources for such measures, despite strained budgets and increasing debt burden.

Nzovu stated: "Africa cannot accept a GGA framework without means of implementation from developed countries for developing countries, especially on the targets."

The language around means of implementation, especially finance, remains weak in the draft text on GGA from the evening of December 11, with two scary paragraphs added.

He also called for a separate standing agenda item on GGA. Nzovu invited input from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at a workshop to work on metrics and indicators, in order to measure the progress on the GGA targets.

Although a two-year work programme for the development of metrics and indicators is mentioned in the current text, it does not currently mention who will develop them or how. There is currently no mention of a standing agenda item on GGA in the text.

"I think it is up to rich countries how they respond to the clear priorities set by developing countries, such as the AGN group, to secure a balanced COP28 deal. The framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation with clear targets on both action and financial support is must! Anything less won't cut it," said Pratishta Singh, senior international policy analyst, Climate Action Network, Canada.



Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme (L) inspects Ushetu council administration office which is now 84 per cent complete. On her left is Mzingo Holding Co. LTD project manager Capt Rajabu Kulogwa. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Mining firm plants Nile tilapia fingerlings in Mwang'olo Dam

By Guardian Correspondent, Kishapu

THE Williamson Diamond Limited (WDL) located in Kishapu district in Shinyanga region has planted Nile tilapia fingerlings in the Mwang'olo Dam.

The move is part of WDL to raise the income for people who were affected by the mud flooded from the mine dam destroying people's settlements and environment in general.

Bernard Mihayo, WDL relations manager made the remarks here

recently when speaking during fingerlings transplant.

He said that they have implemented the government's order to return everything that was damaged after the mine's mud dam burst last November and caused harm to the people.

He said: "The compensation for the victims has ended, and now what they are doing is restoring the environment including planting trees, and transplanting fish fingerlings in a new dam, so that the people can continue their activities

as usual including fishing and rising economically and getting food."

"After the bursting of the mud storage dam of our mine, it affected the pond, which the citizens were using to carry out fish fishing activities by being covered with mud, then we built a new pond and we have transplanted fish fry so that they can return to their normal life," said Mihayo. He said: "In the new pond at Mwang'olo village in Kishapu District, we've transplanted 5,000 Nile tilapia fish fingerlings."

He also stated that in terms of the

tree planting exercise to take care of the environment in all the villages surrounding the mine that so far they have planted 10,000 trees and the exercise will be sustainable.

Kishapu District fisheries officer, Moses Ng'winza, asked people to wait until six months when the fish will have become big, as well as waiting to be given education and instructions from the government before they start doing fishing activities.

Some of the residents including Laurent Fabian said they are grateful to the mine for transplanting fish fry in the new pond, so that they can return to their fishing activities and increase their income because they were economically unstable and now they are continuing with agriculture.



Deputy minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Khamis Hamza Khamis consoles victims of mudslide sheltered at a temporary camp at Katesh secondary school in Hanang District, Manyara Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WHO Africa welcomes pledge by global partners to end NTDs

By Special Correspondent, Brazzaville

THE fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) has received a major boost with a landmark commitment by donors and partners to invest over US\$ 777 million boost efforts to eliminate and eradicate NTDs.

The commitment announced this week by the United Arab Emirates, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other donors at the 2023 Reaching the Last Mile Forum held during the COP28 in Dubai will help accelerate progress towards achieving the targets in the World Health Organization (WHO)'s 2030 roadmap on NTDs.

This commitment will

particularly be critical in the efforts to support sub-Saharan African to regain the momentum in the fight against NTDs, having suffered some setbacks due to the impact of COVID19 and the disproportionate adverse impacts of climate change.

"This commitment by the donors and partner is timely and will greatly enhance our ongoing efforts to support countries to adopt integrated people-centered health services to defeat NTDs," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Regional Director for Africa.

Despite challenges, the Africa region has made significant progress in the fight against NTDs. In 2022, the number of individuals requiring NTD interventions

decreased by an estimated 80 million. Furthermore 12 countries have been certified for eliminating at least one NTD with Togo achieving global recognition as the first country globally to receive WHO certification for eliminating four NTDs.

To consolidate these gains, WHO Africa has stepped up support to countries including developing integrated NTD master plans, promoting strategies such as the integrated screening for skin NTDs, and providing guidance for disease prevention and management.

As a region facing severe consequences of climate change-related health risks, WHO is working with countries to urgently

adapt strategies to preserve health gains and investments. At the recently convened NTD Programme Managers' meeting in the WHO African region, it was agreed to leverage multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms including the one health approach to address the interconnectedness between the environment, development activities, human, plant, and animal health.

WHO in Africa has also unveiled a new blueprint to drive the region's strategy towards ending diseases.

"With this new strategy, we welcome the support of all partners towards the vision of ending diseases in Africa," Dr Moeti said.



Serengeti Breweries Ltd (SBL) managing director Obinna Anyalebechi (L) exchanging contracts with the United Nations Global Compact Network Tanzania director Marsha Macatta-Yambi in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after signing a Memorandum of Understanding to promote responsible business practices and actively contributing to the achievement of sustainable development goals. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Rwanda to transform mining sector for economic growth, community prosperity - govt

KIGALI

RWANDA, despite having abundant mineral deposits, currently mines less than half of its resources. However, the country is determined to enhance its extractives sector by embracing advanced technology to expand mining activities.

Donat Nsengumuremyi, the manager of Mining Extraction and Inspection Division at Rwanda Mines, Gas and Petroleum Board, shared insights into their transformative process.

"We have initiated a shift from small-scale to semi-mechanized mining. Our aim is to enhance recovery both during extraction and processing stages."

Nsengumuremyi stressed the need for modern equipment and efficient processes, saying: "Encouraging companies to adopt modern technology or utilize methods like controlled explosives enables proper extraction while minimizing waste. Implementing modern processing techniques enhances the recovery of essential minerals."

Official data reveals that Rwanda presently taps into only 30 to 40 percent of its mineral potential. To entice investors, the government has implemented various incentives, including a favourable fiscal regime aimed at increasing profitability within the mining sector, which, in turn, positively impacts other industries.

"We provide technical support to mining operations by offering training to miners and operators, ensuring they possess the necessary skills and understanding. Moreover, we prioritize providing efficient and prompt services to mining operators, creating a conducive and secure environment for conducting business," Nsengumuremyi added.

This strategy has resulted in the attraction of around 150 mining companies and cooperatives, primarily located in southern and western Rwanda.

According to the manager, the government places utmost importance on the safety of workers and environmental protection. "Employing modern mining equipment and techniques, we prioritize the safety of workers and the surrounding community," Nsengumuremyi said, adding that "We conduct comprehensive impact assessments before

commencing any mining project. Our aim is to design mitigation measures ensuring operations align with environmental and safety standards."

Rwanda's mineral export revenues have surged from 71 million U.S. dollars in 2010 to over 772 million dollars in 2022. The government's objective is to achieve annual mineral export revenues of 1.5 billion dollars by 2024.

By prioritizing safety, embracing technological advancements and committing to community development, Rwanda's mining sector aims for sustainable growth while benefiting its citizens.

Nsengumuremyi highlighted the government's commitment to improving the livelihoods of mining communities. "Our future orientation in professionalizing mining operations includes social corporate responsibility provisions within mineral agreements," he said.

"We collaboratively identify key activities that contribute to community welfare through discussions with local leaders. Regular monitoring ensures the fulfilment of these commitments," he added.



We provide technical support to mining operations by offering training to miners and operators, ensuring they possess the necessary skills and understanding. Moreover, we prioritize providing efficient and prompt services to mining operators, creating a conducive and secure environment for conducting business

JOHANNESBURG

AfDB approves \$1bn S. Africa energy transition guarantee

THE African Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$1bn guarantee to support South Africa's energy transition with support from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

The support will enable the bank to increase its lending capacity to support South Africa's energy transition.

Developed in close collaboration with the South African government, the programme will support projects aligned with the country's Just Energy Transition Investment Plan, such as transmission and storage for grid balancing, renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, and rehabilitation

of municipal electricity distribution networks, green hydrogen and the development of new electric vehicles.

The programme also includes projects related to the "just dimension", notably in the province of Mpumalanga, located in the north-east of the country, on the border with Swaziland and Mozambique.

The Bank's approval comes in the middle of the COP28 conference, where the African Development Bank's Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth,

Kevin Kariuki, said: "This is an innovative new transaction that reaffirms the African Development Bank's leadership in developing financial solutions to increase access to climate finance for low-carbon development and Africa's net-zero ambitions."

Melinda Bohannon, Director-General for Humanitarian and Development at the FCDO, added: "The FCDO remains committed to the Just Energy Transition Partnership with South Africa, which supports green growth and jobs, improves energy security

and helps South Africa achieve its carbon reduction ambitions, as set out in its Nationally Determined Contribution.

"This guarantee will unlock funds for projects related to South Africa's recently released Just Energy Transition Implementation Plan.

"This is in addition to the offer of donations that has recently increased significantly from the International Partners Group, and we are using a portion of these donations to help develop a pipeline of investment projects."



Betpawa Tanzania marketing manager Borah Ndanyungu (C- seated) in a group photo with some second phase Dream Maker campaign winners in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. A total 20 Tanzanians benefited from the in second phase. Photo: Correspondent

South Africa miners resurface after underground dispute

JOHANNESBURG

MORE than 400 miners who had been underground for four days in South Africa, some of them held back by colleagues against a backdrop of tensions following a recent murder in obscure circumstances, emerged from a gold mine east of Johannesburg on Monday.

"We're very happy that it's coming to an end," said Ziyaad Hassam, of the Gold One company operating the mine in the town of Springs, about 50km from Johannesburg.

"We have a lot of work to do with the unions to make sure this doesn't happen again," he continued.

At the end of the night shift on Thursday, employees with their faces concealed under balaclavas seized their colleagues' badges to prevent them from returning to the surface. According to Gold One and some miners, a majority of employees then deliberately remained underground in protest.

In October, more than 500 miners remained underground for three days due to a union dispute, as a result of which some 50 workers were dismissed.

Last week, an investigator sent by the operator to look into the cause of the October blockade was shot dead in circumstances that remain unclear.

Gold One suspects a link between the 55-year-old's murder and the layoffs.

On Monday, the miners who had remained at the bottom of the mine for several days gradually reappeared in small groups, starting in the early morning. Some of them raised their fists when they found themselves back in the open air. Colleagues and relatives camped outside the site cheered them as they emerged.

According to some witnesses, conditions at the bottom of the mine had become unbearable, with little food or water: "We saw some of our comrade's faint," said Thembisile Nzesane, who had just come out of the mine.

According to Hassam, the situation had become "critical", with some employees suffering from dehydration and tensions between miners leading to scuffles.

Once back on the surface, the miners were taken to a shed where food was distributed. Some took off their dirty clothes and started dancing. One woman burst into tears.

"We ate nothing for four days. Hunger drove us out," confessed another miner who wished to remain anonymous.

Some of the miners wore T-shirts bearing the colours of the mining union AMCU. They told AFP that they were calling for trade union recognition in the mine. AMCU representation was at the heart of the October dispute.

The mine operator is due to hold talks with union representatives in the near future.

At least 100 elephants dead from drought in Zimbabwe

HARARE

AT least 100 elephants have died in Zimbabwe's biggest national park as water holes have dried up, an international animal welfare group has said.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare said that an "extended dry season has reduced once abundant water holes to muddy puddles" in Hwange National Park.

"At least 100 elephants are

already reported dead due to lack of water," IFAW said in a statement.

Hwange covers more than 14,600 square kilometres and is home to about 45,000 elephants.

"Despite having 104 solar-powered boreholes, park authorities say it isn't enough and no match for extreme temperatures drying up existing waterholes, forcing wildlife to walk long distances searching for food and water," IFAW said.

In September, Zimbabwe

Parks and Wildlife Management Authority reported "many animals" moving from the national park to neighbouring Botswana in search of water and food.

The "anticipated" animal deaths "must be seen as a symptom of deep-seated and complex challenges affecting the region's natural resources conservation, aggravated by climate change," IFAW expert Phillip Kuvawoga said.

In 2019, more than 200 elephants died in the southern

African country, according to IFAW, who said the "phenomenon is recurring".

Zimbabwe has around 100,000 elephants, the second largest population in the world and almost double the capacity of its parks, conservationists say.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has classified southern Africa as a region at risk, facing increased probability of extreme heat and reduced rainfall due to global warming.

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Planting of fish fingerlings in mine dam the right thing to do

DAM builders in mining areas, for instance close to the Mwadui diamond mine in Kishapu District of Shinyanga Region are discovering the use of introducing fish farming in such areas. A dam at Mwang'olo is being converted to this purpose where upwards of five thousand fingerlings of tilapia (sato) type of fish have lately been planted there, with officials explaining the intent is to return the broken dam to its original look. The dam broke its edge with water pressure end of last year.

There was already some fish types in the dam at the time that it became defective, with intent that villagers nearby use it for fishing, with reports saying the mine management decided to introduce other types of fish as part of instructions by state authorities to bring the dam to its original situation.

A mine official said the order involves restoring what was damaged at the dam broke its edges, as the facility to restrain mud from spilling into the environment. Ecological improvement is the way out as the mine authorities think not only of fish types but also vegetation.

With a certain amount of compensation paid to villagers affected by the mud, the effort is now directed at ecological restoration, with the fish element being improved for a better effect. Planting trees in a place likely to overflow with mud creates protective vegetation and possibly other ecologically compliant activities among the residents, instead of pushing farming to the edges of the protected area, or invading it. It is an economic lever on the one hand, and ecological restoration.

Still there are problems which

come up as to the sustainability of the strategy, as the district council asks villagers to wait for six months before starting to harvest fish, vowing to engage in an educational campaign on the issue. The trouble is that the demand for the fish is likely to be too high in relation to the population just as in the lake. And with population rising in the lake zone as elsewhere, traditional methods of farming, livestock rearing and fishing are hard to adapt to realities.

With prices depressed for fish as well as other produce in terms of what each fisherman needs to make ends meet, the facility may at best improve nutritional options in the zone and auxiliary earnings. Efforts by the district authorities to restrain villagers from farming near the dam are an indication of the difficulties, as each year there is need for wider acreage for domestic needs as well as earnings of those who depend on farming. Calls for environmental preservation are basically that farms should not be expanded, while the fairly rapid increase in population demands that it is expanded, and urban unemployment implies taking up farming.

The question is how far each area can protect the environment and widen farming or fishing, and how far such activities enable a reasonable level of welfare for those carrying it out. There are contrasting practitioners in the agro-food systems sector, where traditional dwellers are increasingly inefficient. They depend on subsidised fertiliser and pushing for more land, higher prices, all of them failing.

Those putting capital into farming can alter these parameters and work profitably; they are the farmers of the future but holding back inefficient farmers will be hard.

Farming near lakeshores, rivers tied less to ignorance than poor farming systems

OFFICIALS of the National Environmental Council (NEMC) are repeating an oft articulated demand that of requiring people not to farm near seashores, riverbanks and lake shores as well as this propels erosion when heavy rain comes. At the same time the Hanang disaster a week or so ago indicates that the removal of vegetation on mountain slopes, even without significant seismic activity, can lead to landslide when too much water fall on a relatively denuded land can touch off an avalanche.

Those residing on hills or mountain sides were asked to take plenty of precautions as the danger of landslides is there, one of those alerts which appear to presume that ordinary city dwellers or those in the villages have usable options as to where to stay. It is a syndrome of administrators wishing to issue signals to a flexible and adaptable public capable of choosing what to do and where wishing away actual reality, that most people live on inherited land. Or it is bought once and then it is part of inheritance structures, a self-contained ecosystem with no escape route, etc.

NEMC was also asking those conducting mining and treatment of ores to extract minerals to ensure that their use of water sources and discharge of the waste water brings no harm to the surrounding areas or the water sources. Yet when one looks closely at the situation, it is clear they are only capable of taking water from a certain source and emptying it precisely where the cleaning of ore to extract minerals is done. They aren't even in a position to protect themselves for instance against the mercury they habitually

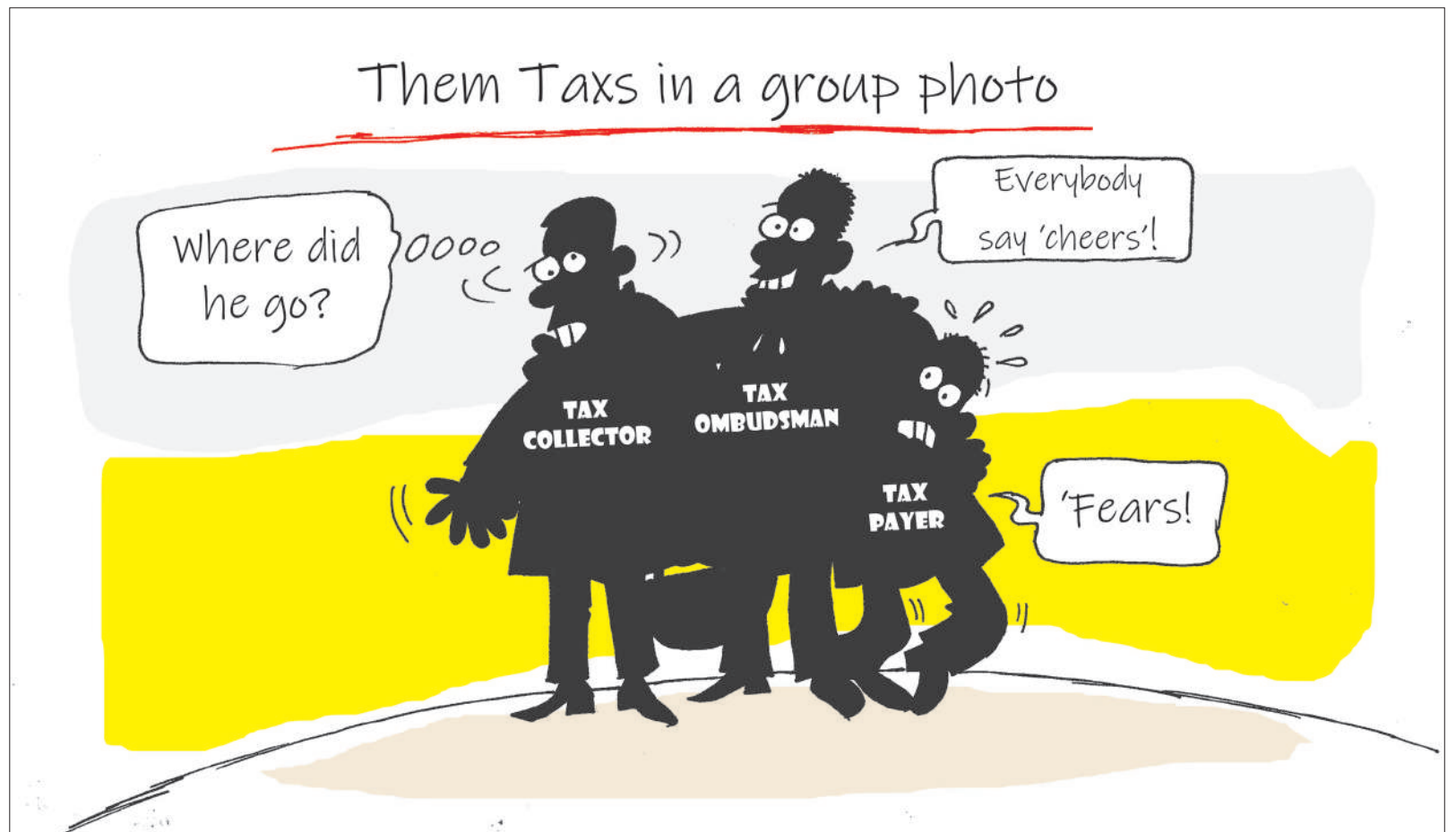
use for washing the ore, thus it is somewhat extravagant to expect that they can take measures to protect others from ill effects.

To look at the situation differently, it is as if the weather and other authorities were talking to an economic environment where people decide commercially as to where they farm or reside, and indeed engaged in technologically appropriate mining methods dotted with equipment or facilities for such safeguards.

The reality all the same is that one shall farm next to the doorstep or at walking distance, even if that means waking up at dawn and returning home at dusk. It isn't about buying a patch of land for a specific agro-sector project, where all these alerts can be used.

What is now generally known as climate change causes periodic catastrophic situations that all the same parasite on time bombs of traditional agriculture, where livestock rearing and fishing are auxiliary components. Having denuded forests and even thickets of bush over six decades in most of Africa, exposure to torrential rains brings worse effects than in a vegetated environment. But then most people live traditionally on inherited areas, expanding habitation or farming from there.

Asking them to be careful with how they use land on inherited land is to fulfil the duty of informing such person what perhaps lies in store. Intimations by the public authorities that those meeting with disaster in valleys in urban areas or landslides elsewhere ought to have acted is self-defeating. It assumes commercial structures in residence, farming, fishing or livestock rearing, whereas tradition still prevails.



Is Africa making the most out of the climate negotiations?

By Kwame Ababio

COP28 - the annual ritual of global climate change negotiations among countries, is here with us. What is in it for Africa this year?

It is that time of the year when the words on the lips of many is the "Climate COP", reference to the annual gathering of countries (Parties) and observers that constitute the 'Conference of Parties' (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The COP is the pinnacle of global climate change negotiations that discusses climate ambition and measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The 28th COP takes place in Dubai this year having been held consistently every year since 1995 with 2020 being the exception due to COVID-19.

Since the curtain-raising COP 1 in Germany attended by about 2000 participants, the summit has grown to become the biggest United Nations gathering with an estimated 49,704 people participating at its last confab in the Egyptian Resort City of Sharm El Sheikh last year.

The importance of the COP meetings is matched by the global spotlight and attention of world leaders, businesses, media, and climate activists, who have participated in or followed the summits over the years.

Impact of Africa on the COP outcomes

Despite COP capturing headlines every year, there has been skepticism about the Summit's relevance in combatting climate change. The African Bloc has become a key player in the negotiations,

particularly on the issues of finance, adaptation, agriculture, energy, loss, and damage which are important to developing countries.

Climate diplomacy captures more than any other subject matter, the essence of Africans speaking with one voice as espoused in the Constitutive Act of the African Union which emphasizes the imperative to "promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest".

Climate Finance

Africa's persistence in advocating for its priorities has moved climate finance to the front burner of the climate change negotiations.

The Africa group has advocated the need to address the financial imbalance and inequity in accessing climate finance.

In a report on the "State of Climate Finance in Africa", the Climate Policy Initiative indicates that Africa requires 2.5 trillion dollars of climate finance between 2020 and 2030, which translates into an average of 250 billion dollars per year, however, in 2020 only 12% was realized.

Despite difficult negotiations, the African bloc has pulled many levers in continuously pushing for climate finance and stressing the imperative for developed countries to meet their commitments including the 100 billion pledge made at the highly expectant but disappointing Copenhagen Summit.

Agriculture

Agriculture, a major economic sector for many African countries contributing about 15 percent of the continent's GDP has historically not been a feature of the COP processes until 2017, when the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) was adopted.

The KJWA is a landmark

decision that officially recognized agriculture's role in tackling climate change. Activities from Agriculture, Forestry, and Land Use (AFOLU) are estimated to have contributed between 13-21 percent to global greenhouse gas emissions between 2010 and 2019.

Agriculture continues to evolve within the global climate change negotiations with Africa playing the lead role in the adoption of the KJWA and its evolution to the "Sharm El-Sheikh Joint Work on the Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security.

Adaptation

Adaptation to climate change has long been a priority for many African countries due to the undeniable impact climate change is having on its communities.

African Leaders have reiterated that adaptation is a priority in all actions on climate change which is evident by the increase in climate-induced disasters including the more than 860 people who were killed this year when Tropical Cyclone Freddy hit parts of Southern Africa resulting in floods and mudslides in Madagascar, Mozambique, Mauritius, Malawi, Réunion, and Zimbabwe.

As African communities are faced daily with these climate difficulties the continent prioritized adaptation as a central theme within the negotiations, which were hitherto disproportionately focused on mitigation.

The Bloc is associated with many of the adaptation-related decisions including the Adaptation Fund, Cancun Adaptation Framework, and the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation to Climate Change.

Loss and Damage

Africa's resilience in climate

diplomacy is evident in the influential role it played in the adoption of a decision to create a funding mechanism for Loss and Damage which is intended to provide financial assistance to poorer nations as they deal with the negative impact arising from unavoidable climate change risks.

Through its effective engagements and under the Egyptian Presidency at COP 27, a landmark decision on Loss and Damage was reached.

Despite this success in Sharm El Sheikh, Loss and Damage will take centre stage in Dubai in anticipation of a decision towards operationalization of the Fund.

An agreement on the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund which was adopted to a standing ovation on the opening day of the Dubai COP 28 represents a positive contribution by Africa to global climate governance. Africa will continue to engage the global community towards adequate capitalization of the Fund.

Compared to other global issues that require a coordinated approach, climate diplomacy is the one area in which Africa seems to have performed creditably despite resource and other limitations.

With improved coordination, increased resources, and streamlining of the key priority issues such as energy transitions, financing, and adaptation within the climate negotiations Africa's influence on the global stage will become even more pronounced and effective.

Mr. Kwame Ababio is the Head of the Environment and Climate Change Unit at the African Union Development Agency. He is also a Research Fellow at the Climate Policy Lab of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

On 2nd thoughts: Liberia's Weah departs with dignity

By Othello B. Garblah

PRESIDENT George Mannah Weah has set for himself a new record. The Africa only Ballon d'Or will go down in history as the first African incumbent President who concedes defeat to his fierce rival with a narrow margin of 1.16 per cent in a tightly contested election that could have witnessed a prolonged political crisis in other democracies.

And in conceding defeat, he was quick to draw such distinction, that he is not an African President who hijacks elections that cause the death of many innocent people. "I won't be a part of it," he said.

The former Ballon d'Or winner, best known for his football prowess in Europe, particularly at Monaco, Paris

Saint-Germain and AC Millan sent heartfelt congratulatory messages to President-elect Joseph N. Boakai with 99.5 per cent of the polls result which put Boakai at 50.89 per cent and he (Weah) at 49.11 per cent.

Weah did not just call President-elect Boakai to congratulate him, but in a speech broadcast on national radio, the President showed great statesmanship and was gracious in defeat informing the nation that his party had lost the November 14, Presidential runoff, but Liberia had won.

"My fellow Liberians, ladies and gentlemen, tonight the CDC has lost the election, but Liberia has won. This is a time to be gracious in defeat, a time to place our country above personal interest," President Weah said, adding that unity was more

paramount for the "Love of Mama Liberia."

Meanwhile, the action taken by Weah in such a tightly contested poll remains unimaginable in Africa. Although his administration was marred by corruption allegations, unsolved murder mysteries, and high unemployment rate, his unprecedented action draws out a pathway for his redemption.

His administration had promised to respect the will of the Liberian people, and he indeed demonstrated it through peaceful means.

Weah showed sportsmanship in conceding defeat, something which also demonstrated how his government had ensured the conduct of a free, fair, and transparent election.

Not only did Weah concede, but

his subsequent pronouncements following his concession strongly confirmed his commitment to maintaining the country's fragile peace, while nurturing its young democracy.

"Now, more than ever unity is paramount for the Love of Mama Liberia. To the members of the Mighty Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) fellow partisans, I understand this is not the outcome of the election we all desire. Your support has been the backbone of our campaign and for that, I am deeply grateful. I (now) urge you to follow my example and accept the result of the election. I want you to go home tonight knowing that our ideas and vision for our nation remain strong. We are a young moment, and our time will come again.

DUBAI

'Stop wars and step up 'measly' contributions' to climate finance, says Jeffrey D. Sachs

THE United States contribution to the Loss and Damage Fund equals nine minutes of Pentagon spending, says Jeffrey D. Sachs, a world-renowned economist, bestselling author, innovative educator, and global leader in sustainable development.

While the Loss and Damage Fund promise was made at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, this was the first major milestone announced at COP28 in Dubai. So far, pledged contributions by various countries to the World Bank-hosted Loss and Damage Fund have reached USD 700 million.

While this is a major step in the right direction, there are concerns that the fund is too small and that powerful nations are not doing enough to halt the pace and rate of climate change.

"The COP process is still a formalism, not a breakthrough. Yes, there is a new losses and damages fund, but it is tiny—USD 700 million pledged—compared to the hundreds of billions of dollars of climate-related losses each year," Sachs says.

Estimates are that by 2030, the total estimate of loss and damage for developing countries could be between USD 290 billion and USD 580 billion; another says it is USD 400 billion per year and rising.

Africa is on the frontlines of the devastating effects of climate change, despite accounting for the smallest share of global greenhouse gas emissions—3.8 percent.

"The US pledged a measly USD 17.5 million, which equals nine minutes of Pentagon spending. All other financing remains tiny compared to the real needs. The US and Europe are engaged in war, not in climate financing.

The wars in Ukraine and Gaza are the only things of interest to US foreign policy," Sachs told IPS. "John Kerry is powerless in reality. He is there to give speeches. He has no authority to deliver any real policies."

He says it is crucial to stop the wars; once that is done, real diplomacy could start.

"On to COP29, in a rapidly warming world of great danger. The first priority is to stop the wars, and that requires the world community to tell the US to stop the warmongering and to force Israel to stop the ongoing ethnic cleansing in Gaza.

By stopping the wars, we could begin real climate diplomacy among the major fossil-fuel-producing countries. The top three fossil-fuel-producing countries are China, the US, and Russia. The three need to cooperate. That depends on a fundamental change in US foreign policy."

The Loss and Damage Fund refers to the economic, social, and cultural losses and damages caused by anthropogenic climate change to natural and human systems. It is a vehicle to deliver climate justice to communities disproportionately affected by climate change.

The climate injustice lies in the fact that, despite a low carbon footprint, developing countries are facing the full force of climatic changes, slowly wiping out their biodi-



Jeffrey D. Sachs speaks at the ReWired Summit at COP28.

versity and destroying lives, livelihoods, and cultural heritage.

Climate change is the most serious threat facing culture today. Globally, World Heritage properties are bearing the brunt of climate change, from increasing ocean acidification, desertification, droughts, floods, and fires related to rising temperatures.

Climate change is slowly eradicating the African coast and its cultural heritage; 20 percent of Africa's heritage sites are in danger. Communities uprooted by climate-induced disasters are losing their ways of life, including the preservation of traditions for future generations.

This is the cultural cost of climate change for many vulnerable communities, particularly indigenous people, who are currently suffering greatly from severe and drastic changes in weather patterns.

Vulnerable developing nations face greater risk from climate change and lack the funds to recover from climate events that have become increasingly frequent and more severe.

While some losses from climate-induced disasters are impossible to recover from, such as loss of life, the fund is expected to help build better infrastructure after a severe climatic event.

While there is wide applause for the loss and damage fund, there is also criticism that the fund's contributions at COP28 thus far cover less than 0.2 percent of climate-induced losses in developing countries. Additionally, powerful nations are reluctant to address critical issues such as phasing out fossil fuels that could significantly slow down climate change, giving Africa and other vulnerable nations in the global South much-needed relief.

"The United States political class is not serious. China is more interested. Only an end to the wars, followed by serious negotiations among the major fossil-fuel producers, will

work. The top 10 fossil fuel producers are: China, US, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Australia, Canada, Iran, and Iraq. These 10 countries need to make serious, cooperative, and coordinated plans to phase out their production. They have not yet begun to hold such talks. In the meantime, funding for Africa is also seriously neglected," Sachs says.

To reaffirm the 1.5°C-aligned energy transition, COP28 set out to firm up a number of ambitious goals, such as tripling global renewable energy generation capacity by 2030, doubling annual energy efficiency improvements by 2030, and an orderly decline in fossil fuel use demand by 2030, starting with no new coal plants.

The Summit further sought commitment from the oil and gas industry to align their strategies and investment portfolios with 1.5°C, with a focus on a 75 percent reduction in methane emissions by 2030. And financing mechanisms for a major scaling-up of clean energy investment in emerging and developing economies.

However, on Monday, December 11, 2023, the draft text of the agreement excluded the words "phase-out" or "phase-down" of fossil fuels, instead only promising to reduce oil and gas, and several countries, including Australia, the US, the UK, Canada, and Japan, said they would not sign what would essentially be "death certificates for many small island states."

The first-ever global stocktake, released in October 2023 ahead of the Dubai Summit, revealed that the world is not on track to achieve the goals set out in the Paris Agreement. It is the first time that a UN climate summit has surveyed progress towards achieving the goals agreed in 2015, following the landmark Paris COP.

Israel Gaza: 'Where is mum? Where is grandma? Where did they go?'

By David Gritten

When he asks me about his family I can't answer. Instead, I take a deep breath and try to avoid the question in a childlike way by changing the subject."

Moein Abu Rezk is the only surviving relative of his four-year-old nephew, Omar, who is in a critical condition at Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip.

Omar had to have his left hand amputated and was left with a large, open wound on his right leg, smaller wounds on his chest and face, and a dislocated jaw following an Israeli air strike that Moein says killed 35 members of his family, including his mother, father and grandmother.

So far, Moein has decided to not tell Omar about their deaths, in case it causes his condition to deteriorate before he can be medically evacuated from Gaza via Egypt, hopefully as part of an initiative by the United Arab Emirates government and the Emirates Red Crescent.

"He needs to be told the information in a specific way so that he doesn't go into shock or go into a state that I can't control," Moein told BBC Arabic in a series of voice notes on Sunday night.

"He knows that he hasn't seen any of them, and yet he feels the need to ask: 'Where is mum? Where is grandma? Where did they go?'"

However, it is not guaranteed that an ambulance will transport Omar to the Egyptian border because of the intense fighting and heavy bombardment around what is known as Gaza's Middle Area.

Israeli ground forces have already divided Gaza in two, fully encircling Gaza City in the first two months of the war with Hamas - which Israel, the UK and other Western powers class as a terrorist organisation.

Tanks and troops are now pushing deep into the southern city of Khan Younis. The main highway from Deir al-Balah has been declared a "battlefield", leaving people in the Middle Area with only one supposedly safe evacuation route along the Mediterranean coast.

Many Palestinians living in the north of Gaza sought refuge in the Middle Area after the Israeli military ordered them to evacuate their homes and move south of the Wadi Gaza river two months ago.

That order came at the start of the war triggered by a cross-border attack by Hamas gunmen on southern Israel on 7 October in which 1,200 people were killed and about 240 others were taken hostage.

Since then, more than 18,200 people have been killed in Gaza according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry. Omar is among the more than 49,000 other people so far reported injured.

The Israeli military says its forces are operating to eliminate terrorists, locate weaponry and destroy terrorist infrastructure, and that more than 22,000 targets have been struck since the start of the war.

Moein told BBC Arabic that Omar and his family had



Moein Abu Rezk hopes his nephew Omar can be evacuated abroad so he can receive the specialist treatment he needs

been visiting his grandmother's house in Nuseirat camp, just to the north of Deir al-Balah, when it was bombed without any prior warning from the Israeli military.

"We have never seen missiles like that before. The missile falls and destroys the whole residential area around it," he recalled.

"Luckily, the house had an opening through which [Omar] fell. But his left arm

was [so badly] injured that it had to be amputated immediately.

"[On Saturday], he lost about three units of blood and his haemoglobin [concentration] fell from 9.5 to 7.4, so he had to be transferred to surgery for a blood transfer."

Moein said the situation at the hospital was so bad that doctors could not find a bed for Omar despite the severity of his

injuries, forcing him to wait in a corridor while doctors and nurses treated him as best as they could.

"All medical equipment and tools are so limited to the extent that we have to deal with the situation in a more practical rather than a healthy way.

"There are no painkillers so we have to joke around and try to make him laugh in order to calm him."

Moein conceded that this method only worked some of the time but added: "We don't have any other option."

He said he hoped that Omar would be transported next Thursday to the Rafah border crossing with Egypt and then taken to a hospital for specialist treatment.

Lena Shakora, her husband and three young sons have so far survived the Israeli bombardment, but she said they were still living a "nightmare".

They fled their home in the Sheikh Radwan district of Gaza City and are currently sheltering in a house in an agricultural area outside Deir al-Balah with their relatives.

"I wake up every day remembering that we are at war [and] people are starving. Its torture to be displaced from your house and find no food," Lena told BBC Arabic on Sunday night.

"My family and I are sitting with 40 individuals in one room and all the windows are [blown out] because of the bombing. We are basically sitting outdoors... and it is very cold and people are humiliated."

Lena said her sons had hurt their backs because they were having to carry containers of water. And to make matters worse, the water is not clean because treatment plants and pumps are not working because of a lack of fuel.

The family was also being forced to eat contaminated food because shops were empty and they had not received any aid, she added.

"Our greatest hope is to have flour so that we can bake, and even that we can bake it on [clean] wood."

"People go around collecting whatever wood they can find. But the bread comes out contaminated because it is cooked on wood from the scene of a bombing," she explained.

The UN said on Sunday that it had been unable to distribute outside the southern city of Rafah, on the border with Egypt, in recent days because of the intensity of hostilities and restrictions on movement.

Resistance is futile - South Africa must urgently adapt to the new age of artificial intelligence

By Tshilidzi Marwala

AS South Africa seems to remain woefully static, the world around us is undergoing seismic shifts. That is not to say we are not deeply impacted - we are - but we are not responding effectively to these changes. This is an uncomfortable truism.

Rooted in *The Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin makes the argument for adaptation. This, he argues, is a survival mechanism. It is not clear that South Africa is doing enough to survive.

During the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath, it became increasingly apparent that the age of artificial intelligence (AI) so often spoken about through a theoretical framework had arrived. The changes were sweeping.

This was Darwin's very theory in action. As a survival mechanism, the world went online and deployed intelligent technologies to augment human capabilities. Against an extreme context such as the pandemic, resisting this shift would prove to be futile.

Remarkable change

The breadth and width of these changes have been quite remarkable.

AI's transformative nature and its potential merit a lecture in its own right. There are examples and possibilities alike in areas such as healthcare, climate change and disaster prediction.

In healthcare, AI enables personalised medicine, accelerates drug discovery and improves diagnostics. In climate science, AI models analyse complex data for better understanding and prediction. Disaster management benefits from AI's early warning and response optimisation.

Beyond this, AI is also a catalyst for overcoming traditional barriers.

For instance, in the financial domain, AI solutions promote financial inclusion by offering banking services to underserved populations.

In healthcare, AI-driven technologies increase accessibility, especially in remote areas with limited medical infrastructure.

In education, AI facilitates online learning platforms, personalised education experiences and adaptive tools, thereby democratising access to quality education on a global scale.

Youth empowerment is fostered through AI education and training programmes, equipping the younger generation with skills relevant to the digital economy.

Gender inclusivity is promoted as AI contributes to equal opportunities in education, employment and entrepreneurship. There are untold possibilities.

Impact on South Africa

But in our context, what is the impact of AI - both real and imagined?

As South Africa continues to grapple with an economic malaise - one that I must caution has been around well before the impact of the pandemic took hold - we too must adapt.

Of course, the growth and unemployment numbers are often used as markers of this malaise, but it is deeper than this. Growth is well below 1% and expected to remain stagnant for quite some time, and unemployment is above 30% - the youth segment is ever-increasing.

The census conducted in 2022 and released a few months ago provided further insight into South Africa's development trajectory - notwithstanding the issue of undercounting, as 30% of homes and 31% of individuals were not part of the overall data sample.

As the numbers indicated, there are apparent knowledge gaps. Almost one-third or 31.8% of individuals aged five years and older attended some kind of educational institution.

Nationally, 86.8% of these individuals attended primary or secondary schools, while a further 5.8% attended tertiary institutions. Only 2.1% of individuals attended technical colleges. The significant drop in terms of tertiary education is cause for concern.

Just last week, it was troubling to learn of companies such as VW and ArcelorMittal sending out resounding warnings to the South African government.

A recent Investec brief on economic growth suggested that South Africa's distinct lags are attributable to a lack of investment in knowledge, innovation and research and development. Intriguingly, these are the very metrics that are important in the age of AI.

This cannot be merely a survival mechanism, but rather, it should be a catalyst, and we must emerge stronger.



As I reflected on the topic at hand this evening, I contemplated the very idea of peril. Of course, this term in relation to our current wave of technology has been deployed by Klaus Schwab. As he warns, we must strike a balance between the promise and the peril. And as a person trained in engineering, we must maximise the promise and minimise the peril at the same time.

This is multi-objective optimisation and therefore requires human judgement to determine how much we weigh the promise versus the peril, and this is all in the so-called Pareto frontier. Of course, by peril, the immediate understanding is the potential misuse of AI systems.

Danger of not keeping pace

But what of the peril of not embracing AI at all?

In a country such as South Africa, which faces an economic trough, growing poverty and increasing inequality, the danger of not keeping pace with the advances in AI is profound.

This year has presented an entirely new wave of AI, and with it, novel opportunities. To understand this wave, it is imperative to understand what AI is.

AI is a technique that essentially makes machines intelligent. While computers traditionally relied on people to tell them what to do and how to react, AI means that machines can learn and make their own decisions. The basic idea behind AI is to see whether we can give computers some of the decision-making abilities that we as humans have.

There are three broad types of AI - prediction machines, clustering machines and generative machines. Prediction machines, such as ANNs or CNNs, are designed to forecast future outcomes or make predictions based on historical data.

Clustering machines, such as k-Means, are used for grouping similar data points based on certain characteristics, and ultimately identifying patterns within data that might not be immediately apparent to humans.

Generative machines, including Chat GPT and GANs, which have seen a surge in recent months, are capable of creating new content, such as images, text or even music, that resembles human-created content based on algorithms that learn patterns from existing data. This goes beyond text generation. For example, synthetic data is created by algorithms that reproduce some structural and statistical properties of real-world data.

It can address challenges such as data scarcity, privacy and bias issues and raise concerns about data quality, security and ethical implications.

Understanding how the technology works is important as AI gains pace. Over the next five years, we will see a much more rapid adoption of this technology.

As an intriguing OECD report puts it, "While AI augmentation can amplify human potential by improving decision-making, multitasking and problem-solving abilities, it also poses risks such as decreased self-reliance, reduced critical thinking, and potential loss of certain skills." This statement can be interpreted in various ways.

AI promises heightened efficiency across industries, personalised experiences, advanced medical diagnostics and innovative solutions to global challenges. However, it also presents concerns such as job displacement leading to economic inequality, biases in AI systems perpetuating social disparities, security and privacy challenges, ethical considerations due to opaque decision-making processes, the potential for social isolation and dependency on technology, and new and pervasive weaponry.

Striking the right balance between the advantages of AI and mitigating its potential negative consequences will be essential for its integration.

There is an argument to be made for AI as a means to leapfrog - or bypass - traditional stages of development, particularly in relation to economic growth, poverty eradication and social inequality.

Progress

In recent years, South Africa has made significant strides in embracing AI.

The 4IR Commission proposed eight recommendations, and these can be seen within the context of AI: educate South Africa on AI; establish the National AI Institute; use AI to reindustrialise South Africa; develop a data institute; incentivise the adoption of AI; build AI infrastructure; educate lawmakers on AI; and develop implementation capacity. South Africa has made some strides in its 4IR journey, with notable achievements in various areas.

In terms of infrastructure development, South Africa is investing in critical infrastructure such as broadband connectivity, data centres and high-performance computing facilities.

On skills development, initiatives like the Youth Employment and Skills Development Initiative and the National Artisan Development Institute are focused on developing the skills needed for the 4IR workforce.

On innovation and entrepreneurship, South Africa is fostering an innovation ecosystem, supporting startups and SMEs in developing 4IR-driven solutions. South Africa has established the National AI Institute jointly hosted by the University of Johannesburg and the Tshwane University of Technology.

With a burgeoning tech start-up scene and a growing number of AI-focused research institutions, the country has started to tap into AI's transformative capabilities.

From healthcare to agriculture to finance and education, AI applications are already making an impact, promising more efficient processes and better decision-making.

Social justice

Yet, there are added complexities.

The country must be conscious of the inequities and inequalities that persistently prevail. Social justice demands we ensure that advancements occur on all fronts without abandoning the citizens of this country, and ensuring that access to the enormous benefits of AI is

provided.

What is required is responsible utilisation of AI to counter any negative effects, especially in a country with stagnant growth.

AI certainly has the potential to catalyse economic growth in South Africa. By automating repetitive tasks, AI can enhance productivity across various industries, leading to cost savings and improved competitiveness.

Moreover, developing and deploying AI solutions can create jobs in areas such as AI development, data science and AI ethics, fostering a new wave of skilled employment opportunities.

Our education systems need to be primed to deal with these trends in the job market where new skills of agility, responsiveness, technical savvy, curiosity and others are embedded in the curriculum.

The graduates of the future need a new wave of skills ensuring that they can adapt to the turbulence of our new waves and be able to ride these with confidence. This also extends to the workforce, who will witness monumental changes in their work and might need reskilling of a new form and kind.

South Africa must prioritise inclusive education as a transformative force, recognising the public good derived from investments in education. STEM education, especially in underserved communities, is crucial, while ensuring equal value for humanities and the arts.

Providing AI education empowers individuals for future job markets, reducing economic disparities.

Addressing the AI talent brain drain by enhancing economic opportunities, investing in research infrastructure, promoting AI education, creating a supportive ecosystem, and leveraging the diaspora for knowledge transfer is also imperative.

Our policies also need to be reframed in a manner that speaks to these advancements but also speaks to an ethical approach.

While AI enables new technologies that improve efficiency and productivity, it may also lead to increased inequalities among and within countries

and our policies and strategies need to speak to these possibilities, ensuring that there are no gaps in transparency, accountability, safety and ethical standards which could hinder the development and sustainability of AI.

What is required is regional collaboration to ensure that policy is based on harmonisation, inclusivity and best practices.

Moreover, we need to create an enabling environment for open data to boost African AI exchange and innovation and to create markets. This includes the establishment of AI data as a public asset and a push towards open public sector data to reduce entry barriers and promote AI innovation.

Then, there needs to be greater investment in AI.

This calls for a focus on AI centres that focus on localised applications of AI. Solid investments in facilities and spending for research to facilitate the consolidation of researchers and professors are pivotal to creating an AI-driven economy.

Additionally, there is a need to build AI-specific infrastructure which integrates with existing economic and social infrastructure.

We need to look at the generation and delivery of energy, the extension and improvement of water infrastructure and health and educational infrastructure to create a coherent and comprehensive infrastructure network.

It is necessary to leverage AI to address societal challenges, such as improving healthcare quality, enhancing agriculture and personalising education experiences. Collaboration with chatbots and analytics can ensure real-time student support and extraordinary learning interventions.

Ethical framework
These are but a few tangible steps we can take. Importantly, however, we cannot simply forge ahead.

Tristan Harris, co-founder and executive director at the Centre for Humane Technology, warns that without considering an ethical framework in the development of AI, we risk creating a "digital Frankenstein".

There is a call for us to develop rigorous policies to respond to our shifting context. It has been argued that there was a need to close the gap between policymaking and research in order to achieve better innovation outputs. An important facet of this shift is ethical AI.

As AI becomes more integrated into our society, there are a number of ethical considerations.

Tied to this are concerns about privacy and cybersecurity, which will become increasingly challenging as AI capabilities grow. New safeguards and technologies will be necessary to address these concerns.

Striking the balance between these forces - both apparent and emerging - requires us to understand the challenges.

Collaboration between AI systems and human oversight will have to converge to ensure the responsible and ethical development and deployment of AI technologies.

Many AI systems are trained on biased data, leading to discriminatory outcomes.

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 KIPIMA JOTO 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

Five countries in East and Southern Africa have anthrax outbreaks, WHO

CAPE TOWN

FIVE countries in East and southern Africa are in the middle of outbreaks of the anthrax disease, with more than 1,100 suspected cases and 20 deaths this year, the World Health Organization has said.

A total of 1,166 suspected cases had been reported in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Thirty-seven cases had been confirmed by laboratory tests, according to the WHO, which also said the five countries have seasonal outbreaks every year, but Zambia was experiencing its worst since 2011 and Malawi reported its first human case this year. Uganda had reported

13 deaths.

Anthrax usually affects livestock like cattle, sheep and goats, as well as wild herbivores. Humans can be infected if they are exposed to the animals or contaminated animal products. Anthrax isn't generally considered to be contagious between humans, although there have been rare cases of person-to-person transmission, WHO says.

Anthrax is caused by spore-forming bacteria and is sometimes associated with the weaponised version used in the 2001 attacks in the United States, when five people died and 17 others fell sick after being exposed to anthrax spores in letters sent through the mail.



Anthrax bacteria also occurs naturally in soil. In a separate assessment of the Zambia outbreak, which was the most concerning, WHO said that 684 suspected cases had been reported in the southern African nation as of November 20, with four deaths. Human cases of an-

thrax had been reported in nine out of Zambia's 10 provinces. In one instance, 26 people were suspected of contracting the disease from eating contaminated hippopotamus meat.

WHO said there was a high risk that the Zambian outbreak would spread to neighboring

countries. The outbreaks in all five countries were "likely being driven by multiple factors, including climatic shocks, food insecurity, low-risk perception and exposure to the disease through handling the meat of infected animals," the WHO said.

Burundi starts building AfDB-funded agri-food training hub

By Special Correspondent, Bujumbura

THE East African Community, the Burundian government and the African Development Bank Country Office in Burundi officially launched the Agropastoral Entrepreneurship and Professional Development Project for Youth and Women.

The initiative will involve the construction of a regional polytechnic and vocational training centre in Rusi, in Karuzi Province, located approximately 50 kilometres from Gitega, the political capital of Burundi. The African Development Bank Group's \$20 million funding for the project represents 87% of its total cost.

Construction work on the centre was initiated by François Havyarimana, Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, and his colleague Gervais Abayeho, Minister for Youth, as well as Hendrina Chalwe Doroba, the Bank's Education and Skills Development Division



Pascal Yembiline (R), the Bank Group's Country Manager for Burundi, and Hendrina Chalwe Doroba (L), the African Development Bank's Education and Skills Development Division Manager for East Africa, at the launch of the Agropastoral Entrepreneurship and Professional Development Project for Youth and Women in Burundi.

Manager for East Africa, and Pascal Yembiline, the Bank's Country Office Manager in Burundi.

The centre will be built on a 156-hectare area of land, of which around 142 hectares will be set aside for

agropastoral production. At least 2,000 students (30% of whom will be girls) will be trained there, and 3,000 co-operatives with 15,000 members (50% women) will benefit from capacity-building sessions held there. The pro-

ject will also ensure that 10 digital centres spread across the country are connected to the Rusi centre, providing greater access to technical education.

"We'd like to pay tribute to the African Development

Bank's regular involvement in Burundi generally, and its investment in human capital in particular," said Mr Havyarimana. "We're delighted that the project aligns well with the 'Burundi Vision Emerging Country 2040, De-

veloped Country 2060' document and with the National Technical Education Policy and Strategy (2022-2027)."

Minister for Youth Abayeho said: "the project is in keeping with the Burundian government's priorities and

responds to its vision of improving agricultural productivity and introducing new agri-food processing techniques. These steps will enable us to move towards a structural transformation of the economy and a diversification of sectors offering opportunities for Burundi's young people, who make up 60% of the country's population."

Yembiline of the African Development Bank thanked Burundi for involving the Bank in this large-scale vocational retraining programme, which aims to equip young people and women with the technical skills required for the country's economy.

"This project comes at a time when the Bank has recently launched its Skills for Employability and Productivity in Africa Action Plan (2022-2025)," he said. "The goal of the plan is to bridge the skills gap within the scope of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the digital transformation towards the labour market."

African women on the frontline of peacekeeping

UNITED NATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Pioneers and trailblazers

"Together, with all the other women pioneers, we have a responsibility to carry the torch and break down the gender stereotypes, prejudices and barriers against women in the field of corrections and security," says Téné Maïmouna Zougrana, a corrections officer from Burkina Faso who served in MINUSCA, the UN peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic.

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

"In my professional environment, the field of security, women are often placed second or even ignored, because of stereotypical perceptions that men are better suited for the job. I had the courage and strength, and vocation, to break down barriers and assert myself confidently in this

field," adds Zougrana.

Women peacekeepers like Téné Maïmouna Zougrana act as role models for many women and girls. Her work helps to break down traditional gender barriers, and motivates and empowers local women to build their confidence by taking on non-traditional roles monopolized by men in the security sector.

Peacekeepers also play a critical role in putting in place gender-sensitive outreach programmes designed specifically to cater to the unique needs of women and girls.

Military Gender Advisor Steplyne Nyaboga from Kenya, won the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year award in 2020. She trained a military contingent of more than 15,000 troops, who served in the UN Mission in Darfur (now closed), on gender dynamics and

strengthened the mission's engagement with Darfur women.

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

Over the decades, international norms and conventions have been adopted to include women in peace processes - to make sure women are represented in peace negotiations, support women civil society organizations and address the gender imbalance among decision-makers that continues to exist today.

In 2019, the Elise Initiative Fund, hosted by UN Women, was established to provide countries with financial incentives and support to increase the number of uniformed women peacekeepers.

By 2022, it had invested \$17 million to support 21 national security institutions, including in Uganda, Senegal and Ghana, and two peacekeeping operations including MINUSMA in Mali.

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

On the ground, the indispensable work of women peacekeepers continues to make a major impact especially in the lives of local women and girls.

Zimbabwe's CCC crisis: Farce turning to tragedy for the opposition

By Ish Mafundikwa

THE drama playing out in Zimbabwe's main opposition party could be something out of a farce - as it faces by-elections this weekend with the possibility of its candidates missing from the ballot.

The Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) was left bruised after August's election - alleging irregularities after President Emmerson Mnangagwa and his Zanu-PF party won.

But winning more than 100 of the 280 seats in parliament, it denied the ruling party a two-thirds majority that would enable it to change the constitution.

Then the CCC seemed to turn on itself.

In a startling move it started to expel or recall some of its own members of parliament - something that prompts a by-election.

This was being done by Sengezo Tshabangu, who claimed to be the party's interim secretary-general.

Hitherto unknown to most people in Zimbabwe, Mr Tshabangu now dominates headlines.

He had written to the parliamentary speaker in October alleging some CCC MPs had "ceased to be members of the party".

The CCC leader, Nelson Chamisa, immediately labelled Mr Tshabangu a fake and told the speaker to ignore the letter.

But it was Mr Chamisa who was ignored as the speaker duly declared vacancies in the constituencies.

The MPs caught up in the fray went to court to challenge the move, but President Mnangagwa went ahead and announced by-elections in the affected constituencies before their hearings.

This was proof, according to the CCC, that he was confident the judges would go his way - which they did. The courts threw out the challenge and a subsequent appeal on legal technicalities.

An emboldened Mr Tshabangu then began to claim more scalps - dismissing, or recalling, more CCC MPs and local councillors too.

So who is this man behind what seems like political hara-kiri for the opposition - an inside saboteur or a Zanu-PF proxy, as alleged by the CCC?

CCC spokesperson Promise Mkwanzani alleged that this was "an effort to get the two-thirds majority through the back door". Another prominent member, Bulawayo mayor



For Zanu-PF this is an opportunity for it to get two-thirds majority in parliament - it just needs three more seats

David Coltart, argued that the idea was to consolidate the power of the presidency.

But the ruling party has vehemently denied any involvement in what it calls internal CCC squabbles - though it must be rubbing its hands in glee.

Some say Mr Tshabangu was active in the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), the precursor to the CCC.

A picture of him with Mr Chamisa has been doing the rounds, which the CCC says proves nothing.

"Anybody can get their picture taken with the [CCC] president," the party's spokesperson Promise Mkwanzani told the BBC.

Mr Tshabangu backed out of an interview with the BBC after initially seeming eager. He has, however, spoken to local media.

In one interview, he claimed to be loyal to Mr Chamisa, referring to him as "president" as other party members do.

He said his targets were "criminals around the president", language that recalls the speech announcing the 2017 coup when putschists said then-President Robert Mugabe's position was safe.

We all know how that finished up - with a resignation letter ending his 37-year rule.

But Mr Tshabangu's loyalty has been brought into question after he told parliament that funds meant for all political parties, depending on the percentage of votes they garnered in the general election, be deposited into a bank account he controls.

He says his main beef comes down to how CCC candidates were selected for the August vote.

The 49-year-old alleges the party's leadership disregarded those chosen by the people during primaries and imposed their preferred candidates instead on ethnic grounds.

In his criticism of some CCC members he has used sexist and misogynistic language - and belittled them by referring to them as girls or boys.

As the saga unfolds, Zimbabweans see all the makings of a split in the CCC, with some blaming Mr Chamisa's leadership style.

The opposition has a history of division, dating back to 2005 when the MDC split, when Morgan Tsvangirai was in charge, over disagreements about whether to participate in senatorial elections.

Mr Tsvangirai's death in 2018 prompted further schisms.

Mr Chamisa says Mr Tsvangirai appointed him acting leader from his hospital bed. At his funeral, he announced he was taking over the leadership. But it was regarded as unconstitutional as Tsvangirai's deputy, Thokozani Khupe, was the rightful successor.

The battle ended up in court and Mr Chamisa lost - deciding to form the CCC last January, a new party meant to be a broad church.

Former MP Paul Themba Nyathi, who now describes himself as a politician-turned-civic activist, was one of the leaders who broke away from the MDC in 2005 and sees Mr Tshabangu as a Zanu-PF stooge.

But he says the current turmoil in the CCC is a direct result of Mr Chamisa personalising the party, though he told the BBC he believed this was an opportunity to reform.

"The people have this faith in him to remove Mnangagwa, but he is destroying the idea of a democratic alternative," he said.

Eldred Masunungure, a political analyst at the University of Zimbabwe, agrees.

"Chamisa's personalisation and centralisation of power is the problem. But it can be solved by the party putting together a clear leadership structure and a constitution which governs it," he told the BBC.

Mr Tshabangu has on several occasions tried to imply he has former senior members of the MDC behind him - especially those absent from the campaign trail this year. But one in particular said it was a "malicious and defamatory" insinuation.

The most serious fallout of the affair, however, has been death of a CCC campaigner - intimidation and violence being common tactics in Zimbabwean elections.

Tapfumaneyi Masaya was abducted in broad daylight in mid-November while campaigning in Mabvuku - an opposition stronghold in the capital, Harare. His mutilated corpse was discovered a few days later.

The constituency had been won in August by the CCC's candidate, Munyaradzi Kufahakutizwi, despite a massive effort by Zanu-PF to take it - including using Floyd Mayweather Jr to woo voters.

The US boxing legend flew into the country on his private jet at the behest of prominent gold dealer Scott Sakupwanya, the Zanu-PF candidate who went on to lose the seat.

"We have more immediate needs here, our clinics do not have medicines, we have water issues, and the \$500,000 [£398,000] he reportedly paid Mayweather, whom we don't even know, could have gone some ways in addressing those issues," 55-year-old Mabvuku resident Mabel Maposa told the BBC.

The two of them will slug it out again on Saturday despite the court decision as Mr Kufahakutizwi is not on the list of those Mr Tshabangu wanted barred. He now says Mr Kufahakutizwi's inclusion on the list was "a mistake" which he tried to correct to stop the Mabvuku by-election but he was too late.

The CCC has launched an urgent appeal at the Supreme Court to get its other eight candidates back on the ballot - and it must rule before Saturday to completely disqualify them.

Zanu-PF has deployed its big guns to campaign in all nine contested constituencies. And if successful in all those it will be enough to secure a two-thirds majority in parliament.

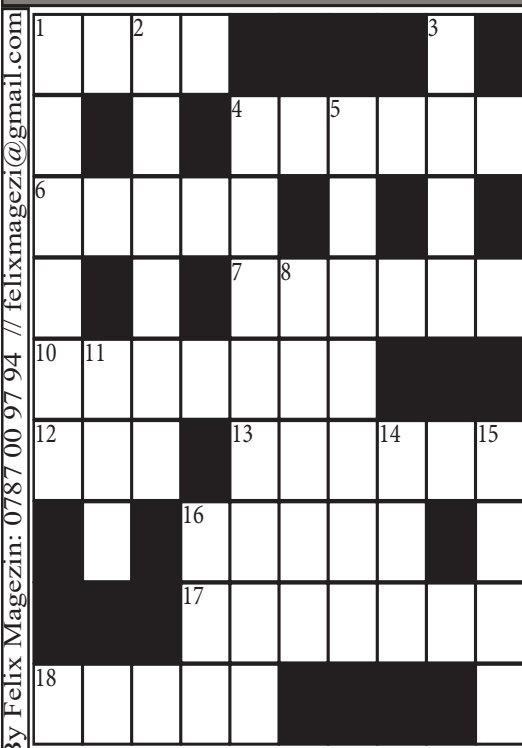
During the last election campaign the party promised an end to power cuts - and for weeks before the vote, Zimbabweans enjoyed a mainly uninterrupted supply of electricity.

A day after the polls, load-shedding, as rolling power cuts are known as locally, was not only back, but back with a vengeance.

Voters may have hoped the same tactic would have been used in the run-up to these by-elections.

But this has not been the case and Zanu-PF's overriding message to voters is: "This is a chance to correct your mistake."

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 41 -

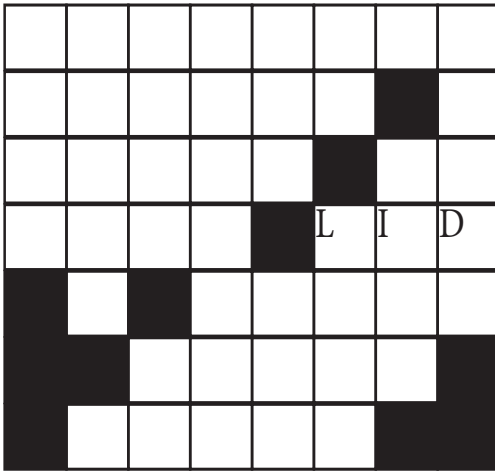


- 13. a spatula used in gardening to transplant seedlings
- 16. having little importance
- 17. a distinguished conductor or performer of classical music
- 18. a soft lustre on a surface

DOWN:

- 1. Capital city of Tanzania
- 2. Kigali is her mother city
- 3. arrack
- 4. Native of Malawi
- 5. a seat or carriage in which the occupants sit back to back.
- 8. a pale yellowish fluid
- 11. a small insect
- 14. gross registered tonnage
- 15. a part of a plant normally below ground, which acts as a support and collects water and nourishment
- 16. husband in Kiswahili

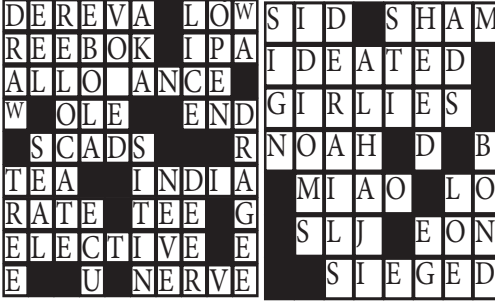
- ACROSS:**
- 1. With little or no light
 - 4. relating to the recent times
 - 6. a play
 - 7. Capital city of Zambia
 - 10. harm in Kiswahili
 - 12. anecdotes or literary gossip about a person



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.

- MOTET
- EATS: MO
- MELEE
- OBEYER
- LIFELONG
- MORSE
- LOME
- IBEAM
- FELT: ORE
- EYESHOT
- LID: RA
- HOUSE
- LEE: OR
- GRADE
- RISE: LUST

Yesterday's solution



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
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BUSINESS

NBC, staff donate cash, assorted items to flood victims in Hanang

By Guardian Correspondent, Hanang

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC), along with its employees has donated 10m/- cash, food, clothing, and blankets to mud flow victims in Hanang District, Manyara Region.

The donation worth 20m/- handed over on Monday by the bank's Head of Communication and Public Relations, Godwin Semunyu, on behalf of the MD of the bank, Theobald Sabi, aims to ensure that the victims have access to sustenance during this challenging period.

Handing over the donation, Semunyu conveyed the heartfelt condolences of NBC Bank to the flood victims, the government, and all Tanzanians.

He also stated that the bank received with great sadness the news concerning the effects of the incident, including loss of life and property, noting that the bank stands in solidarity with all Tanzanians in comforting the victims of the tragedy both emotionally and materially, and additionally prays to Almighty God for all those injured and the lives lost in the disaster.

"We've decided to use the resources available to us as an institution, as well as

individually as employees, to assist our fellow brethren currently going through this difficult period due to this terrible disaster. In addition to the cash amount, we have also brought various food items such as flour, rice, beans, and essential items like blankets and sheets to help them during this difficult period," said Semunyu.

The bank official also emphasized the bank's gratitude towards the government and the wider community for their unwavering commitment to aiding the victims and the injured.

"The outpouring of assistance from various stakeholders, including government organizations and individuals, has been immensely comforting for those affected by the flood. NBC Bank pledges to continue its efforts to support the community in any way possible, ensuring that no one is left behind during the recovery process," he said.

Dr Jim Yonaz, Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), expressed gratitude to NBC Bank and its employees for recognizing the importance of reaching out to the flood vic-



NBC Head of Communication and Public Relations, Godwin Semunyu (5th R), leading other employees of the bank in handing over a donation of cash amounting to 10m/-, food, clothing, and blankets to flood victims in Hanang District, Manyara Region. The donation, with a total value of 20m/-, was handed over on Monday in the district. Seen receiving the donation is the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), Dr Jim Yonaz, (3rd L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

tics. The move, according to him, proves the bank's genuine commitment to collaborating with the community.

He said the government has implemented various initiatives to help the flood victims in Hanang District. It has deployed emergency response teams comprising medical professionals, social workers, and volunteers to provide on-ground support to the affected communities.

"The teams are working tirelessly to distribute aid, assess the damage caused by the flood, and identify the most vulnerable individuals who require immediate assistance. This joint effort seeks to provide comprehensive support to the flood victims and help them recover from the devastating impact of the disaster," he mentioned.

He further urged other organizations

and individuals to come forth to provide aid to those in need.

The flood in Hanang District has caused significant damage, with houses and farmland destroyed, lives lost and many people displaced. The government has been working tirelessly to provide aid to the affected communities, but the scale of the disaster demands the involvement of other stakeholders as well.

Venture into modern technology, innovation to reduce counterfeits, PS urges industrialists

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INDUSTRIALISTS have been urged to use modern technology and innovation to reduce counterfeit products in the market outlets and be able to export.

Dr Hashil Abdalah, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam, when speaking at the 30th annual general meeting (AGM) of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI).

He said that it is the duty of industrialists to ensure that the products reaching consumers are genuine, meet the required standards, and are safe.

"I call upon industrialists and all the stakeholders to work even more closely to improve and adhere to the regulatory framework, and in this particular case, enforce the laws against counterfeit products," he said.

Dr Abdalah said by utilizing modern technology such as security markings and tracking systems, they can more efficiently monitor and control the circulation of counterfeit products. "I encourage all businesses to ensure that they aim at producing high quality and genuine products and be in the forefront in combating counterfeits, and I would like, once again, to express my sincere thanks to CTI for the efforts they demonstrate in bringing positive change to the industrial sector," he said. "The CTI spirit - will enable us to continue working together towards achieving not only the goal of combating counterfeit products but also ensuring that the industrial sector in the country operates competitively and in a conducive environment," he said.

He commended efforts made and interventions taken by CTI in the industrialization process and assured that the government, through the ministry, will continue

to work hand in hand with CTI to ensure that they achieve the set government's objectives. He said combating counterfeit products is not only a legal or economic issue but it is also ethical responsibility to protect our consumers by ensuring the quality and safety of the products they use. "A free-counterfeit market will not only safe-guard the country's economy but also enhance our industries competitiveness and access in the regional, continental and world markets," he said. CTI chairperson, Paul Makanza said it is difficult for the industrial sector to have fair competition in the market if there are fake products coming in from abroad.

He said the economy cannot grow and reach the development vision if the industries do not perform well, so there is a need for the government to address all the obstacles faces businessmen and industrialists.

"We thank the President for creating a good business environment since she came into power, we know there is still a

lot to do but the direction has been good and we have seen that we should say thank you because we know a lot of good things will come," he said

He said CTI is grateful to see that the infrastructure that will help businessmen and industrialists in their production activities such as the construction of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) and the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) is progressing well. "Our first priority now is electricity, but if the JNHPP is completed, the electricity issue will be certain, but what we are asking is to be completed on time and the SGR, if completed, will help us a lot because apart from the quick transportation it is much cheap than transporting by road," he said.

He asked the government to reduce the cost of electronic stamps as they have been increasing the costs of industrialists and traders and causing the price to be high and a burden on consumers.

Ministries and Sagcot launch drive to popularise poultry products chain value

By Guardian Reporter

THE government in collaboration with key stakeholders has launched a campaign to popularise poultry products value chain because birds can be tamed in all villages and towns of Tanzania.

In that campaign two ministries are actively involved including Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and President's Office, Regional Administration and Local governments (PO-RALG) are teaming with the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT).

The move is an effort to increase speedily jobs for women and youths at grassroots level.

A committee to oversee implementation of the initiative was launched recently, chaired by Elizabeth Swai.

Women are the majority in Tanzania (31,687,990 or 51.3% of Tanzania's total 61,741,120, according to the 2022 census) and are known to have very limited disposable income. The youth (21,312,411 or 34.5% of the total 61,741,120) is growing group numerically, struggling for share of jobs in a fierce competition of jobs.

Prof. Riziki Shemdoe, Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries said that success of the initiative has twin obvious advantages. Firstly, it will create jobs for the two largely vulnerable groups. Secondly, it will positively contribute to the growth of gross domestic product (GDP).

The two ministries and Sagcot will award individual livestock officers and regions that will per-

form best.

Prof Shemdoe said: "The poultry industry is a momentous sub-sector in the livestock sector and one growing very fast. We already know that 55.4 percent of farming families simultaneously tame these valuable birds and the sub-sector is creating jobs for them."

The initiative seeks to sharply increase disposable income of the two groups in a nationally organised and sustainable manner and its execution will be part of the implementation of the build a better tomorrow (BBT) programme. As a form of organised encouragement, active individual officers and regions will be awarded for outstanding performance, the PS underscored.

He also announced that the Royal Dutch Embassy, US Grains Council and Silverlands Tanzania will support the initiative.

Swai said the technology that is currently in use in the subsector is growing very fast and current keepers are unable to cope with the pace of the technology for lack of capital. "This is a pressing challenge. We hope to solve it by all stakeholders working together," she said.

The Sagcot Policy Manager, Khalid Ngaramo, said formation of the committee is an important step in promoting the poultry sub-sector because, he said, the challenges will be tackled promptly and solved. "For our part, we shall do our best to ensure Tanzanians in this industry benefit to the utmost," he pledged.

Sagcot, launched in 2010, has invaluable experience in attracting private capital in crop value



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Prof. Riziki Shemdoe speaks at the launch of the committee that oversee the implementation of the agreement between the Ministry and other stakeholders in the chicken value chain in Dodoma over the weekend and coordinated by the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

COP28: World Bank unleashes \$100m for Climate-Smart Agriculture in Africa

By Rina Hoffman

IN another important announcement at COP28 in Dubai, the World Bank Global Director for Agriculture and Food Global Practice, Martien van Nieuwkoop, confirmed a financial commitment to boosting 'climate-smart' agriculture in Africa.

The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) is set to inject \$100 million into the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project between 2024 and 2025.

The Bank's Vice President for Sustainable Development,

Juergen Voegelé, announced earlier at COP28 that \$100 million would be made available to CGIAR in 2024-2025. Today's announcement confirms that the funds would support the CGIAR's AICCRA initiative.

"I am thrilled that the World Bank wishes to continue supporting AICCRA's mission," Director of AICCRA Ana Maria Loboguerrero, who spoke after Martien van Nieuwkoop, said at COP28. "The unique approach of our partnerships solves what many argue is the 'missing middle' between research and development to strengthen the resilience of the agricultural sector to the



threat posed by climate change."

The project, facilitated by CGIAR – the world's largest publicly funded agricultural research network – brings together CGIAR scientists and researchers to collaborate with African national and regional partners.

Their focus is on scientific and technical capacity development, with the goal of "enhancing climate information services and validating packages of technologies, services or practices for agriculture that are validated to be 'climate-smart'," the CGIAR explains in a statement.

Geographically, the initiative focuses on six countries in Africa: Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Zambia; it also supports regional organizations in West Africa and East and

Southern Africa.

The total pledges for CGIAR's AICCRA project have reached an impressive \$890 million so far at COP28, "placing the future of agriculture at the heart of climate discussions for the first time," as the CGIAR notes.

"With this funding, CGIAR will expand its work supporting smallholder farmers in low- and middle-income countries to shape more resilient, sustainable, and equitable food systems, reduce emissions from farming, and boost access to nutritious, healthy diets," CGIAR explains, adding that the rate of return on investment has "recently been calculated to have an overall benefit-cost ratio of 10 to 1 across all CGIAR research."

By the end of 2023, the project aims to support nearly five

million smallholder farmers and other stakeholders across Africa, helping them with decision-making regarding crop cultivation and livestock management in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

The project, according to the CGIAR, is "on track to reach or surpass all the objectives and performance indicators agreed with the World Bank Group at its inception."

The project's positive impact is evident. In Mali, 150,000 farmers increased yields and incomes thanks to the digital app RiceAdvice for sustainable rice cultivation, which they had previously adopted.

"Malian farmers increased their income by USD 364 per hectare when using drought-tolerant varieties and following RiceAdvice recommendations," the CGIAR writes.

In Zambia and Senegal, AICCRA and partners are implementing accelerator programs for SMEs to "de-risk" investments into climate-smart agriculture businesses. In Zambia, the accelerator program has "reached nearly 390,000 farmers so far and even secured a 200% return on the original project funding from private investors at a Zambia investor forum," the CGIAR says.

SBL joins elite UN affiliated corporates on sustainability

By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) yesterday signed an agreement to become a member of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) effectively joining the league of elite companies in the world that collaborating with the UN to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sustainability pro-

grams.

Renowned for its extensive community support programs in Tanzania in the areas of water stewardship, positive drinking, inclusion and diversity, tree planting among others, SBL has also committed to continue creating a positive impact to communities until 2030 in line with deadline set by the UN for delivery of the SDGs.

Obinna Anyalebechi, SBL managing director said: "Sustainability is a key priority for our business as we strive to create a positive impact in the lives of community members where we source, produce, live and sell our products."

Through its 10-year sustainability action plan dubbed Society 2030 Spirit of Progress, SBL has undertaken a series of community

programs countrywide including 25 water projects which collectively benefit an estimated two million Tanzanians with clean and safe water.

The company is also implementing water conservation initiatives across its breweries located in Moshi, Mwanza and Dar es Salaam with a target to reduce water usage by 40% by 2030.

"To sustain its sourcing of cereals from local farmers, the company is running an agribusiness program with a network of over 400 farmers, which involves training them on regenerative agricultural practices," Anyalebechi said.

He said that the company three years ago launched a scholarship scheme for bright students from the farming communities to sup-

port the agribusiness program. Over 230 students have been awarded the scholarships. Commending SBL for the bold move to join UNGCT, the organization's executive director Marsha Macattayambi said the brewer's sustainability initiatives are a bold demonstration of the role that the private sector should play to support delivery of the SDGs.

AfDB to tackle illicit financial flows, corruption in Africa, says Official

ABUJA

IN its efforts to tackle illicit financial flows and corruption in Africa, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has begun the training of relevant stakeholders to build their capacity.

Dr Eric Ogunleye, the Acting Director and Division Manager, Policy Management at the African Development Institute of AfDB, said this in Abuja.

Ogunleye spoke during the Public Financial Management (PFM) Executive Training Education of the Public Financial Management Academy for Africa (PFMA) held in Abuja.

Reports have it that the training was organised for mid-to senior-level officials from the Ministries of Finance and Planning, central banks, and other public financial management institutions from across African countries.

Participants were also drawn from key anti-corruption agencies and statistical offices.

The theme of the training is "Enhancing Accountability, Transparency, and Curbing Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows in Africa."

"This training, which will be held from Dec. 11 to Dec. 15, is special because it is the first hybrid training for this cohort.

"It is also special because our deserving participants will graduate and receive certificates at the end of this module in a few days.

"I am excited because the journey we started together in March 2022 has gradually come to a happy and beneficial ending," Ogunleye said.

According to him, several pieces of positive feedback have been

received from participants on how the training has greatly benefited their daily work, career, and professional development.

He said the Academy also received commendations from its stakeholders on the impact these trainings were making in their countries.

"Following this, several requests for country-specific and sub-national versions of these trainings from regional member countries have been requested.

"This feedback has further encouraged and strengthened our commitment to continue delivering the 18 months of structured executive training," Ogunleye said.

He said the training aimed to deepen participants' understanding of accountability, transparency, anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism, and anti-illicit financial flows and obligations in mitigating the risks.

Ogunleye said that participants were expected to have an improved capacity to design and implement robust institutional, policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks at the end of the training.

The director said the improved capacity should also enhance accountability and transparency and curb corruption and illicit financial flows in Africa, among other things.

On evaluation, Ogunleye said: "This is a competency training programme that will lead to certification at the end of the 18-month training period, which for this cohort would be at the end of this training.

"Therefore, some criteria have



Vice President for Sustainability and Corporate Affairs (Africa) at AngloGold Ashanti, which operates Geita Gold Mining Limited, Simon Shayo, speaks at the Employer of the Year 2023 award ceremony in Dar es Salaam, organised by the Association of Tanzania Employers. Shayo said that at GGML, which one of the sponsors of the event was, more than 80 per cent of the company's management is held by Tanzanians. Having so many Tanzanians in senior management positions sets the company apart from other private companies in the extractives sector. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

been developed for the course and participants' evaluation, accreditation, and certification.

"On the last day of the training, we will send you some survey evaluation questions, requesting

that you provide feedback on this training. "Please endeavour to respond

to those survey questions, as that would help us improve the training programmes," he said.

Porgera gold mine set to restart production this month

TORONTO

BARRICK Gold Corporation has announced that the Porgera mine in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is set to resume operations later this month and is expected to start pouring gold again in the first

quarter of 2024.

This follows the satisfaction of the conditions to the Porgera Project Commencement Agreement, in which a new ownership structure was agreed.

Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow said the re-

opening of the mine represented another victory for the company's host-country partnership model which had been very successful in Tanzania and had also been adopted for its new Reko Diq copper and gold project in Pakistan.

"It's been a long journey but in

the process we have secured the buy-in of all the stakeholders and we look forward to steering the mine back to world-class production. It undoubtedly has the potential to join our Tier One gold mine portfolio, the largest of its kind in the industry," he said.

The equity in New Porgera is

shared 51% by PNG stakeholders, including local landowners and the Enga provincial government, and 49% by Barrick Niugini Limited (BNL), a joint venture between Barrick and Zijin of China. BNL will operate the mine.

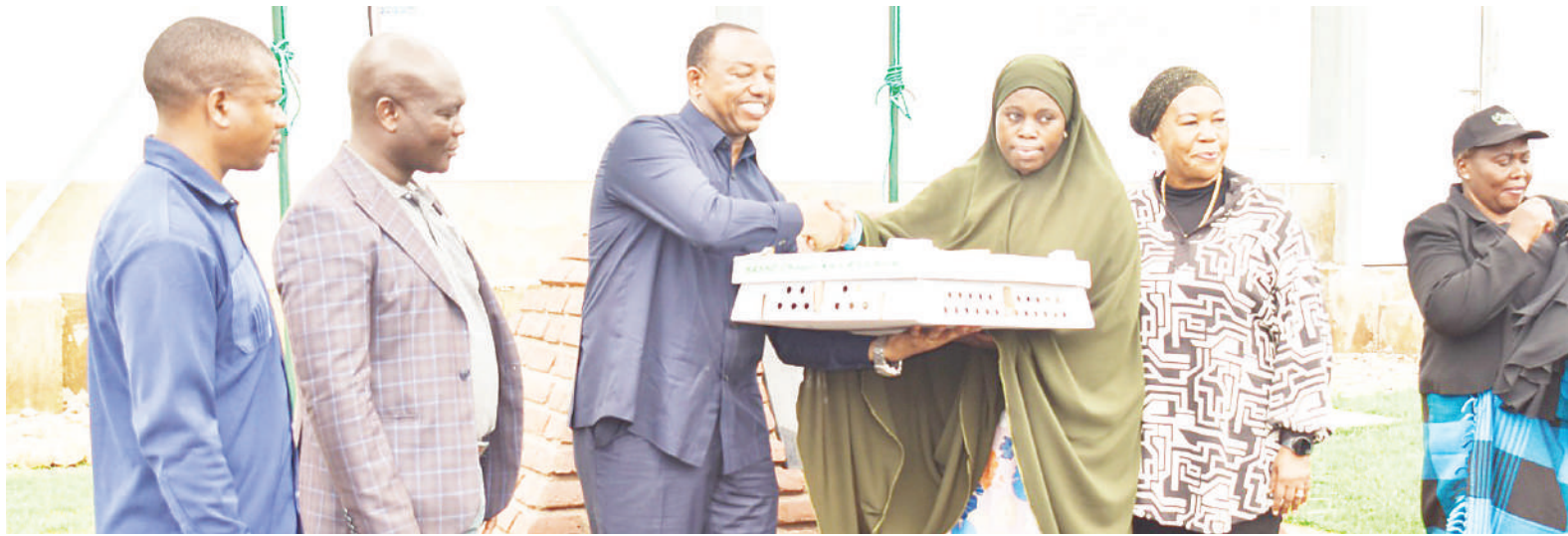
The PNG shareholders will re-

ceive 53% of Porgera's overall economic benefits. At an assumed gold price of \$1,800 per ounce, this is expected to amount to more than \$7 billion over the mine's projected 20-year life.

Speaking at the PNG Resources & Energy Investment Conference in

Sydney, Australia, yesterday, Prime Minister James Marape hailed the revival of a major contributor to the country's economy.

The partnership structure gives PNG stakeholders a majority interest in a key resource for the first time.



Equity for Tanzania (EFTA), managing director, Nicomed Bohay (3rd L) hands over part of the 500 chicks to Flora Sando in Arusha on Monday through an unsecured chicken loan from the firm. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

EFTA inaugurates transformative chicken financing leasing product

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

EQUITY for Tanzania Limited (EFTA) has launched transformative chicken financing leasing product following the approval granted by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

Nicomed Bohay, Equity for Tanzania (EFTA), managing director said on Monday when speaking during the function to hand over part of the 500 day-old chickens (DOC's).

The move is part of the firm's commitment to support the government's driven "Built Better Tomorrow" - Youth initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) programme, which is aimed at aim promoting Tanzanian youth and Women engagement in agribusiness for sustain able food systems and improved livelihoods.

He said that in support of these government initiatives, EFTA has introduced a pilot program offering

collateral-free chicken leasing to young people and women. "This approach allows these groups to actively participate in production activities through loans without collateral, addressing the challenges they face in accessing loans from mainstream financial institutions like banks," he said.

"Many young people and women face hurdles in securing loans from our financial institutions due to a lack of collateral. Recognizing this challenge, we introduced collateral-free chicken loans. Chickens offer a short-term investment cycle, and within a few months, borrowers start seeing returns on their investment," highlighted Bohay.

"For instance, with the Day-Old Chickens (DOC's) we're providing, borrowers can start selling them after 6 weeks. This investment

offers returns within a short period, encouraging numerous young people to explore this opportunity," Bohay added.

Bohay further detailed that in the program's inaugural year, EFTA aims to offer up to 250,000 chicken loans nationwide, with over 31,000 chickens already delivered to farmers from diverse regions in the country.

"We have commenced training for farmers willing to avail themselves of these loans, and for those who have completed the training, we have already provided their chickens. Approximately 30 farmers have already benefited, and a total of 31,000 chickens have been distributed so far. Therefore, I encourage more young people to take advantage of these loans; it's a beneficial opportunity," emphasized Bohay.

In collaboration with Day Old Chickens

(DOC's) suppliers such as Silverland Tanzania Ltd., EFTA also provides financing for necessary items like feed, vaccines, and drinkers on loan until farmers are ready to market their chickens.

Mwanamvua Ngocho, the Marketing Manager of Silverlands Tanzania Ltd., expressed strong confidence in this chicken leasing product loan program, stating its potential to enable many youths and women in the country to engage in poultry farming.

"Previously, our clients were experienced farmers with substantial capital. However, with EFTA's introduction, more opportunities are opening up for young people and women. We are fully committed to providing comprehensive training on modern poultry farming and producing high-quality Day-Old chicks," mentioned Ngocho.

"We aspire to witness economic prosperity among our people as poultry farmers, as well as the enhancement of community health through the consumption of high-quality chicken meat and eggs from our farmers," Ngocho added.

Daniel Loroku, the Acting Arusha Region Assistant Secretary for Economy and Production, expressed gratitude to EFTA and Silverlands Tanzania Ltd for supporting young people through this collateral-free chicken leasing program. He views this as a significant opportunity to empower many youths and women to be self-employed through poultry farming.

Flora Danford Sando, one of the program's beneficiaries, shared her story after completing her studies and struggling to find employment. "After finishing my studies, I searched for a job without success. I tried to secure loans from banks to start a business but faced difficulties.

Feeling discouraged, I learned about this collateral-free loan from EFTA," recounted Sando.

"I promptly approached EFTA, aligning their procedures, and within the three-weeks training I underwent at the Silverlands Poultry training Centre in Iringa. Today, I received over five hundred Day-Old Chicks, together with high quality feed, drinkers and vaccine, which I'll use to raise for 60 days and then sell targeting forthcoming holidays when demand for chicken meat usually increases. After the sale, I plan to repay my loan and expand my business," she joyfully expressed.

This chicken leasing program for poultry farmers provides a solution to the unemployment challenge faced by many youths and women. It offers abundant opportunities for youth to become self-employed and consequently alleviating them from poverty by boosting their income. The impact is also to address the social problems of malnutrition and stunting in rural communities as through this program chicken meat and eggs shall provide necessary nutrition to rural households, and hence consequently contributing to the Tanzanian national inclusive economic growth.

EFTA acknowledged as an Alternative Financial Service Provider at the 2023 Tanzanian Banking Awards, stands as a leading financial leasing institution empowering micro, small, and medium entrepreneurs, as well as farmers, through collateral-free equipment loans.

EFTA has pioneered a groundbreaking initiative once again, introducing innovative chicken financing without the need for collateral, marking a significant milestone in Tanzanian financial services.

Kenya's railway evolution fuels nation's renewal

NAIROBI

THE Nairobi Railway Museum, nestled in Nairobi's bustling downtown, remains a popular destination for both locals and tourists eager to delve into Kenya's rich history.

Housing an array of archived literature, locomotive prototypes and aging railway tracks, the museum serves as a vivid storyteller of Kenya's evolution from a colonial outpost to an independent nation, relentlessly on the move.

Sevily Mwailemi, a 58-year-old locomotive driver with over three decades of experience, emphasized the pivotal role of Kenya's history tied to its railway infrastructure.

The first meter gauge railway snaking from Kenya's port city of Mombasa to the hinterlands, ending at the Ugandan border, was constructed by British colonialists from 1896 to around 1901. Dubbed the "Iron Snake," the railway facilitated the transportation of raw materials, solidifying British colonial economic interests.

After Kenya gained independence in 1963, the meter gauge railway persisted in its role of cargo and passenger transportation. And diesel-powered locomotives replaced steam engines.

However, Mwailemi said, the lingering colonial legacy was associated with the old railway despite its contribution to Kenya's development.

Having honed his skills along this historic line for over three decades, Mwailemi transitioned in 2021 to the Chinese-funded Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), which he said has significantly contributed to the nation's economy.

"The SGR, I can say, is the largest project since independence. It handles most imports into Kenya and its neighbors," he said. "It is one of the largest contributors to our country's economy."

Launched in 2017, the 472-kilometer Mombasa-Nairobi SGR drastically reduced travel time and emerged as the preferred choice for commuters, playing a pivotal role in stimulating commerce and empowering smaller towns along its corridor.

Mwailemi said that the SGR passenger service, dubbed Madaraka Express, is a symbol of pride for Kenyans. "Madaraka simply means independence and self-governance," he said, adding that he is gradually learning new technologies associated with the modern commuter train service.

The Mombasa-Nairobi SGR, often referred to as a fruit of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is also a flagship project of Kenya's Vision 2030 long-term development blueprint. It is a critical component of the northern corridor of the East African Railway Network and has a phase 2A, which runs from Nairobi to the Rift Valley town of Naivasha, covering 120 kilometers.

The SGR has operated seamlessly for over 2,300 days, ferrying millions of passengers and tons of goods, contributing significantly to Kenya's socioeconomic growth.

Dennis Munene, executive director of the China-Africa Center based in Nairobi, highlighted the contrast between the extractive nature of the old railway and the developmental impact of the SGR.

"The old Kenya-Uganda railway was more of an extractive railway where colonial masters used to get raw materials from the hinterland to the Indian Ocean for shipping to their countries," Munene said, noting that the SGR, a collaborative effort between China and Kenya, fosters regional integration and inclusive development.

As Kenyans celebrates the country's 60th independence anniversary, Munene emphasized the continued significance of railway development in steering a prosperous and inclusive future for the nation.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
WEDNESDAY 13 Dec			
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	13:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
5:30	Uwajiza wa Mazoezi	13:30	Jungu kuu rpt
6:00	HABARI	13:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	14:00	Shamsham za pwanji rpt
7:30	HABARI	14:55	Habari za saa
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	15:00	Meza huru
8:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Watoto wetu
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	17:00	The Base
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	18:00	Jiji Letu
9:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Mapishi
10:00	Watoto wetu	19:30	Jajina
10:25	Igizo: Filimbi rpt	19:00	Uasifi wako
10:55	Habari za saa	19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	20:00	Habari
11:55	Habari za saa	21:05	Malumbano ya hoja
12:00	Al Jazeera	23:00	Habari
12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	23:30	Music: The Base
12:55	Habari za saa	00:30	Al Jazeera
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	FRIDAY 15 Dec	
13:55	Habari za saa	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	5:30	Uwajiza wa Mazoezi
14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	6:00	HABARI
14:55	Habari za saa	6:40	Kumekucha
15:00	Meza huru	7:30	HABARI
16:30	Watoto Wetu	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
17:00	Jiji Letu	8:55	Habari za saa
18:00	Igizo: Mzengwe	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
18:15	Jajinda la wanawake	9:30	Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon
18:30	Kipindi maalum: BOT	9:55	Habari za saa
19:00	Soap: In Love with Ramon	10:00	Watoto wetu
20:00	Habari	10:55	Jajinda la wanawake
21:05	Albu Yako	11:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT
21:10	Kipindi maalum: Watumishi Housing	11:20	Jajina
21:25	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	11:55	Habari za saa
22:30	Soap: Uzalo	12:00	Al Jazeera
23:00	Habari	12:30	Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
23:30	Music: The Base	12:55	Habari za saa
00:30	Al Jazeera	13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
THURSDAY 14 Dec			
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	13:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
5:30	Uwajiza wa Mazoezi	13:55	Habari za saa
6:00	HABARI	14:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
6:40	Kumekucha	14:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
7:30	HABARI	14:55	Habari za saa
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	15:00	Meza huru
8:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Watoto Wetu
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
9:30	Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon	17:30	Kisiam
9:55	Habari za saa	18:00	Jiji Letu
10:00	Watoto wetu	18:15	Top ten
10:30	Shamba lulu	19:00	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa	19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
11:00	Ripoti maalum rpt	20:00	Habari
11:55	Habari za saa	21:05	Kipima Joto
12:00	Al Jazeera	23:00	Habari
12:30	Jajinda la wanawake rpt	23:30	The Base
12:55	Habari za saa	00:30	Al Jazeera
SATURDAY 16 Dec			
5:30	Uwajiza wa Mazoezi	7:00	Habari
6:00	HABARI	8:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	8:00	HABARI
SUNDAY 17 Dec			
5:30	Uwajiza wa Mazoezi	7:00	Habari
6:00	Kumekucha	8:00	Al Jazeera
6:40	Kumekucha	9:00	Watoto Wetu
7:00	Habari	10:00	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
8:00	Al Jazeera	11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
9:00	Watoto Wetu	12:45	Mjuzi zaidi
10:00	Soap: Uzalo rpt	13:30	Uasifi wako
10:30	Shika Bamba	14:45	HABARI
21:05	Igizo: Slay Queen	15:00	Kumekucha
21:40	Art and Lifestyle	16:00	Tomorrow Today
22:10	ITV Top 10	16:30	EcoAfrica
22:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	17:00	Dw News Africa rpt
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	17:30	Meza huru
00:30	Al Jazeera	18:00	The Décor rpt
MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM			
ITV			
WEDNESDAY 13 Dec			
6:00	Al Jazeera	12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
6:30	Kumekucha Michezo rpt	13:00	In good shape rpt
7:00	Meza Huru Rpt	13:30	Dw
7:30	Tomorrow Today rpt	14:45	Albu yako
8:00	Dw News Africa rpt	15:15	Rev rpt
8:30	Our Earth	16:00	Dakika 45 rpt
9:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana	16:45	Mzengwe rpt
9:30	Capchat	17:00	The Décor rpt
10:00	Out & About rpt	17:30	Meza huru
10:30	EcoAfrica	19:00	EcoAfrica
11:00	Business Edition Rpt	19:30	Culinary pgm: Culinary Delights
11:30	Innovation rpt	19:30	Jajina
12:00	Meza huru	20:00	Igizo: Slay Queen
12:30	Sports Gazette	20:30	Shamsham za Pwani
13:00	Chetu ni chetu	21:00	Jiji Letu
13:30	Monday Agenda Rpt	21:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
14:00	Capital Prime News	21:55	Capchat live
14:30	Dakika 45	22:15	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
15:00	THE Décor	00:00	Al Jazeera
15:30	Our earth	Mon 11 Dec	
16:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt	06:00	Al Jazeera
16:30	Capchat	06:30	Kumekucha Michezo rpt
17:00	Out & About Rpt	09:00	Meza Huru Rpt
17:30	EcoAfrica	10:00	Business edition
18:00	Dw News Africa rpt	11:30	THE Décor
18:30	Meza huru	12:00	Out and About
19:00	Sports Gazette	12:30	Our earth
19:30	Chetu ni chetu	13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
20:00	Monday Agenda Rpt	13:30	Ripoti maalum
20:30	Capital Prime News	14:45	Sports Gazette
21:00	Dakika 45	15:00	Meza Huru Rpt
21:30	THE Décor	15:30	Spots gazette
22:00	Our earth	16:00	Innovation
22:15	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt	16:30	Culinary
00:00	Al Jazeera	17:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana
Tues 12 Dec			
06:00	Al Jazeera	17:30	Our Earth rpt
06:30	Kumekucha Michezo rpt	18:00	Dw News Africa rpt
09:00	Meza Huru Rpt	18:30	Our Earth rpt
10:00	Business edition	19:00	DW news Africa rpt
11:30	THE Décor	19:30	Jajina rpt
12:00	Out and About	20:00	Mzengwe rpt
12:30	Our earth	20:45	Capital Prime News
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt	21:30	Spots gazette
13:30	Ripoti maalum	22:00	Innovation
14:45	Sports Gazette	17:00	Culinary
15:00	Meza Huru Rpt	17:30	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana
16:00	Tomorrow Today	18:00	Our Earth rpt
16:30	EcoAfrica	18:30	Dw News Africa rpt
17:00	Dw News Africa rpt	19:00	Rev
17:30	Meza huru	19:00	Out & About Rpt
18:00	The Décor rpt	19:30	Capchat
18:30	Shamba lulu	20:00	Capchat rpt
19:00	Innovation	20:30	Capchat rpt
19:30	Our Earth	21:00	Capchat rpt
20:00	Décor Rpt	21:30	Capchat rpt
20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana	22:00	Capchat rpt
21:00	Business Edition Rpt	22:30	Capchat rpt
21:30	Ingood Shape	23:00	Capchat rpt
22:00	Shamba lulu	FRID 15 Dec	
22:30	Bundesliga Kick off	06:00	Al Jazeera
23:00	Culinary Delights Rpt	06:30	Kumekucha Michezo rpt
13:00	Spots gazette	09:00	Meza Huru Rpt
13:30	Filler doc	10:00	Capchat
14:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt	10:30	Décor
14:30	Business Edition Rpt	11:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana
15:00	Ingood Shape	11:30	Capchat rpt
15:30	Shamba lulu	12:00	Capchat rpt
16:00	Meza Huru Rpt	12:30	Capchat rpt
16:30	Dw News Africa rpt	13:00	Capchat rpt
17:00	Meza huru	13:30	Capchat rpt
17:30	Innovation	14:00	Capchat rpt
18:00	Our Earth	14:30	Capchat rpt
18:30	Décor Rpt	15:00	Capchat rpt
19:00	Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana	15:30	Capchat rpt
19:30	Capital Prime News	16:00	Capchat rpt
20:00	Jajina rpt	16:30	Capchat rpt
20:30	EcoAfrica	17:00	Capchat rpt
21:00	Al Jazeera	17:30	Capchat rpt
21:30	Al Jazeera	18:00	Capchat rpt
22:00	Al Jazeera	18:30	Capchat rpt
22:30	Al Jazeera	19:00	Capchat rpt
23:00	Al Jazeera	19:30	Capchat rpt
Sun 10 Dec			
08:00	Al Jazeera	08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	In good shape	09:00	In good shape
10:00	Capchat rpt	10:00	Capchat rpt
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt	11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:30	DW	11:30	DW
12:00	Jajina rpt	12:00	Jajina rpt

Putin says development of Arctic region key priority for Russia

MOSCOW

THE development of the Russian Arctic region is an undeniable priority for the country, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday.

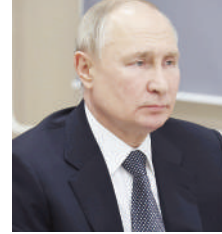
The Russian Arctic zone is "of strategic importance," and the region has large economic potential, Putin was quoted by the Kremlin as saying at a meeting on the development of stronghold settlements in the Arctic.

Putin said that the development of the Arctic is directly connected to Russia's energy potential, its logistics

capabilities, and the country's national security and defense.

"The further comprehensive development of these territories is an indisputable priority for us," he said.

Large investment projects have already been actively developing in the region, including Novatek's Construction Center for Large-Capacity Offshore Structures, which focuses



on the production of liquefied natural gas, Putin said.

Alongside the implementation of large industrial, energy and other projects, it is important to develop the service sector and entrepreneurship to create more opportunities for the population, said the Russian president.

He added that it was equally important to advance healthcare, education, transport, tourism and other sectors to improve the wellbeing of people living in Russia's Arctic cities.

Agencies

US, India and Taiwan representatives collaborate on Cybersecurity under Global Cooperation and Training framework

NEW DELHI

AMID the growing challenges in the field of cybersecurity, a joint workshop was convened under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) on Monday, said the US embassy in India in an official press statement on Monday.

During the workshop, representatives from the United States, India, and Taiwan are meeting on December 11-12 to deepen operational expertise and share best practices on cybersecurity issues.

The event has been co-hosted by the US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti, Taiwan's Representative to India Baushuan Ger, former National Cyber Security Coordinator of India Lt. Gen Rajesh Pant, and the United Service Institution of India, which represented the first in-person GCTF programme held in India under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF).

Ambassador Eric Garcetti said, "The United States is committed to working closely with partners like India and Taiwan to enhance cybersecurity and protect our shared interests in the digital space. When we connect, protect, and detect with technology, instead of fearing what it can do to divide or oppress us, we can take full advantage of the nearly limitless potential that these advances will bring."

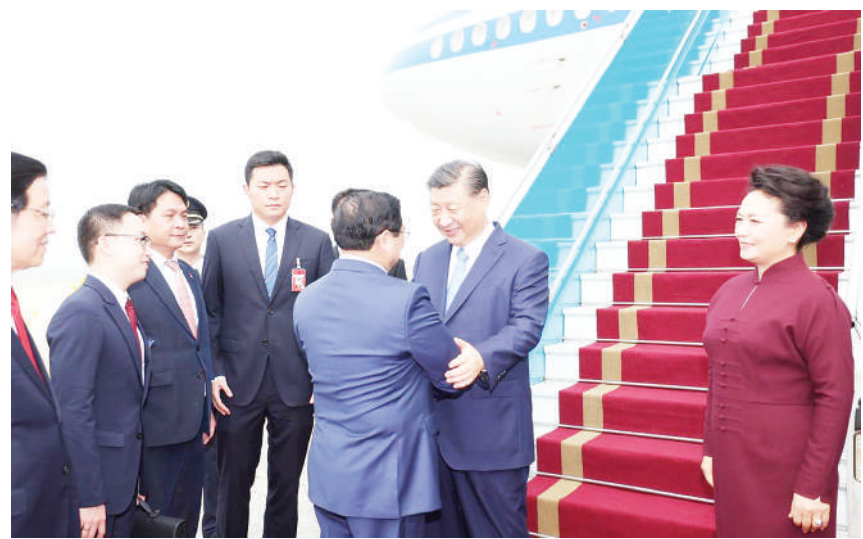
During the meeting, Taiwan's Representative to India, Baushuan Ger, highlighted GCTF's importance as a platform to utilise Taiwan's strengths and expertise to address issues of global concern.

Moreover, India's former National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt. Gen. Rajesh Pant, said for India, with over 800 million internet users and 1.2 billion smart phones, cybersecurity is a major part of national security.

As per the US Embassy press statement, since its launch in 2015, the GCTF has held 70 international workshops with participation from over 120 countries to strengthen connections among experts on such topics as public health, supply chains, humanitarian assistance, digital health and other regional issues.

The United States, Taiwan, the Australian Office, Taipei, and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association jointly administer the GCTF, which serves as a platform for Taiwan to share its expertise with partners around the world.

ANI



Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, for a state visit yesterday. XINHUA

President Xi to discuss overarching issues with Vietnamese leaders

HANOI

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said yesterday that he expects to have an in-depth exchange of views with Vietnamese leaders on the overarching and strategic issues critical to the direction of the relations of the two Parties and two countries.

The leaders of the two sides will also discuss international and regional issues with common concerns, according to a written speech by Xi released upon his arrival for a two-day state visit to Vietnam.

He is scheduled to hold talks respectively with Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and President Vo Van Thuong, and meet with Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and Chairman of the National Assembly Vuong Dinh Hue.

Xi, accompanied by his wife Peng Liyuan, was warmly received at the airport by Pham Minh Chinh and other senior officials.

More than 400 Vietnamese and Chinese people from all walks of life waved the flags of the two Parties and two countries to welcome the Chinese leader.

It is Xi's third visit to the Southeast Asian country since he became general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chinese president.

In the written speech, Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said China takes its relations with Vietnam as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy, adding that he looks forward to taking the visit as an opportunity to push bilateral relations to a new stage.

Connected by mountains and rivers, China and Vietnam enjoy a time-honored traditional friendship, which, jointly forged and cultivated by older-generation leaders of the two countries, is a precious treasure shared by the two peoples, Xi said.

On behalf of the CPC, the Chinese government as well as the Chinese people, Xi extended cordial greetings and best wishes to the brotherly CPV, the Vietnamese government and people.

Vietnam is an important country in Asia and an important member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Xi said in the speech, noting that under the leadership of the CPV, the Vietnamese people in recent years have actively pursued a development path suited to their national conditions and advanced transformation in all aspects, witnessing an increasing global and regional influence.

"We sincerely hope that our two nations will ... steadily promote the building of a community with a shared future that carries strategic significance," Xi said in a signed article published by the Nhan Dan newspaper of Vietnam.

To steadily promote the building of a China-Vietnam community with a shared future, Xi said the two countries need to maintain strategic communication, make good use of their complementary strengths, step up friendly exchanges, and properly manage differences.

Earlier, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that the two sides will discuss upgrading China-Vietnam relations and work to deepen and substantiate the comprehensive strategic cooperation between the two countries.

The visit has fueled high expectations that Beijing and Hanoi will further elevate their relationship, boost cooperation in various sectors and strengthen their long-lasting traditional friendship.

The trip, which coincides with the 15th anniversary of the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Vietnam, is expected to be a new milestone in bilateral relations, Vu told Viet Nam News, the English-language newspaper of the official Vietnam News Agency.

Xinhua

Israeli forces continue to find terror bases in schools, UN facilities in Gaza

TEL AVIV

THE IDF (Israel Defence Forces) reported that soldiers from its Bisha'ah infantry brigade combat team together with fighters from the 636th special forces battalion identified terrorists who were armed with shoulder-fired missiles in the Shejaiya area. The brigade directed aircraft that eliminated the terrorists.

Further evidence of terrorists using UN facilities and schools as cover for their activities was also found.

During an activity carried out by the 460th armored brigade's Brigade Combat Team (special forces) in the Jabaliya

area, fighters located explosive charges, a Kalashnikov and an RPG hidden in bags and UNRWA (The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) in bags inside a residence. In addition, a truck full of long-range rockets was located near a school in the area.

Also, during searches to clear the area of bombs and IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) in Jabaliya, the reserve fighters of the 551st infantry brigade located a lathe for the production of weapons and a rocket launch site of the terrorist organization Hamas, with about 50 launchers, some of which were loaded and ready for takeoff. ANI

THE 2023 Imperial Springs International Forum was held in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province from Dec. 3 to 5.

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the event, stressing that facing unprecedented changes in the world, the times, and history, the human society must unite, uphold mutual learning, openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, advocate common values of humanity, and jointly build a better world.

The 2023 Imperial Springs International Forum, themed

World needs more exchanges, greater inclusiveness and cooperation

"Multilateralism: More Exchanges, Greater Inclusiveness and Cooperation," was jointly held by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the Australia China Friendship and Exchange Association, the Guangdong provincial government, and the World Leadership Alliance-Club de Madrid.

More than 130 guests from political, academic, and business circles in over 40 countries gathered at the forum, where they had in-depth exchanges on

topics such as the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, economic recovery and global cooperation, and the realization of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

They called on all parties to strengthen solidarity and cooperation, practice true multilateralism, and further improve global governance, to jointly create a better future. A declaration was released at the forum.

The world has entered a new period of turbulence and

change. The momentum of world economic growth is sluggish. Destabilizing, uncertain and unpredictable factors are increasing.

Guests attending the forum believe that in the face of the global economic setback, it is crucial for all parties to jointly resist the trend of anti-globalization, oppose "decoupling and severing industrial and supply chains," and promote the building of an open world economy.

The world needs competition, but it more needs cooperation,

said former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, adding that economic development is not a zero-sum game, as all countries can benefit from global economic growth. He emphasized that humankind, by living in the same global village, needs to pay more attention to addressing inequality and promoting inclusive growth.

China's development achievements have had a positive impact on various regions of the world, including Europe, said Esko Aho, former Prime Minister of Finland, who has long been observing

China's economic development. China has created a remarkable development miracle, which once again proves that adhering to open development is the key to fully utilizing resources and seizing development opportunities, Aho said.

He noted that it is important to further understand that building an open world economy and stimulating global economic vitality is beneficial to all countries. Zou Qiyong, Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director of the United Nations Indus-

UN launches appeal for \$46b to respond to crises in 2024

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations on Monday issued an appeal for \$46.4b for 2024 to help 181 million people facing catastrophic hunger, mass displacement and diseases worldwide.

At the unveiling of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2024, Martin Griffiths, the UN emergency relief coordinator, commended the valiant efforts of humanitarians while stressing that the international support provided is significantly insufficient in comparison to the rapidly increasing needs.

"We thank all donors for their contributions, which amount to \$20 billion so far this year - but that is just a third of what was needed," said Griffiths, who is also the UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

"If we cannot provide more help in 2024, people will pay for it with their lives," he warned.

Describing the goals set by UN humanitarians for the upcoming year, Griffiths noted that although 300 million people globally require assistance, their response plan aims to prioritize 181 million of those most in need, spanning 72 countries.

This amount represents a notable decrease from the \$57 billion allocated for 2023, indicating a sharper focus on addressing the most critical needs.

"You can imagine what hard work it has been to reduce those numbers," the UN humanitarian affairs chief said, calling for a focused and a "tough-minded" approach to



Martin Griffiths (front), UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, briefs a Security Council meeting at the UN headquarters in New York, on July 21, 2023. XINHUA

what agencies are going to be able to achieve.

The Global Humanitarian Overview identifies three key drivers of need: conflicts, global economic situation, and the worsening climate emergency.

The world is experiencing more conflicts, which are more entrenched, with devastating consequences for civilians. Almost one child in every five around the world is living in or fleeing from conflict zones.

In 2023, the eruption of widespread conflict in Sudan and hostilities between Israel and Gaza caused a dramatic spike in civilian deaths.

In just five weeks the number of civilians killed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was equivalent to almost 60 percent of the total global number of civilians killed in 2022, which was itself already the deadliest year since

the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

The consequences of funding shortfalls in 2023 have been devastating, as noted by some examples.

In Afghanistan, 10 million people lost access to food assistance between May and November, while Myanmar witnessed over half a million people forced into inadequate living conditions.

Yemen faces a dire situation, with more than 80 percent of targeted individuals lacking proper water and sanitation, and in Nigeria, only 2 percent of women in need of sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence prevention received the necessary aid.

In conclusion, Griffiths underscored that along with funding, safety for both humanitarians and those they are assisting is critical.

Xinhua

French lower house rejects Macron's immigration bill

PARIS

FRENCH lawmakers sent the government's immigration bill back to the drawing board on Monday in a surprise move that cut short debates at the lower house and dealt a blow to President Emmanuel Macron's attempts to pass laws without a majority.

Lawmakers from Marine Le Pen's far-right party as well as many conservatives joined forces to reject the bill on its first day in the National Assembly, adopting a motion proposed by the Greens, which passed by just two votes.

The rejection does not mean the government needs to resign and does not signal the end of the immigration bill.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin, who put the bill before the lower house of the Parliament before its rejection, said he offered to resign during a meeting with Macron.

But Macron (pictured) opposed this resignation, Darmanin told TFI, adding he had been asked by the



president, as well as Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne, to find another way to put the bill forward.

The government can now decide to send it back to the upper house, send it to a joint committee of senators and deputies to find a compromise, or pull it, which is unlikely. It can also use special executive powers to force

its adoption without a vote.

"I offered my resignation because it's normal to do so when you fail (...) we will see what we decide (...) Tonight we will meet with the prime minister, the president asked us to submit him tomorrow the next step for the bill," Darmanin told TFI.

The immigration bill has been a

key plank of Macron's attempts to show he can be tougher on law and order issues while keeping France's doors open to foreign workers who can help the economy.

But short of a majority in parliament, he has struggled to pass a bill that has strict provisions disliked by left-wing lawmakers and more liberal aspects criticized by some conservatives and the far right.

The government has presented the bill as essential to expel foreign criminals more easily. One provision removes a ban on expelling those migrants who arrived in France before the age of 13, as was the case for the alleged Russian-born Islamist militant who killed a French teacher in October.

Other provisions that have been hotly debated are whether non-EU migrants should continue to get access to free medical coverage in France, as well as the government's aim to facilitate the legalization of workers in industries suffering from labor shortages such as cafes and restaurants.

Agencies

Development Organization, stated that the global economic growth rate is still hovering at a low level, and issues such as geopolitical divisions, climate change, and the widening wealth gap are all affecting the global economic development.

It is necessary for all parties to comprehensively assess the factors affecting global economic growth, promote technological transformation, foster green development, improve global governance, and jointly lead the world economy into a new phase of growth, he stressed.

People's Daily

Japan PM backs minister at center of fundraising scandal

TOKYO

A top Japanese minister at the center of allegations of missing funds survived a no-confidence motion yesterday, with embattled Prime Minister Fumio Kishida saying he wanted his cabinet chief to stay in his role despite reports of an imminent reshuffle.

The motion against Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno, a powerful figure who coordinates policy across government on Kishida's behalf, brought by the main opposition party was comprehensively voted down by 278 members to 166.

After the vote, Kishida - who has seen his public ratings slide over the reports of a probe into allegations that some lawmakers received thousands of dollars in unreported funds - said he wanted Matsuno to continue in his post.

Local media had reported Matsuno was among four cabinet ministers that could be replaced as soon as Wednesday, as Kishida has pledged to restore trust in government amid the allegations.

Matsuno, who holds daily press briefings as the government's top



Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida responds to reporters' questions upon his arrival at the prime minister's office on Monday. AFP

spokesperson, earlier on Tuesday repeated that he would respond appropriately to the allegations after examining political funds.

In the wake of the reports of a probe by Tokyo prosecutors, polls published in recent days have shown support for Kishida's administration hitting around 23 percent, the lowest since he came to office in late

2021.

An NHK survey on Tuesday showed support for his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) falling below 30 percent for the first time since 2012, when it returned to power after a blip in its near total post-war dominance of Japanese politics.

Kishida does not need to call an election

until October 2025 at the latest, and a fractured and weak opposition has historically struggled to make sustained inroads into the LDP's dominance.

But time may be running out for the prime minister, who analysts say will struggle to revive his fortunes even with a cabinet shake-up.

The probe centres around the LDP's biggest and most powerful Seiwai-kai faction, formerly led by late prime minister Shinzo Abe and often still referred to as the Abe faction.

They are alleged to have hidden hundreds of millions of yen of political funds over five years in a scheme that saw some lawmakers receiving "kickbacks" from ticket sales to party events that were kept off the books, according to media reports.

But in another potential blow for Kishida, a report by NHK on Tuesday said prosecutors were also examining whether his former faction - which he headed until last week - has also under-reported fundraising income.

Kishida has previously said he had not heard about any kickbacks within his faction. He withdrew from his faction last week in an effort to take a more neutral stand on the escalating scandal.

Agencies

Gold rush mine gets go-ahead

ELKO, Nevada

THE US Bureau of Land Management has issued a Record of Decision ("ROD") approving Nevada Gold Mines' (NGM) plan of operations for its new Goldrush underground mine at the Cortez Complex near Beowawe, Nevada.

The long-life mine is expected to start ramping up production in 2024 after the commissioning of the initial project infrastructure and is forecast to produce 130,000 ounces in 2024 and grow to approximately 400,000 ounces per annum by 2028 (100% basis).

Barrick and NGM have invested more than \$370 million in the project to date and the company anticipates spending a total of approximately \$1 billion (100% basis) to get to planned production. Recruitment is being ramped up and the delivery of production equipment is on track.

The issuance of the ROD follows a multi-year consultation and independent impacts analysis process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, which included specialist environmental studies. In the course of the analyses, all stakeholders were given the opportunity to engage with NGM and contribute to the outcome.

It is anticipated that Goldrush will create a total of approximately 500 jobs during construction and 570 new jobs during operations. Additionally, Goldrush will generate hundreds of millions of dollars in net proceeds tax and gold and silver excise taxes, the latter of which are earmarked for education in Nevada.

NGM, majority-owned and operated by Barrick Gold Corporation, is the world's largest gold production complex. Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow said the addition of Goldrush would not only expand an asset base that already hosts three Tier One mines but was a clear indication of the complex's enormous potential for continuing growth.

Agencies

Climate meet witnesses milestone declarations

DUBAI

MILESTONE declarations and pledges on green farming, food systems, and mobilizing funds to rehabilitate forests and oceans packed the climate agenda at the COP28 summit in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

On Dec 10, which was also COP28 Food, Agriculture and Water Day, a milestone declaration that puts the future of green farming and food systems at the heart of climate talks gained momentum after its signatories climbed to 152 countries from 134 since its launch on Dec 1.

The COP28 Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action stressed that any path to fully achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement must include agriculture and food systems and that they have to urgently adapt and transform to respond to the imperatives of climate change.

The objectives include supporting workers in agriculture and food systems, scaling up adaptation, resilience, and re-

sponses, promoting food security, and strengthening the integrated management of water in agriculture and food systems at all levels to ensure sustainability and reduce adverse impacts on communities.

At the COP28 Presidency Conference on Sunday, the UAE's Minister of Climate Change and Environment Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almhiri said the endorsements of 152 countries cover 5.9 billion people.

It also includes 73 percent "of all the food we eat", she said, and 78 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions that are coming from the food and agricultural sector.

Almhiri said the declaration and 152 endorsements mean it was the political will of the countries to ensure that food systems in the agricultural sector are part of the nationally determined contributions, biodiversity strategies, and adaptation plans.

She also said of the \$83.7 billion in funding commitments mobilized so far, \$3.1 billion will go into the food and agriculture systems but "we need to keep pushing the bar".

"We've been on a great listen-



An observer dressed as Santa Claus gestures as he poses for a photo, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on Monday. REUTERS

ing tour. We've activated something called the 'ambition loop,'" said Almhiri.

"That means we've been listening to many stakeholders, be it indigenous people farmers, local communities, governments, local governments, and listening and connecting the dots... I think this is one of the success recipes of getting so many endorsements today," said Almhiri.

She also said the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, together with the UAE, committed \$200 million in response to threats caused by climate change as part of the agriculture and climate

declaration.

Also on Sunday, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, or FAO, launched a plan that looks to transform the world's agri-food systems from a net emitter to a carbon sink by 2050.

The FAO has identified 10 priority areas - such as livestock, soil and water, crops, diets and fisheries - where following the road map can help push the world closer to achieving "Zero Hunger".

Director of the Agrifood Economics Division at the FAO David Laborde said the road map is de-

signed to avoid "doomism".

According to the report, "Climate-Related Development Finance to Agrifood Systems: Global and Regional Trends Between 2000 and 2021", released by the FAO in connection to the road map, climate finance flowing to agri-food systems was strikingly low and continued to diminish compared to global climate finance flows.

FAO's chief economist Maximo Torero told UN News that work being done at COP28 was "a good starting point".

Meanwhile, COP28's Nature, Land Use, and Ocean Day on Saturday received over \$186 million in commitments and pledges to drive climate action aimed at protecting and restoring nature and climate toward forests, mangroves, and the ocean.

This funding is in addition to the \$2.5 billion mobilized to protect and restore nature during COP28's World Climate Action Summit on Dec 2.

A key policy outcome of Nature, Land Use, and Ocean Day was a joint statement between the COP28 Presidency and the Convention on Biological Diversity, chaired by China. Agencies

Natural disasters affect over 407 mln people in Africa between 2000-2022 - UNECA

ADDIS ABABA

NATURAL disasters affected a total of 407.5 million people in Africa between 2000 and 2022 as climate-induced catastrophic events led to severe humanitarian crises across the continent, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has said.

Amid the growing impact of climate-induced incidents across the African continent, such events have forced some 4.2 million people to become homeless, while killing 53,610 people and injuring 52,205 others, the UNECA said in a statement issued on Monday.

The UNECA said findings of its Economic Report on Africa 2023

(ERA-2023), which will be officially launched next week and titled "Building Africa's Resilience to Global Economic Shocks," shows that climate shocks generally are highly correlated with the cyclical component of gross domestic product (GDP) growth and not with the long-term trend in Africa, which suggests that part of the volatility observed in

growth emanates from climate-induced shocks.

"A temperature increase beyond a threshold of 0.7-degree centigrade results in reduced real GDP growth.

At 1.8-degree centigrade change in temperature, which is expected to prevail by 2030 if current trends persist, we could expect a 2-percentage point de-

cline in real GDP growth," the UNECA said, citing the findings of its Economic Report on Africa.

According to the UNECA, the frequency of natural disasters increases public debt levels directly, in which a unit increase in natural disasters could lead to a 0.25 percentage point increase in the ratio of net public debt to GDP. Xinhua

China, ASEAN countries deepen clean energy cooperation

THE PVS ASEAN Photovoltaic (PV) and Storage Conference and Expo 2023 recently kicked off in Jakarta, Indonesia, with the participation of companies from Indonesia, China, Singapore, and other countries.

The event offered heads of relevant industry organizations, experts, and scholars an opportunity to discuss topics such as the current situation, policy trends, energy transition, and cooperation potential of the ASEAN PV market.

It focused on the PV and energy storage industry, showcasing innovative products and advanced technologies in this sector, including high-efficiency PV modules, portable energy storage products, and household energy storage solutions, among others. These products and technologies cover various scenarios, from daily life to large-scale PV projects in the industrial and commercial sectors.

President Director of PT Adhuse Clarion Events Toerangga Putra noted that this expo served as an important platform to comprehensively showcase the supply and industrial chains of the PV power generation and energy storage industry.

He believes that the expo will help Indonesia to promote clean energy transition and achieve sustainable economic and social development.

China Energy Engineering Group Equipment Co., Ltd. brought to the event a range of high-tech products with independent intellectual property rights, along with a new energy power generation solution.

Based on the development trend of green energy, this solution sources energy primarily from wind and PV power generation, with energy storage as a supplement and diesel generators as the final guarantee. It forms a complete power generation solution suitable for island power stations, campsite power supply, distributed PV power generation, and other application scenarios.

DAS Solar, a new energy technology company from east China's Zhejiang province, introduced a self-developed lightweight solar panel module at the expo. This module adopts fluorine-containing high molecular transparent front panels instead of glass, which effectively solves the issues of heaviness and difficult installation associated with traditional ones.



Photo shows the Cirata floating solar plant in Indonesia. (Photo by Zhang Yizhou)

The module also possesses excellent properties such as UV resistance, aging resistance, and fire prevention. It has attracted quite a few business representa-

tives to discuss cooperation.

According to the latest data released by the ASEAN Center for Energy, renewable energy accounted for 14.4 percent of the total energy supply in ASEAN countries in 2021, with the installed power generation capacity accounting for 33.9 percent of the total.

From 2016 to 2021, installed solar power generation capacity in ASEAN countries increased by 53 percent. By 2025, the installed capacity of renewable energy may take 35 percent of the total installed capacity in ASEAN countries.

The rapid growth of solar power generation has significantly narrowed the gap between ASEAN countries and the set targets, said a report by the ASEAN Center for Energy.

In recent years, China and ASEAN countries have deepened their cooperation in clean energy and achieved multiple accomplishments. China has actively promoted the establishment of the China-ASEAN Clean Energy Cooperation Center, to facilitate the sharing of clean energy technologies, strengthen financial support, and deepen regional cooperation, contributing to the energy transition and sus-

tainable development in the region.

In early November this year, the Cirata floating solar plant in Indonesia, the largest floating solar plant in Southeast Asia, was connected to the power grid and started running at full capacity. Constructed by a Chinese company, the plant is expected to provide clean electricity to approximately 50,000 households.

China and Vietnam have signed a memorandum of understanding on power and renewable energy cooperation. The cooperation between China and Thailand in the renewable energy sector, including wind power and PV power generation, has also achieved positive results.

Secretary-General of ASEAN Kao Kim Hourn said that key areas of cooperation between ASEAN and China include offshore wind energy, hydro-power, power connectivity, and green transportation.

He hoped that both sides would take further actions to jointly promote the green and low-carbon transformation of energy, thereby fostering economic and social development for both parties.

People's Daily

SPORT



Director of Tigo Tanzania's Lake Zone Joseph Mutalemwa (L) hands over a dummy check to Simiyu's Robin Brasio, the winner of the telecom firm's campaign dubbed 'Magifti Dabo Dabo,' during an occasion that took place at Brasio's motorcycle spares shop located at the Ngulanyi crossroads in Bariadi District recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Thriving youth league fuels Uganda's success in 2023 CECAFA U-18 tourney

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

FEDERATION of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) recently made a groundbreaking move that approved the double licensing of young players aged 21 and below, allowing them to play for two clubs in a single season, provided they do not compete in the same tier.

This strategic decision, coupled with the existence of a vibrant youth league system, has been credited for Uganda's recent triumph in the CECAFA U-18 Boys Championship, where they emerged victorious against Kenya in a thrilling final.

According to FUFA officials, the success in the CECAFA U-18 Championship is a tangible outcome of this innovative project.

The double-licensing initiative is a unique approach, allowing players to simultaneously represent two clubs, albeit in different leagues organized by the same federation.

In addition to the double-licensing strategy, Uganda has been fostering talent through the FUFA Juniors League, which initially catered to top-division teams but has now expanded across regions, accommodating more teams and players.

This concerted effort to develop youth talent has contributed significantly to the country's football success.

The double-licensing mechanism permits players like Bruno Bunyaga and Ronald Andabati of URA FC to play for Kiyinda Boys in the FUFA Big League, and then seamlessly return to their parent club for Uganda Premier League matches.

This flexibility enables young talents to gain valuable playing time and experience across different levels of competition.

Several other clubs, including BUL FC, Police FC, and Kataka FC, have embraced the double-licensing system, offering players opportunities to feature in lower divisions while maintaining their connection with higher-tier teams.

Not only does this arrangement benefit the players individually, but it also strengthens the overall competitiveness of Ugandan football.

Moses Magogo, FUFA president, emphasized that the introduction of double licensing was a necessary step to enhance player development, especially

for those who struggle to secure regular playing time at their clubs.

The regulation ensures that double-licensed players cannot participate in the same league and games involving both their parent and secondary teams, preventing conflicts of interest.

To qualify for a double license, players must be under 21 years old, and foreign players are explicitly excluded from this arrangement.

Teams in the top-tier and second division, namely Uganda Premier League and the FUFA Big League, are so far the outfits which can take advantage of the double-licensing option.

The regulations also outline that a player can only be double-licensed to a team in a league lower than their parent club's participation.

Each club is allowed a maximum of five double-licensed players, with FUFA urging secondary owners to field these players for at least 70% of their matches.

While the double license expires after half a season, FUFA permits renewal provided it is with the same secondary club. This careful regulation ensures that the double-licensing strategy remains a tool for player development rather than creating loopholes for misuse.

Uganda's recent success in the CECAFA U18 Boys Championship stands as a testament to the effectiveness of the double-licensing initiative and the commitment to developing a robust football ecosystem.

As the country continues to harness its young talent through innovative approaches, it is poised for sustained success on the football stage.

“

Several other clubs, including BUL FC, Police FC, and Kataka FC, have embraced the double-licensing system, offering players opportunities to feature in lower divisions while maintaining their connection with higher-tier teams

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

ATCL to cover business class ticket for Miss Tanzania to Miss World

AIR Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL), has agreed with The Look Company Limited to enable Miss Tanzania 2022, Halima Kopwe, to participate in the Miss World pageant which is expected to be held in March

2024, in India. The agreement was signed yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Director General of ATCL, Ladislaus Matindi and the Director of The Look Company, Basilla Mwanukuzi. Speaking immediately after signing the agreement,

Matindi said Air Tanzania has been a major stakeholder in supporting the culture, arts and sports sector to promote the talents of young Tanzanians and strengthen the industry which is important for the development of the country.

“It is in this context that today we are happy to officially announce our agreement with the Look Company that organizes beauty contests in the country to enable Miss Tanzania 2022, Halima Kopwe, to participate in the Miss World competition

which is expected to be held in March 2024, in India,” he said.

He said that Air Tanzania will provide Miss World Tanzania, Halima Kopwe with a Business Class flight ticket from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to Mumbai, India and back to

Dar es Salaam. He said Air Tanzania customers who use Business Class get additional services to enable passengers to travel comfortably, considering the changing needs of the customers and market competition.

“We believe that this is a big honor as Air Tanzania we give Halima Kopwe to use a Business Class to Mumbai in India and back, and it will increase her enthusiasm and confidence and motivate many youth in the country to continue fighting for their dreams,” he said.

SPORTS

Crisis-hit Simba SC and Yanga with plenty to ponder in 2023/24 CAF Champions League

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

WITH the CAF Champions League group stage now in full swing, concern is growing in the country over the deeply worrying and shaky showings of Yanga and Simba SC in one of continental football's most revered championships.

Indeed, ahead of the genesis of the competition's group stage campaign, hopes had been high among football aficionados on our shores that Yanga and Simba SC would be firing on all cylinders right off the bat.

Sadly though, despite their gigantic exertions, both Simba SC and Yanga have worryingly struggled to find their feet in this season's CAF Champions League Group Stage.

It should be recollected that Yanga got off to a lamentable start in their opening Group D campaign after suffering a 3-0 drubbing by Algerian contenders CR Belouizdad.

In the wake of that embarrassing setback, Yanga took on serial Egyptian winners Al Ahly and impressively held the hugely respected North African Titans to a 1-all draw.

Perhaps buoyed by that stellar outing, Yanga locked horns with Ghanaian outfit Medeama last Friday and their search for that elusive first victory in the group stage proved to be beyond their reach once more.

Indeed, in what was a disappointing display, Yanga and Medeama SC finished the match in a low-scoring 1-1 stalemate.

That result means that Yanga now finds itself sitting really unhappily in the last place of Group D, which enormously imperils their hopes of progressing to the knockout stage of the CAF Champions League.

It should be noted here that while the wheels are coming off Yanga's campaign, Simba SC have been faring just as badly in Group B, where their fruitless search for a first triumph sadly goes on.

After earning a share of the spoils with the Ivorian powerhouse ASEC Mimosas in their opening Group B encounter, Simba SC then went on to clash with Jwaneng Galaxy of Botswana in a match



Simba SC left-back, Mohammed Hussein (R), seeks to get the better of Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club defender, Hamza Regragui, when the sides met in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B tie at Stade de Marrakech, Marrakesh on Saturday. Wydad Athletic Club defeated Simba SC 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS SC

that frustratingly ended in another draw.

Realizing that a win was urgently needed, Simba SC travelled to Casablanca where they faced off against their hosts and erstwhile African champions Wydad AC in a make-or-break clash for both teams last Saturday.

Heading into the immensely vital football duel, Wydad AC were in the same boat as Simba SC due to the fact that both sides were seeking their first victory in Group B.

And, for the largest chunk of the encounter, it appeared that the scoreless deadlock would not be broken. However, in the dying minutes of the match, Zakaria Draoui netted the winner to seal a razor-thin 1-0 victory for the Moroccan giants against the Tanzanian juggernauts.

Understandably, the result has likely left hordes of Simba SC fans feeling dejected and gloomy as it means that the Msimbazi Street outfit is in last place in Group B.

Faced with this distressing state of affairs, one can only hope that Yanga and Simba SC will be able to stage a stunning comeback just like the phoenix rising from the ashes.

Simba SC eye home wins to secure 2023/24 CAF CL last eight spot

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC have lost three points in the dying minutes of a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B clash against Wydad Casablanca of Morocco at stade de Marrakech, being their first game to lose 1-0 in the season in this campaign.

The Msimbazi side remain winless in three fixtures and sit at the bottom of the CAF Champions League group's table with only two points in the bag.

After the match, Simba SC's head coach Abdelhak Benchikha revealed: “Everything that happened here will give us the accuracy of good preparation for the next game. The most important thing that I have noticed is, we will increase our strength and more to that we will go to fix the gaps.”

As it stands in Group B, ASEC Mimosas, whose only CAF Champions League title came 25 years ago, are on top of the table with seven points having played three matches won two and drew one.

Second-placed Jwaneng Galaxy have registered four points, having won one game, settled for a draw in one and lost one, followed by third-placed Wydad Casablanca with three points.

The Msimbazi Street club will bank on the outfit's next two home matches to claim maximum points and be better placed to make a breakthrough into the quarterfinals.

Fascinating, these two teams who faced each other in last season's CAF Champions League quarterfinal will meet again on December 19 with Simba



Simba SC's newly appointed head coach, Algerian Abdelhak Benchikha. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS SC

SC hosting the Moroccans in what promises to be another action-packed encounter.

Both teams are eager to close the gap with their group leaders. Even though Simba SC lost the game in Marrakech, tactically it was promising to see how Simba defended well away from home.

The next match will be do or die for the Msimbazi Street side to win and be in a better position to qualify for the next stage.

Simba SC will then play against ASEC Mimosas away before hosting Jwaneng Galaxy at home at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in what promises to be a very entertaining encounter for fans to watch.

Returning Leao boosts Milan's Champions League mission impossible attempt

MILAN

RAFAEL Leao returns for AC Milan's last desperate attempt to reach the Champions League knockouts, the seven-time European champions staring at early elimination ahead of their final Group F match at Newcastle today.

Portugal attacker Leao has been out of action for the past month with a hamstring injury but Milan are confident their winger will be ready to start at St James' Park and repeat his mesmerising display against Paris Saint-Germain from a month ago.

The 24-year-old is Milan's undoubted star man, the player who when on form is capable of turning a match in his side's favour but whose performances have been erratic in a troubled season for the Italian outfit.

Milan will need the version of Leao which tore PSG to bits if they are to have any chance of progressing to the last 16 as a painful home loss to Borussia Dortmund in their most recent group fixture left qualification out of their hands.

Leao has scored four times and set up three more this season but has been criticised for lacklustre performances, his equaliser in the 2-1 home win over PSG his first goal in the best part of two months.

"Criticism spurs me on, keep talking because I'll reply on the pitch," said Leao after the PSG win, which was the last time he found the net as he picked up his hamstring knock a few days later at Lecce.

After the Dortmund defeat which left Milan bottom of the group, Yacine Adli said his team had a "two-to-three percent chance of qualifying", and making it to the next round is indeed a tall order.

Milan must beat Newcastle, not an impossible task judging by the 4-1 thumping Eddie Howe's team took at Tottenham on Sunday, but also need group leaders Dortmund to beat PSG who are two points ahead of Milan in second spot.

A 3-0 thrashing in Paris in October means that Milan have to finish on more points than PSG otherwise

it's relegation to the Europa League or - if they don't win in England - elimination from all continental competition.

- Pioli at risk? -

And the team is already at a low ebb after Saturday's last-gasp defeat at Atalanta which left Milan nine points behind Serie A leaders Inter Milan and fans calling for coach Stefano Pioli's head.

Pioli has good relations with the club hierarchy and American owners RedBird, and he has a lot of credit in the bank after leading Milan back to the top echelons of the game.

The 2022 Serie A title and last season's run to the semi-finals of the Champions League have been the high points of the post-Silvio Berlusconi era.

He also gets on well with returning idol Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who was key alongside Pioli to re-establishing Milan as a big player.

Ibrahimovic, who called time on his playing career in June, has been brought in as a "senior advisor" by RedBird with a wide mandate which has been met with confusion from fans and pundits alike and led to suspicion that Pioli's job is at risk.

"When he returned to Milan as a player, he was in the dressing room and had an impact there," said Fabio Capello, a four-time Serie A winner with Milan in the 1990s.

"We don't know if he's allowed in the dressing room or if he's allowed to give Pioli hand, nor do we know whether bringing him in will weaken Pioli's authority."

With just three wins from 10 matches since the October international break, Pioli's authority has already been questioned by fans, and he hasn't been helped by a raft of injuries.

Milan are so short in defence that France's buccaneering left-back Theo Hernandez will again have to fill in at centre-back alongside Fikayo Tomori, further placing the onus on Leao to be the miracle worker.

AFP

Turkish top-flight suspended after 'vile, inhumane' referee attack

ANKARA

THE Turkish SuperLig has been suspended indefinitely after a referee was punched by Ankaragucu's president following a 1-1 draw with Rizespor, the country's football federation (TFF) announced on Monday.

Ankaragucu chief Faruk Koca floored referee Halil Umur Meler with a vicious punch to the face on the pitch following Monday's game, leaving the official with a black eye.

"This vile attack was not only made against Halil Umur Meler," the TFF said. "Today, this inhumane and despicable attack was made against all stakeholders of Turkish football."

"In coordination with our State, all the criminal proceedings they deserve have been initiated against those responsible and instigators of this inhumane attack."

"The responsible club, the Club President, its managers and all the criminals who attacked Halil Umur Meler will be punished in the most severe way."

"By the decision of the Turkish Football Federation Board of Directors, matches in all leagues have been postponed indefinitely," it added.

Rizespor had equalised during injury time before Koca made his way onto the field and attacked Meler.

Meler fell to the ground and was hit again while on the floor in the middle of a melee of players, coaches and officials.

According to local media Meler was transferred to a hospital due to his injuries.

Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned the incident which took place in the capital city, Ankara.

"Sports means peace and brotherhood. Sport is incompatible with violence," Erdogan posted on Twitter, which is being re-branded as 'X'. We will never allow violence to take place in Turkish sports," he added.

The next and 16th round out of 38 of the Turkish top-flight was scheduled for next weekend.

The SuperLig includes well-known players such as Argentina striker Mauro Icardi, ex-Manchester United winger Wilfried Zaha and former Manchester City attacker Edin Dzeko.

The league's title holders and record 23-time winners Galatasaray are in action on Tuesday when they head to Copenhagen in a must-win Champions League game.

SuperLig leaders Fenerbahce and fifth-placed Besiktas are also playing this week in continental competition but in the Europa Conference League on Thursday.

Ankaragucu are in 10th place in the table, four points below Rizespor after the draw.

Elsewhere in European football on Monday, Belgian giants Anderlecht and Standard Liege announced games between the two sides would be played without away supporters until the end of the 2024/2025 season.

The Greek government said football matches will be played behind closed doors until February 12 in an attempt to clamp down on violence at sports events.

AFP

AFRICAN FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR:

Double success for Nigeria as Victor Osimhen and Asisat Oshoala win awards

MARRAKESH, Morocco

NIGERIA's Victor Osimhen has been crowned the 2023 African Footballer of the Year at the Confederation of African Football (Caf) awards ceremony in Marrakesh.

The Napoli player beat Egypt's Mohamed Salah and Morocco's Achraf Hakimi to the prestigious award - the first time a Nigerian has picked up the title since Nwankwo Kanu in 1999.

Nigeria enjoyed double success with Asisat Oshoala retaining the women's award - the sixth time the Barcelona star has won the accolade.

The winners are voted for by a panel consisting of Caf's technical committee plus African media professionals, head coaches and captains. Clubs involved in the group stages of Caf's continental competitions also have a say.

*Osimhen triumph

Napoli's Osimhen, 24, was tipped to pick up the prestigious Caf award for the first time in his career after a stellar 2022-23 season.

He scored 26 times in 32 appearances, including the decisive goal that sealed the Scudetto in May and won Napoli their first Serie A title in 33 years.

The former Wolfsburg and Lille striker was also named the Italian Footballers' Association Player of the Year earlier this month after an outstanding season.

Lagos-born Osimhen scored five goals in four Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) qualification matches as his country reached next year's finals.

He also became the first Nigerian to finish in the top 10 of the Ballon d'Or vote with an eighth-placed finish and was made a Member of the Federal Republic in his homeland.

Barcelona star Asisat Oshoala, 29, made it a night to remember



• L-R: Nigerian striker, Victor Osimhen; CAF president, Patrice Motsepe, and Super Falcons forward Asisat Oshoala during the awards in Marrakesh, Morocco on Monday. Agencies

for Nigeria, winning the Women's Player of the Year title for a record-extending sixth time.

Oshoala - who went to the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand this year - retains the trophy she won last year.

She beat off competition from South Africa and Racing Louisville's Thembi Kgatana and Zambia and Shanghai Sengli's Barbra Banda.

*World Cup recognition

South African Desiree Ellis picked up her fourth Caf Coach of the Year award after leading Banyana Banyana to their first World Cup.

The men's award went to Morocco's Walid Regragui on a great night for the Atlas Lions, who were named the National Men's Team of the Year.

Their heroics at Qatar 2022 - where they became the first African team to reach a World Cup semi-final - also helped Yassine Bounou win the Men's Goalkeeper of the Year prize.

Nigeria's Super Falcons won the Women's National Team of the Year with their Paris FC star Chiamaka Nnadozie picked up the women's goalkeeper award.

Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa were named the Women's Club of the Year after triumphing in the African Women's Champions League for a second time.

Egyptian giants Al Ahly, who won a record 11th Champions League title in 2023, won the Men's Club of the Year award.

On a glittering night in Marrakesh, Caf also revealed who Africa's players voted into the men's and women's Best XI line-ups, and Senegal President Macky Sall picked up the special achievement award.

*2023 Caf awards winners:

Player of the Year (men): Victor Osimhen (Napoli & Nigeria)

Player of the Year (women): Asisat Oshoala (Barcelona & Nigeria)

Coach of the Year (men): Walid Regragui (Morocco)

Coach of the Year (women): Desiree Ellis (South Africa)

National Team of the Year (men): Morocco

National Team of the Year (women): Nigeria

Goalkeeper of the Year (men): Yassine Bounou (Al Hilal & Morocco)

Goalkeeper of the Year (women): Chiamaka Nnadozie (Paris FC & Nigeria)

Young Player of the Year (women): Nesryne El Chad (Lille & Morocco)

Young Player of the Year (men): Lamine Camara (Metz & Senegal)

Club of the Year (women): Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa)

Club of the Year (men): Al Ahly (Egypt)

Interclub Player of the Year (women): Fatima Tagnaout (AS FAR & Morocco)

Interclub Player of the Year (men): Percy Tau (Al Ahly & South Africa)

BBC

PSG's Champions League survival hinges on crunch Dortmund tie

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain take on Borussia Dortmund in Germany today in their final group-stage game with more than just Champions League survival hanging in the balance.

In Group F, the one that had all eyes on it when the draw was made, things could not be tighter as PSG, Newcastle and AC Milan all still have the chance to join already-qualified Dortmund in the knockout stages.

A win for PSG would ensure them of not only qualifying but of topping the group as they currently sit second with seven points, three behind Dortmund and two ahead of Newcastle and Milan.

"The most important thing is to focus on ourselves," said Paris coach Luis Enrique.

"If we win, we're going to finish first, but even if we lose, we could go through to the next phase. It's so complicated, but I hope we can make it easier by winning."

In the return fixture on matchday one, PSG's campaign got off to a flyer when Kylian Mbappe and Achraf Hakimi goals ensured a 2-0 win, giving them a better head-to-head record with the Germans should both sides finish the group level on points.

Since then, they have been up-and-down and a humiliating 4-1 away defeat to Newcastle and a 2-1 loss at Milan were backed up by a 1-1 draw on matchday five against the English outfit.

Although already assured of their place, the onus is still on Dortmund to avoid defeat if they wish to ensure top spot and a better draw for the next round.

"We want to get first spot and avoid the crazy good teams. We don't want to go out in the round of 16," said Dortmund defender Mats Hummels.

In the group's other game, Newcastle's first Champions League appearance in 20 years could end early when they host seven-times winners Milan, with both sides on five points and needing victory to have any hope of qualifying.

- Knockouts or bust -



It has been a difficult Champions League campaign for Kylian Mbappe and his PSG teammates. Agencies

Fail to win and PSG will seriously risk bowing out of Europe's premier competition at the first hurdle, that is what is immediately at stake for coach Luis Enrique and his team.

Since Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) took over PSG in 2011, the club has never failed to qualify from the group stages of the Champions League, reaching the semi-finals in 2021 and the final the year before.

Back-to-back exits in the round of 16 the last two campaigns, in part, cost coaches Mauricio Pochettino and Christophe Galtier their jobs.

And an even earlier exit this term could be enough to convince PSG's hierarchy that 2015 Champions League-winning coach Luis Enrique is surplus to requirements at the Parc des Princes, after a mixed start to life in Paris for the Spaniard.

It is a love/hate relationship that PSG have with the Champions League. The club desires it above all other titles and, so far, it is the only one to elude them since QSI's takeover.

Star signings, both on the pitch and in the dugout, such as Lionel Messi, Neymar, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Carlo Ancelotti and Thomas Tuchel, were brought in

for a sole objective that ultimately remains unfulfilled.

And painful defeats against Barcelona in 2017, Manchester United in 2019, Real Madrid in 2022 and in the final against Bayern Munich have traumatised the club and its fans.

- The end of the Mbappe saga? - It is the worst kept secret in football that Real Madrid want the France captain, though so far PSG have managed to hold onto their star asset. Another Champions League heartbreak could change this.

At the start of the season, Mbappe was initially frozen out of the first team as he refused to extend his contract, before an agreement was eventually found between the two parties.

Since then, he has been in sensational form in Ligue 1, scoring 15 goals, and notching three strikes in Europe.

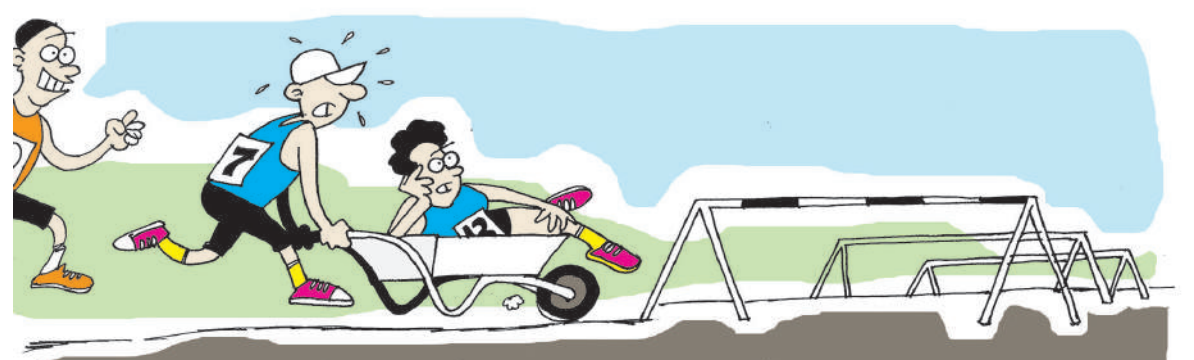
However, since winning everything else possible with the club he joined in 2018, the striker may seek finally to put an end to the endless rumours regarding his future as he searches for European glory.

On a more positive note for PSG, breakout starlet Warren Zaire-Emery is back in contention after recovering from injury.

His performances have been one of the consistent good points of the French champions' European campaign, especially in October's 3-0 home win against Milan.

With their season potentially hanging in the balance in midweek, PSG will need all their stars to align if they are to progress.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**African Footballer of the Year:
Double success for Nigeria as Victor
Osimhen and Asisat Oshoala win awards**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzania representatives in the 2023 East African TaeKwondo competition in a group picture. Tanzania emerged as the total winners of the competition held in Nairobi, Kenya, recently. The medal winners during the competition were Moses Mwanjiliu (gold medal); Navraj Singh Mair (two gold medals), Arzu Yilmaz (gold medal); Mehek Kaur Mair (gold medal), Jaiveer Singh Mair (two silver medals) Ali Hamis Ali (silver medal), Halil Yusuf (bronze medal) and Sedatt Yilmaz (bronze medal). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Teams now gear up for 2024 Mapinduzi Cup in Zanzibar

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE 2024 Mapinduzi Cup championship is set to kick off officially on December 28 and run until January 13, 2024, at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar.

Organized by the government of Zanzibar in collaboration with the Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF), the Mapinduzi Cup commemorates Zanzibar's Revolution Day annually.

This season's championship will feature 12 teams: four from Zanzibar, four from Mainland Tanzania, and one each from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

The participating teams include defending champions Mlandege FC, KVZ, Jamhuri, and Chipukizi from Zanzibar; Azam FC, Simba, Yanga, and Singida Fountain Gate from Mainland Tanzania; URA from Uganda; Bandari from Kenya; Vital'O from Burundi; and APR from Rwanda.

Suleiman Mahmoud Jabir, vice chairman of the competition committee, expressed that this season's championship, marking 60 years of the Zanzibar Revolution, will bring a unique and interesting appeal compared to previous seasons.

The selection process for Zanzibar Premier League teams involved a draw, with no consideration for current league standings.

Jabir explained: "This draw happened as a lottery; we set team papers, and later we chose a team. The lucky ones are the ones included in the championship for this season."

The tournament will adopt a group stage format, with each group consisting of four teams.

Azam FC boasts a record five Mapinduzi Cup wins, followed by Simba with three victories. Mtibwa Sugar and Young Africans SC have each lifted the trophy twice.

Several other teams, including Zanzibar's Jamhuri, MKKM SC, Zanzibar Police, Mafunzo FC, Miembeni FC, and Malindi SC, have secured the title once.

Additionally, Uganda's KCCA FC and URA FC have each clinched the trophy once in previous editions.

Gamondi explains Skudu's lack of Yanga game time



Mahlatsi 'Skudu' Makudubela (Agencies)

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

HEAD coach Miguel Gamondi has explained why Mahlatsi 'Skudu' Makudubela has not played much football for Young Africans since his arrival this season.

Makudubela, 33, joined Young Africans in July on a free transfer after leaving Marumo Gallants following their relegation from South Africa's top flight league at the end of last season.

At Marumo Gallants, Makudubela scored two goals and registered one assist in 22 games and despite the club's domestic struggles he helped them go all the way to the CAF Confederation Cup semi-final.

Marumo were knocked out of the CAF Confederation Cup semi-finals by Young Africans with Skudu playing in both home and away legs in the 4-1 aggregate defeat.

His move to Tanzania made him

the first South African player to ply their trade in the NBC Premier League.

He made his debut in Wananchi Day celebrations against Kaizer Chiefs. His competitive debut came in the Community Shield semi-final match against Azam at Mkwakwani Stadium.

He started the game but lasted for only seven minutes after picking a knock and had to be withdrawn from the pitch.

The injury sidelined him for one month, missing out on the league start and the CAF Champions League qualifiers.

The skillful winger has found game time very limited since his return from injury. He has featured in three league games, playing a total of just 76 minutes.

In the CAF Champions League, he had a 14-minute cameo against Sudan's Al Merrikh in the preliminary round qualifiers.

In the three CAF Champions League Group stage games that Young Africans have played, the former Orlando Pirates

winger is yet to feature.

He was left off the match-day squad against CR Belouizdad and Medeama and was only an unused substitute in the home game against Al Ahly.

However, speaking after Young Africans' Champions League game with Medeama, Gamondi pointed to the injury he picked and the winning situation he found in the team upon his recovery.

"Skudu is like all the players in the team. It is my decision to play him. He picked up an injury in the first match we played. He took three to four weeks to recover. After this situation he came back when the team was doing well. It is not easy to come back."

"We have seven or eight players like Skudu who have not got the opportunity to play. He's a professional and we are very happy with him. When he has the opportunity he must get on the pitch and prove he can be in the first eleven."

"Skudu is a very nice guy, very professional. He's happy to work with us and he knows the situation," he said.

Azam's second-half performance pleases coach Bruno Ferry

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM head coach Bruno Ferry was full of praise for his side's second-half transformation in Monday's hard-fought 2-1 win over JKT Tanzania at Chamazi Complex.

The Ice cream makers were far from their fluid best during a chaotic first half, with Prince Dube and Kipre Junior guilty of squandering presentable opportunities after Sospeter Bajana had given them an early lead.

And Azam were made to pay when JKT Tanzania equalized seven minutes before the halftime break through Najim Benjamin.

Goalkeeper Ali Ahamada came out of his goal line but his awkward clearance found Benjamin who looped the ball into the empty net.

It was a different story after the interval, though, coach Ferry making a multitude of changes with Abdulhamis Suleiman 'Sopu', Yannick Bangala, Iddy Selemeni, James Akaminko and Cheick Sidibe coming on as fresh legs in the second half.

The changes paid dividends with a 85th minute goal from Nado sealing a ninth win in 12 NBC Premier League games this season.

Ferry, whose side now hold a 4-point lead over Young Africans, was impressed with his side's second-half response suggesting they were physically better than JKT Tanzania which counted on their favour.

Discussing the game in general, Ferry commented: "We knew before the game, that's what I said before, this is a good team and today it was really hard. Maybe scoring first in the game did not help us because sometimes you think it would be easy but it wasn't the case."

"Congratulations to our players because they believed until the end that we could win this game. It is fantastic, it is really good to win. We had a better second half. We talked to the players at half-time. Maybe physically we were better and that's what was the difference."

He added: "You can see in this championship there is no easy game, all the teams are good. They have good organisation and good players so we are very happy to win today."

Azam will take on Sudan's Al Hilal in an international friendly tomorrow before turning their focus to the Federation Cup with a home game against Alliance on Sunday.



Bruno Ferry (Agencies)

EATV WEDNESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:30 Movie
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Movie
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 Club Bangers

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

