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54 Chinese climbers arrive for Kili festival

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

A GROUP of 54 mountain climbers from China has arrived here to participate in a Mount Kilimanjaro climbing festival.

John Mongela, the regional commissioner received the group, saying they are among the fruits of the Royal Tour tourism documentary starring President Samia Suluhu Hassan that was premiered in various Western capitals and well beyond.

Upon arrival, the tourists had a conversation with the RC and shared dinner, led by Xia Boyu, a well-known mountain climber, with the batch of arrivals joining others in the festival organized by Gosheni Safaris, a local travel firm.

At the welcoming ceremony the RC said that the visitors' arrival was stirred by the robust relationship between Tanzania and China, elated that they opted to become part of the Mount Kilimanjaro climbing festival.

This the best season to climb the mountain, he said, intimating that the visitors would enjoy the view and the scenery from the highest mountain in Africa. He commended the travel firm for organising the

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Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Pindi Chana (C, holding Tanzania's national flag), India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (R, waving India's national flag), and visiting Indian Fitness icon Milind Soman (L, in maroon T-shirt, also waving flag) grace the flagging off of the India-Tanzania Friendship Run in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. The 120-km race - from Dar es Salaam to Bagamoyo and back - was expected to draw 4,000 participants and climax yesterday, with Culture, Arts and Sports minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro and the Indian High Commissioner as chief guests. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mwinyi extols private sector links, progress during 2023

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has outlined a number of achievements his government recorded in the outgoing year, hailing robust cooperation with private sector.

private sector.

In a ceremony to lay the foundation tone for a new leased tourist island project, he extolled the cemented relations have resulted in a rapid increase of local and foreign stakeholders and partners, a

robust partnership for the Isles' growth expectations.

He said that during 2023 Zanzibar experienced rapid development in efforts to strengthen the economy, infrastructure, trade and investment, along with social ser-

vices like education, health, clean water and electricity.

He similarly pointed at strengthening of democracy and good governance, an uplift in cooperation

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Avocado samples slated for Chinese customs inspection

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE General Administration of Chinese Customs (GACC), an agency responsible for overseeing food products compliance, has picked three sample farms for video inspection that is to be conducted in March.

Mdili Katemani, the plant health compliance and trade facilitation manager at the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) said at a briefing on the development at the weekend that the video inspection for the produce of ample plantations is slated for the start of the avocado harvesting season in March.

The customs agency will conduct a compliance assessment on the first batch of local avocado from specified farms, a major step toward opening up the lucrative Chinese market for local fresh avocado.

Samson Poneja, the Agriculture permanent secretary, conveyed this inspection schedule to the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), with preparations for that

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A man (L) suspected to be behind the Dar es Salaam murder of Tanzania People's Defence Forces officer Deogratius Muna is led to the Dar es Salaam Special Zone police station yesterday after being arrested in Ruvuma Region. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel



Avocado samples slated for Chinese customs inspection

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event involving the plant health authority.

The customs agency selected the Usa Ltd farm close to Arusha, along with Rutuba and Africado farms in Iringa and Kilimanjaro regions respectively for compliance appraisal, as part of the process to allow local avocado to access the new market.

"The video inspection involves processes ranging from harvesting in a farm to transporting to pack houses, cold rooms storage and packaging ready for shipping," the expert noted, asserting that if all goes well, the video inspections involving the sample farms will pave the way for other local plantations to submit such samples, widening the Chinese avocado market access review.

A protocol on sanitary and phytosanitary (PSP) requirements between Tanzania and China was signed during a state visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to China back in September, raising avocado market access with top Chinese leaders.

Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, the multi-million-dollar horticultural industry champion and TAHA CEO, said in response that China's gesture heralds fortunes for local farmers and bolster Sino-Tanzanian bilateral trade.

She expressed gratitude for Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe for having

worked hard with the country's embassy in China to enable the local growers to be audited for compliance, clearing the way for sanitary and phytosanitary certification.

With a population of over 1.4bn China is the 10th leading importer of avocado globally, now poised to become a leading destination for fresh avocados, widening export markets from Europe and the Middle East, she stated.

Despite being the third-largest avocado producer in Africa after South Africa and Kenya, the local produce has largely failed to access export markets for poor standard on SPS requirements, she affirmed.

The first attempt to open the Chinese market was in 2018 when TAHA sought out the government on the issue, brought to fruition five years later with improvements in local avocado farming.

The national strategy for enhancing horticultural export value projects \$2bn per annum from the \$750m at present, widening employment opportunities along the value chain, by 2030.

Statistics indicate that China imported 59.61m metric tonnes of the fruit at \$149m in 2021, reflecting its rising appetite for avocados.

This is driven by demand from its burgeoning health-conscious middle-class, making the butter fruit in China's imported fruit market, she added



One of three just-arrived Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) electric locomotives assembled in South Korea for the Tanzania Railways Corporation is offloaded at the Dar es Salaam Port at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TRC receives 3 electric locomotives, 27 coaches

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA Railway Corporation (TRC) has received new three electric locomotives and 27 passenger coaches from South Korea that will be used in the Standard Gauge Rail (SGR) when operations start.

Masanja Machibya, TRC acting director general said that over the weekend in Dar es Salaam at a function to receive the locomotives and wagons from South Korea that was held at the Port of Dar es Salaam premises

He said that the government

through TRC procured 17 locomotives and 59 passenger coaches to be used when the operation of SGR starts.

Machibya said so far, the government has received four electric locomotives out of 17 from Hyundai Rotem and 56 out of 59 passenger coaches from Sung Shin Rolling Stock Technology (SSRST) from South Korea.

He said that the remaining three passenger wagons will arrive in the country on February next year adding that the remaining 13 locomotives will be arriving on phases.

According to him, the six locomotives will arrive in the country on March and the remaining seven will arrive on April next year consecutively.

Machibya said further that TRC will receive the first set out of 10 Electric Multiple Units (EMU) will start arriving in the country on March next year, noting that another two sets will arrive on May, followed by two sets on July, and September consecutively and the last set will arrive on October next year.

Machibya explained that the ar-

rived locomotives have a capacity of operating at 160 kilometres per hour, saying out of 27 wagons received, 13 are business class with a capacity of carrying 45 passengers and the rest 14 wagons are economy class with a capacity of carrying 78 passengers.

According to him, drive test will continue as per contract to ensure cope with the installed systems before operation starts.

Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) director general Mrisho Selemani said that the port has contributed a lot in transporting machines and

equipment used in the strategic project including rail.

He said already the port of Dar es Salaam has transported rails and other machines used in the strategic projects such SGR and Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP).

"We are proud to be part of the on going major projects such as SGR. Today, we are witnessing locomotives and wagons offloaded. This is true evidence of our participation to ensure the projects are completed on time," he said.

Samia hails progress in reform, new growth initiatives

By Guardian Reporter

THE government spent the just-ended year pushing ahead with the four Rs - reconciliation, reform, resilience and rebuilding - by taking various measures including restoring the Planning Commission, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has declared.

In recorded remarks aired last night as nationwide New Year greetings, the president said that the government strengthened defence and security during the year while controlling inflation and pushing up the national income.

Despite economic problems tied to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian expedition in Ukraine, the national economy was improving during the past year, she said, pointing out that 2023 was the year where the country's defense and security primed up and all the borders were safe.

The president acutely appreciated the military's dedication to rescue and restore normalcy when parts of the country were hit by disaster. "Let me use this opportunity to congratulate them for their courage and patriotism," she remarked, hailing the people for steadily maintaining peace and national unity.

The president singled out control of inflation, as from January to November 2023 price levels decreased to an average of 3.9 percent rise, compared to 4.3 percent rise for the same period during 2022.

Economic growth and national income for the year 2023 rose by 5.2 percent over-



Singida regional commissioner Peter Serukamba (R, in sunglasses) pictured at the weekend presenting to the head of Singida municipality's Malaika wa Matumaini Orphanage, Sr Flora Phaustine, various items President Samia Suluhu Hassan has gifted the centre and Amani Centre for Street Children. Photo: Correspondent Tobias Mwanakatwe

all compared to 4.7 per cent in 2022, with the foreign debt at fairly stable levels, she said, expressing satisfaction with tax collection for the financial year that ended in June 2023.

Revenues reached 22.6trn/-, registering an eight percent increase compared to collections in the year ending June 2022, she specified, emphasizing moves to strengthen the economy, with the government increasing its agro-sector funding from 751bn/- lasto financial year to 970bn/- during this financial year, a sharp rise pegged at 29 percent.

She outlined successes in minerals, noting that there was a 6.43 percent increase in the value of minerals produced and a 5.8 percent increase in the value of minerals sold abroad, earning \$3.15bn.

Tourism was equally buoyant as for the period from October 2022 to October 2023 a total of 1,750,557 tourists entered the country, shooting up from 1,381,881 tourists recorded during the year to end September

2022, she said.

In her remarks, the president used the occasion to instruct the Ministry of Transport to ensure that by late July 2024 standard gauge railway (SGR) train journeys from Dar es Salaam and Dodoma will have started.

Affirming to have heard about changes in the start dates of the trips, the president intimated that the public was tired of the reasons always given in relation to putting off expected landmarks in the project.

Considering that production and growth generally are stimulated by the transport and communication infrastructure, the government was keen with progress in the SGR project, where the Dar es Salaam to Morogoro section as well as the Morogoro to Makutupora portion have been built by upwards of 90 percent, she stated.

She bemoaned intermittent supply of electricity pushing the country to power rationing, expressing satisfaction with progress in implementing the Julius

Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP).

The first power plant is expected to be activated next month and the second plant in March, altogether loading 470 megawatts to the national grid, she said, underlining that these measures spell a permanent solution to electricity load shedding countrywide.

In addition, the government is investing in other energy sources such as gas, solar and wind, to end unreliable power supply altogether, she stated.

Developments in the health sector were significant as during 2023 the government hired 17,309 professionals and allocated 190.9bn/- to buy medicines, to rapidly improve health delivery.

Water investments saw completion of 506 projects, where 436 are rural and 70 are urban projects, with ability to serve 5.7m people altogether, widening average availability of water services to 88 percent in urban centres and 77 per cent in rural

areas, she pointed out.

The government has increased higher education loans funds from 654bn/- during fiscal 2021/22 to 731bn/- for fiscal 2022/2023 for 220,075 beneficiaries from 198,105 loanees earlier.

The government has done well in the international arena by participating in meetings and receiving distinguished guests from various countries, bringing the country various achievements including funds for food security projects, rural communication, infrastructure and market construction, plus the construction of colleges and jobs, she remarked.

In response to environmental impacts including floods and threats of diseases arising from El-Nino rains, the Health ministry, regional administration secretariats and local governments need to take precautions to stem clear risks of outbreaks of infectious diseases, she added, citing malaria as a vivid threat.

Mwinyi extols private sector links, progress during 2023

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with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and the people generally.

"I really thank all citizens, leaders at various levels and all government employees, religious leaders and civil society organizations, the private sector and our development partners inside and outside Tanzania for their cooperation which enables the government to implement its development plans effectively," he stated.

He reserved salutations for Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan and the wider cabinet and leadership, affirming that in the past year, they have witnessed great success in implementing major development projects.

This includes the strengthening of the education infrastructure by building 62 new schools of various levels and providing them with required equipment, he explained, pointing at 10 new well equipped district hospitals and the Lumumba regional hospital for Urban West Region on Unguja Island. Construction of entrepreneurial centres in every district was accomplished along with supporting fishermen and small-scale seaweed farmers with loans and tools, he elaborated.

Zanzibar has also recorded achievement in the construction of a highway reaching 103.5km along with feeder and rural roads totaling 275km, he affirmed, similarly noting urban roads of 100km and the construction of two flyovers in Zanzibar city.

He was equally satisfied with the commencement of the Mangapwani port project, completion of the terminal three of the Abeid Amani Karume international airport that is now operational, thus raising to ten the number of big airlines with regular flights to Zanzibar, from five earlier.

Revenue collection reached 29.3bn/- during fiscal 2022/23 from 6.11bn/- recorded for fiscal 2019/20, he stated, ascertain that the construction of Pemba airport was about to start.

"The government is also constructing modern markets at Mwanakwerekwe, Jumbi and Chuini, rehabilitating the Mombasa vegetable market, he said, equally mindful that the government was in the final stages with major water projects in Unguja and Pemba, to largely finish with water shortages in the islands.

Parking lots are being built in Kijangwani and Malindi areas, access to better housing being improved with the modern houses project at Kwa Mchina and Tomondo in the populous Urban West Region, he stated.

The government will be implementing innovative strategies to further accelerate development in the Isles while strengthening peace and unity, he added.

Deputy PM congratulates Bukombe school teachers

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukombe

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Minerals Dr Doto Biteko has commended primary and secondary school teachers in Bukombe District, Geita Region for their efforts and efficiency recorded during the performance in examinations.

Dr Biteko who also doubles as Bukombe legislator hailed the teachers yesterday when speaking to citizens at Kabuhima, Uyovu ward in the district while on his tour in the constituency.

"Secondary and primary school teachers in this district have given us great respect, we have never experienced academic performance changes for many years in our district, from 2015 and years back, even when we were ranked regionally in the national examinations results standard seven, Form Four and Form Six we were in the last positions, today, the teachers of have done a great job," Dr Biteko said. He said that the good performance was a result of teachers' efforts in classrooms as well as being friendly to pupils and students thus enabling children to love studying and thus performing well in ex-



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Doto Biteko (R), who is Bukombe constituency legislator, with Geita regional commissioner Martine Shigella (2nd-L) when launching a ward at Charles Kulwa Memorial Hospital at Runzewe in Bukombe District yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

aminations. Dr Biteko urged parents to send their children to school and stop being too hard on them when they do badly in exams but rather encourage and support them to do better in future exams. He criticized the behavior of some parents and guard-

ians of not sending their children to school with the intention of marrying them off and getting money. According to him, the government was currently constructing schools of various levels in the country so the responsibility of parents is to send their children to

school and not hinder them. He said that in the Uyovu ward, the government is implementing a number of projects which include construction of primary and secondary schools, installation of road lights and construction tarmac roads as part of the implementation

of President Samia Suluhu Hassan that she issued to citizens of the ward. In another development, Dr. Biteko inaugurated a new ward at the Charles Kulwa Memorial Hospital in Runzewe, Bukombe district where the patient ward is special for attending preg-

nant women who undergo surgery.

While at the hospital, Dr Biteko toured various areas of the hospital which was established in 1992 as a Dispensary, in 2005 it was upgraded to become a Health Centre and then in 2020 it was upgraded to become a District Hospital serving approximately 72,000 patients per year.

Regional Commissioner, Martin Shigella thanked President Samia for investing and transforming the health sector in the region citing an example of Chato zonal hospital.

The DPM also contributed 10m/- for the construction of Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) church at Nyahanga ward in Kahama municipal council in Shinyanga Region.

The contribution was submitted yesterday by Kahama District Commissioner, Mboni Mhita at a special service to contribute to the construction of the church while asking followers to continue praying for the nation's peace.

Ushetu MP, Emmanuel Cherehani backed the DPM by also contributing 1m/- in order to facilitate construction of the church.

Maintain peace, security for Isles to reap more, Speaker urges Zanzibaris

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZUBERI Ali Maulid, Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives has urged citizens to continue promoting and safeguarding peace and security as this was the impetus for investors to see the islands as safe best places to bring in their capitals.

Maulid made the call yesterday here when laying a foundation stone of Bawe Island (Bawe island cocoon by collection) where a five-star tourist hotel. Bawe is one of the 16 islands which have been rented to investors.

According to him, peace and security that Zanzibar has continued to maintain was attracting a number of investors and guests thus emphasizing people to ensure that it is well protected. He said Bawe Island is a third project to be invested by the investors from Luxembourg and Italy.

"We thank these investors from Luxembourg and Italy for choosing Zanzibar to put up their investment projects, we welcome more others from across the World to come," he said.

He said that apart from peace and security, the investors have been attracted by good policies put by the government and a huge trust which they have to the Isles.

"I am advising all local and foreign investors to come to this country, the government will always be there to support them to achieve their positive ambitions, our aim is to ensure that we all work towards strengthening the economy and social welfare of the people of Zanzibar," he explained.

The Speaker further said that the government is currently putting efforts to promote blue economy policy as its major development plan in order to ensure that marine resources are well used to bring economic transformation.

"As a result of the plan, the government has decided to lease the small islands for investment after seeing that the islands have been

left undeveloped for a long time failing to contribute to the country's economic growth," he said.

He asked the people not to listen to the misleading information spread by some people against the good intentions of the government on the leasing of the islands.

Maulid said the House of Representatives has enacted a new investment law, among other things, the Act has set conditions for investors in order to protect resources including small islands.

He said that the law has also provided opportunities for citizens' participation in investment activities including benefiting from n employment opportunities especially those surrounding the projects as well as investors contributing to the development initiatives in the areas where the projects are taking place as well as providing priority opportunities for residents to sell their products in the projects.

He wanted the responsible ministry to supervise well implementation of the law for it to bring positive outcomes as intended.

Sharif Ali Sharif, executive director of Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) said Zanzibar has 20 small islands where 16 have already been leased to investors where their total capital reach \$384.5 million.

NGO establishes platform on climate change, gender and climate financing

By Beatrice Philemon

WOMEN Action Towards Economic Development (WATED) has established feminist 'café platform' that allows actors to extensively discuss various issues on climate change, gender and climate financing.

Maria Matui, WATED executive secretary unveiled the new development over the weekend when speaking to Women Human Rights Defenders Coalition, members of the Coalition for Gender and Climate Change Tanzania, Indigenous Women Led organizations, media experts, youth, experts from Ardhi University who attended training on feminist principles and climate change.

She said that the platform

involves civil society organizations (CSOs), government, private sector and academia youth to share and learn together on climate financing and leadership.

Organised by WATED, the training was meant to discuss financial resources and women participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation. It brought on board CSOs members from different regions and government officials.

Matui said that WATED have been embarking on Climate Financing and women agency for past five years and it has been a journey of learning within our organisation, at individual level and collectively with other likeminded organisations.

WATED acknowledges

and appreciated government of Tanzania ministries and agencies that we have had an opportunity to be engaged to learn and share our learning in advancing climate financing and gender agenda.

"In the years of our work we noticed the gap in understanding and participation of women and youth and other gendered group in the climate change and gender agenda specifically, and climate financing specifically," she said.

"Thus as an organisation through its engagement with designated ministries and departments we continue to tap on the wealth of knowledge from these institutions by starting Climate Financing Café a platform which brings different stake-

holders to strategically advance the agenda of gender and climate financing the opportunities and the gaps and devising a common ground to find a common and tangible solution."

With engagement of stakeholder on climate financing the issue of gender and feminist principle do not find much space given the time and issues of focus on the discussion. Thus the birth of Feminist School of Climate Change came into being.

The establishment Feminist School on Gender and Climate Change is response to increasing thirst for knowledge on climate financing, climate change and gender. She said: "As an organisation, this was a two years thinking process on

finding a space where actors can be brought together and learn from each other. Thus, is as the feminist school of climate change squarely engages actors from Civil Society, government, private sector, academia youth to share and learn together on climate financing and leadership."

Matui said, December 12th and 13th of this year, they find an absolute rewarding result of their initiative.

According to her, the initiatives bring in members of other coalition such as Women Human Rights Defenders coalition, members of the Coalition for Gender and Climate Change Tanzania Indigenous Women Led organizations, media experts among others.

"We harness power of

women's leadership and agency in climate change, linkages and collaboration among women-led CBOs and women's and environmental rights organizations, climate justice movements at multiple levels, to pursue the learning with ensuring women's agency and leadership agendas on climate mitigation and adaptation solutions," she said.

"The Feminist School of Climate Change amplify women's leadership, resilience, and promote women's rights through a Facilitated safe and open discussions on climate financing, climate change impacts on women and girls, and their livelihoods while promoting gender-inclusive policies and strategies in climate change initiatives.

Needy children in Tanga laud Samia

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

A TOTAL of 334 elderly persons and children with special needs in Tanga Region have a reason to smile after receiving gifts including livestock and soaps from President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The support is meant to help the beneficiaries celebrate the New Year festival.

Speaking shortly after receiving the gifts the beneficiaries thanked President Samia for her generous heart, saying that they will always pray for her to stay healthy and strong.

The support included rice, edible oil, goats, sugar, salt and soaps which have been supplied to the targeted people in districts, city and town councils through district commissioners. At the conclusion of the distribution of the donations, Tanga Regional Commissioner, Waziri Kindamba visited the five centres of the needy groups in Mwazange, Casa Famiglia, Casa Della Gioia, Abu-Abdulrahman and Goodwill located in Tanga city.

Some representatives of the groups thanked President Samia for remembering the elders and children saying that this shows how the leader values vulnerable people.

"We are happy as we are celebrating New Year with these valuable gifts from our President, we thank her a lot and we will always pray for God to protect her," said Mary Dustan, a child at Casa Famiglia.

Ismail Rashid, Mwanzage elderly centre chairman said the elderly were too happy to receive the gifts and their prayers will always be directed to the President for her to continue leading the nation well and peacefully.

RC Kindamba said the gifts are part of true love that President Samia has to his people of all groups without any discrimination.



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IRDP to build new structures this year

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) plans to construct two ultra-modern buildings, the ICT hub in Miyuji north, being among vital strategies to heighten infrastructure at the fast-growing varsity in 2024.

The infrastructure to be built through funds from the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project will also see construction of administration block at the varsity's main campus.

IRDP's Rector, Prof Hozen Mayaya said over the weekend here that, in 2024, the institute will also embark on a project for the installation of more lecture theatres, classrooms, staff offices, sports grounds and other facilities in order to cater for increased number of students.

He said that the Dodoma-based varsity, which will in February 2024 celebrate 45 years anniversary since its inception in 1979, has kept on receiving an increased volume of students annually, the impressive development which calls for expansion of accommodation infrastructures.

"For instance, in 2022/23 academic year the number of students stood at 14,428, out of which, 6,625 are males and 7,803 female, which is an increase of 1,085 students compared to the academic year 2021/22," he explained.

He insisted that the increase in student's enrolment and staff members must go in hand with increased infrastructures, both for accommodation and training.

In 2024, Prof Mayaya expressed that the state-owned varsity will work to further cementing working ties with different stakeholders to conduct more research and projects.

"The college has been collaborating with numerous local and international development actors in implementing projects, and executing consultancy works in almost every part of

the country, we're looking forward to strengthen these cooperation to further heights in this year," he assured.

Prof Mayaya unveiled some of the key project that the IRDP has so far executed in partnership with the development actors as Climate change project in Northern Zone, Eco-Village Project (Central Zone), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), project in the Lake Zone, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) in the Southern Highlands and Marketing Infrastructure, Value Addition and Rural Finance Programme (MIVARF) at Mbulu district.

Together with that, the don said in 2024, the institute is expecting to continuing expanding robust cooperation with Ministry of Finance.

"The synergy between IRDP and the Ministry has been exemplary, characterised by a continuous exchange of knowledge and expertise,"

"The ministry, on several occasions has consistently entrusted us at IRDP with valuable research assignments, leveraging our pool experts for their projects, and even sending their personnel to partake in academic programs at our esteemed institution," Prof Mayaya appreciated.

He expounded that, the high learning education facility will continue to work in sync with various institutions, including Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), the Ministry of Education, Tanzania Commission for Universities Authority (TEA), National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET), Loan Board, and other organisations, such as United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) United States Agency for International Development (USAID), European Union (EU), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), just to mention but a few.



Amani Kwanza secretary general Netho Ndilito, whose organisation involves itself with education and sensitisation drives on peace, has an audience with religious leaders in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. He is with Amani Kwanza president Dr Wilson Mgunza (2nd-R) and vice president Alex Mnyangambe (R). Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Africans take Chinese agricultural skills home

By Zhang Yu, Shijiazhuang

AFRICAN students who acquired knowledge through their participation in a Chinese agricultural development program have returned to their home countries, aiming to use what they've learned to help local farmers increase grain yields.

The students participated in the Science and Technology Backyard program, which was launched in 2009 at China Agricultural University in Beijing. During the program, they conducted research in experimental fields in rural areas while working with local farmers and using their acquired knowledge

to help Chinese farmers solve agricultural problems.

One of the students, 28-year-old Augustine Talababi Phiri from Malawi, has recently been named head of an STB programme in Lisasadzi, Kasungu district, in the central region of the Southeast African country.

"We are well on our way to establishing successful STBs that will empower the smallholder farmers of Malawi with the knowledge and tools they need to shape their agricultural futures," Phiri wrote in his work diary on November 6, one day after he went back to his home country.

As a graduate student at China Agricultural University, Phiri began studying for his master's degree in September last year and then joined a Sino-Africa Science and Technology Backyard project in Quzhou county in Handan, Hebei province.

Majoring in resource and environmental sciences and plant protection, he has witnessed or participated in every stage of wheat production in the villages in Quzhou, from land preparation and the sowing of wheat seeds to crop management and harvesting.

The first STB program in Malawi was launched in October

last year. Early last month, Phiri and five other students went back to the country with a mission to launch and manage more programs in their homeland.

On Nov 7 and 8, three newly established STBs were unveiled in the country. The four programs have so far carried out some training sessions for local farmers and have promoted agricultural technologies such as organic compost, which can improve soil quality.

"In the initial stages, we are working with 30 farmers, helping them optimize farming technologies, including optimizing seeding," Phiri said, adding that the backyard model from China will be further promoted in Africa.

Phiri, who used to be an agronomist in Malawi's agricultural sector, said that about 80 percent of the

country's 20 million people are smallholder farmers.

Due to poor soil quality, limited access to fertilizers and a lack of modern agricultural technologies, the yield for Malawi's main crop, maize, is relatively low. Many farmers are not growing enough food to sustain themselves, Phiri said.

In 2019, China Agricultural University launched the Sino-Africa Science and Technology Backyard project in Quzhou to cultivate young technology talent for African nations, targeting the pressing production issues faced by smallholder farmers.

In Quzhou, Phiri noticed that farmers often sought help from the program, and the teachers and students were always out in the fields, conducting research with the farmers to determine how to best improve yields.



FOURTEEN DAYS (14) NOTICE OF SALE AND INVITATION OF SEALED BIDS FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES ON PLOT NUMBER 189 AND 190 KITEYAGWA AREA, BUKOBA TOWNSHIP.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT under the power contained in the law and Mortgage Deed and other powers enabling us to do so. We, ACCURATE RECOVERY & AUCTIONS LIMITED of P. O. Box 22226, Dar es Salaam dully appointed by the CRDB BANK PLC (the "Bank") to sell the property mortgaged to secure a credit facility by sealed bids: **DO HEREBY INVITES BIDS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC** for the outright purchase of the properties described in the table below in one (1) lot:

REGISTERED DETAILS & SIZE	DEVELOPMENT
Plot No. 189 & 190, Block "A" CT. No. 16375-LR Mwanza, LO No. 218029, Kiteyagwa Area, BUKOBA TOWNSHIP	

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES AND LOCALITY

These are properties built in two low density neighboring plots measuring a total of Sixty four thousand five hundred seventy (64,570) square metres. The properties comprising of an Administration Blocks, Classrooms Blocks, a Dining, Kitchen, Domitries, Toilet blocks, Servant quarters and other schools infrastructures. The properties situated in Plot 189 & 190 Block 'A' Kiteyagwa Area in Bukoba Township. The subjected properties is located along Amani Road which branching off Uganda Road the major notable land mark is Kiteyagwa Primary School which is located adjacent to the subject properties.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Bid must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked "BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES - PLOT No. 189 & 190 BLOCK 'A' KITEYAGWA AREA, BUKOBA TOWNSHIP, and the offer for the purchase of the property with full name and address of the bidder should submitted to the address below at or before **10:00 Hours on Monday 15th January, 2024**. Bids shall be opened in Public at **10:30 Hours** in the presence of Bidders representatives who choose to attend the opening ceremony at the office mentioned below.
- The successful bidder or otherwise shall be announced at the bid opening ceremony. A communication shall be sent to bidders either to their physical address or by email submitted shall be sufficient communication.
- The successful bidder shall be required to deposit not less than 25% of the bid price immediately after been awarded as the highest bidder and balance 75% of the bid price shall be paid within fourteen (14) days from the date of award or within the period that shall be agreed between the buyer and the Bank through our communication to the highest bidder; failure of which the offer shall be revoked forthwith and the 25% down payment shall be forfeited and the next highest bidder who meets the conditions may be awarded, or cancel the sale process altogether.
- Bidders are advised to conduct their independent valuation and inspection of the property if they wish to do so, as all the information contained in his advertisement is free from liability.
- The Bank shall not be bound to accept the highest bid or any bid at all or reject any or all the bids without having to assign any reason.
- All costs regarding the transfer of ownership shall be borne by the successful bidder.
- All bids should be addressed to the address below.
- The properties shall be sold on where is as it basis.

For further information please contact:

Managing Director
Accurate Recovery & Auctions Limited
Shabani Singa Building, 1st Floor '1B',
Idrisa/Makurumla Street, Magomeni Mapipa
P. O. Box 22226 DAR ES SALAAM
Office Tel/Mob: +255 22 2171757, Mob: +255 713 327 722 /
+255 754 848 088
Email: recoveryaccurate@gmail.com



FOURTEEN (14) DAYS NOTICE OF SALE AND INVITATION OF SEALED BIDS FOR SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT JAMBIANI AREA SOUTH REGION OF UNGUJA IN ZANZIBAR.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT under the power contained in the law and Mortgage Deed and other powers enabling us to do so. We, ACCURATE RECOVERY & AUCTIONS LIMITED of P. O. Box 22226, Dar es Salaam dully appointed by the EQUITY BANK (TANZANIA) LIMITED (the "Bank") to sell the property mortgaged to secure a credit facility by sealed bids: **DO HEREBY INVITES THE GENERAL PUBLIC** for the outright purchase of the property described in the table below:

BID NUMBER	REGISTERED DETAILS AND DEVELOPMENT
2023/ARA/EBTL/PAJE/05	Hotel Beach Villa located along the Paje Beach measuring 1.78 hectare (equivalent to 17,800 square metres in Southern Region of Unguja. Registration details: Landlease Agreement No. 852/2007 Site Plan No. 852/2007, Jambiani Area, South Region of Unguja, ZANZIBAR.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope and clearly marked "BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY - BID No. 2023/ARA/EBTL/PAJE/05 and the offer which shall be VAT inclusive for the purchase of the property with full name and address of the bidder should submitted to the address below at or before **10:00 Hours on Monday 15th January, 2024**. Bids shall be opened in Public at **10:30 Hours** in the presence of Bidders representatives who choose to attend the opening ceremony at the office mentioned below.
- The successful bidder or otherwise shall be announced at the bid opening ceremony.
- The successful bidder shall be required to deposit not less than 25% of the bid price immediately after been awarded as the highest bidder and balance 75% of the bid price shall be paid within fourteen (14) days from the date of award or within the period that shall be agreed between the buyer and the Bank through our communication to the highest bidder; failure of which the offer shall be revoked forthwith and the 25% down payment shall be forfeited and the next highest bidder who meets the conditions may be awarded, or cancel the sale process altogether.
- Bidders are advised to conduct their independent valuation and inspection of the property if they wish to do so, as all the information contained in his advertisement is free from liability.
- The Bank shall not be bound to accept the highest bid or any bid at all or reject any or all the bids without having to assign any reason.
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Email: recoveryaccurate@gmail.com

RC warns against road infrastructure vandalism

By Guardian Correspondent, Kaliua

TABORA regional commissioner Dr. Batilda Burian has cautioned the public against vandalising road infrastructure that cost billions of taxpayers' money to construct and rehabilitate them.

Dr Burian sounded the warning over the weekend when speaking during one-day visit in Kaliua District to inspect the construction of the Kazilambwa-Chagu road with a length of 43 kilometres which is being built at the tarmac level.

She vowed to take strict action against the people who destroy and steal road infrastructure including bringing the culprits to justice for crimes of economic sabotage.

The RC said that there are some people or a group of people whose job is to steal and destroy the road infrastructure, saying that the government will not tolerate them, but will catch them and open cases of economic sabotage.

Ambassador Dr. Burian instructed the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) in Tabora region to ensure that the Kazilambwa-Chagu road with a

length of 43 kilometres is installed with street lights in the right places where they should be installed and at the scheduled time.

She also asked people in the district to ensure that the citizens expose all those involved in the sabotage so that they can be dealt with in accordance with the law.

Eng. Raphael Mlimaji, Tabora regional manager, TANROADS assured the RC to take strong action including bringing them to court and others to pay fines when they are found to have damaged the infrastructure.

He said the responsibility of protecting the road infrastructure belongs to every Tanzanian, so the community must realize that the government is spending a lot of money on implementing its projects.

Eng. Mlimaji promised to implement all the instructions of the Regional Commissioner, including the installation of street lights that are already on the Kazilambwa-Chagu road.

Juma Fadhiri, Kaliua resident also assured the RC that they will do their best to protect the area and if they catch people doing that they will arrest them and bring them to the law enforcement agencies.



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2022-2024



Asanteni wateja wetu
Hii ni yetu sote

New Year Address by Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania

H.E. Chen Mingjian

How time flies! The year 2024 comes as scheduled. On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania, I would like to extend our heartfelt greetings and the best New Year wishes to all fellow Chinese who work, study, and live in Tanzania. My appreciation also goes to friends who have been devoted to and supported the China-Tanzania friendship.



Amb. Chen Mingjian

The year 2023 is of particular importance to China as it continues to pursue development. At a new starting point, the country has made steady progress on high-quality development and high-standard opening-up. Its economy is projected to grow by 5.4%, and its contribution to global economic growth will exceed 30%, continuing to be a front-runner among major economies. Solid steps have been made in building China into an innovative country. The Tianwen-1 Mars probe landed and explored the planet in what was China's first Mars exploration mission. Chinese astronauts have entered China's space station, and the C919, the self-developed large passenger aircraft, completed its inaugural commercial flight.

Head-of-state diplomacy has been playing the guiding role on China's major country diplomacy. The year 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's proposal for a human community with a shared future and the Belt and Road Initiative. Just two months ago, the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing saw the participation of representatives from over 150 countries and 40 international organizations, all coming together to recognize a decade of this significant endeavor. Now, the initiative has stood as the most expansive platform for international cooperation, and also the most widely embraced public good across the globe. China's consistent growth provides a beacon of confidence and strength to an uncertain world, and makes notable contributions to global peace and progress.

The year 2023 has been extraordinary for China and Tanzania ties. As an African country of great importance, Tanzania has a pivotal role to play in China's relations with Africa. It is China's diplomatic priority to strengthen solidarity and cooperation with African countries, including Tanzania. In 2023, together with friends from all sectors of society in Tanzania, we celebrated the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 10th anniversary of President Xi's visit to Tanzania and proposal for the principles of sincerity, real results, affinity,

and good faith and for the Belt and Road Initiative.

H.E. President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan once again met with H.E. President Xi in Johannesburg in August, 2023, since her successful visit to China in 2022. This suggests high-level political mutual trust between the two nations. Guided by both presidents, China and Tanzania can set a paradigm for China-Africa relations and South-South cooperation as they stay committed to an even stronger comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership.

Throughout 2023, China remained Tanzania's largest trading partner and biggest investor. From January to November, bilateral trade reached 7.96 billion US dollars, representing a 6.8% year-on-year increase. China exempted 98% of Tanzania's exported goods to China from tariffs, allowing its premium agricultural products like avocados and wild-caught seafood to enter the Chinese market. As such, China is expected to maintain its status as Tanzania's top trading partner for the eighth consecutive year. Beyond that, notable progress has been made in the field of investment. A testament to that is USD311 million have been invested in Wangkang Sapphire Float Glass Factory. Through such ventures, Chinese businesses are actively contributing to Tanzania's industrial and agricultural modernization. This not only creates job opportunities but also brings tangible benefits to the locals.

The year 2024 is crucial for China to implement its 14th Five-Year Plan. We will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of China-Tanzania diplomatic relations. At its Central Economic Work Conference held last month, the Communist Party of China outlined plans for higher-standard opening-up. While taking the eight major steps to support our joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, we will coordinate the implementation of landmark projects and "small yet beautiful" livelihood projects. These efforts will bring more opportunities for the development of Tanzania and other African countries. In 2024, China will stand ready to leverage the celebration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties with Tanzania as an opportunity to renew traditional friendship and respond to challenges together for common prosperity. This joint endeavor aims to support Tanzania in realizing goals set in Vision 2025 and its third five-year plan.

As a new year begins, everything takes on a new look. The upcoming year will mark the Year of the Dragon in the Chinese lunar calendar. Dragon represents a symbol deeply rooted in China's national spirit. As people would say, "With the dragon in the air and the tiger on the move, the nation's prosperity is assured". May China and Tanzania enjoy greater prosperity and our people a better life. May the ties between the two nations move steadily forward. To all our friends, I wish your career prosper, your families be filled with happiness, and have a joyous New Year.



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and delivers a keynote speech at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 18, 2023. (Photo/Xinhua)



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan on the sidelines of the 15th BRICS Summit, Johannesburg, South Africa, August 24, 2023. (Photo/Xinhua)



In September 2023, the China-Tanzania Investment Forum was successfully held. Tanzanian Prime Minister H.E. Kassim Majaliwa and Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian attended the event. (Photo/Chinese Embassy)

SPECIAL FOCUS



H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan cuts a tape to inaugurate a state-of-art float glass factory invested by the Chinese company Wangkang Group. She is flanked by Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania H.E. Chen Mingjian, and Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment) Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, Mkuranga, Coast Region, Tanzania, Sept. 20, 2023 (Photo/State House)



The construction of the Kigongo-Busisi Bridge, also known as J.P. Magufuli Bridge, is undertaken by two Chinese companies, CCECC and China Railway 15th Bureau Group. The photo taken on Sept. 9, 2023 shows the project is in good progress. (Photo/Xinhua)



The year 2023 marks the 60th anniversary of China dispatching medical teams abroad and the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road initiative. H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents the crew of TV drama, Welcome to Milele, the Special Contribution to Promoting Chinese-Tanzanian Friendship Award. (Photo/Statehouse)



This screen image captured at Beijing Aerospace Control Center on July 20, 2023 shows Shenzhou-16 astronaut Zhu Yangzhu waving after exiting the Wentian lab module. (Photo/Xinhua)



Dong Lili, a member of the 32nd Chinese Medical Team in Zanzibar, poses for a photo with one of her patients at the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar on February 24, 2023. Dong, who is an eye doctor, has successfully performed over 600 cataract surgeries since her arrival in Zanzibar in October 2022. (Photo/Xinhua)



The Sixth China International Import Expo was held in Shanghai, China, from Nov. 5 to 10. The photo shows that Tanzanian products were on display at the Expo. (Photo/Chinese Embassy)



Chinese and Tanzanian Marine Corps held "Transcend-2023" Joint Training in September. This pictures shows the closing ceremony held on 17 September., 2023. (Photo/Chinese Embassy)



A farewell reception was held at the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania on Aug. 17, 2023, for the 160 Tanzanian students who won the Chinese government scholarships this year. Amb. Chen Mingjian, officials from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and student representatives took a group photo at the reception. (Photo/Chinese Embassy)



More and more Tanzanian products are exported to China. From January to November 2023, the trade volume between China and Tanzania was US\$7.958 billion, a year-on-year increase of 6.8%. (Photo/Chinese Embassy)



The 2115 MW Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant, being implemented by Sinohydro, is expected to start generation in 2024. (Photo/Chinese Embassy)

Samia receiving the D. Litt citation at home was spot on

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has again been conferred with an honorary doctorate, the Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) honoris causa of the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) for outstanding performance in the tourism sector. The citation, conferred by the tourism management and marketing department, was done at the 19th SUZA graduation ceremony, an eloquent capping of the series of honorary doctoral citations here and outside that the president has received. Even by world standards few leaders have a similar run of citations.

While there will still be doubting Thomases on eligibility or criteria used by various institutions in reaching such citations, it is clear there is a huge echo from around the world that looking at the record, and events characterising the nearly three years at the helm for the president, the verdict is unassailable. That was the big picture, despite that her remarks at the occasion unavoidably came down to the day to day issues that the sixth phase government is grappling with, and there is clear evidence that the world feels she is doing her best. One was an observation that the honour was for all Tanzanians supporting the sixth phase development initiatives. There is no issue that those who support the reform, reconciliation drive exult in it.

The president was gracious enough in her remarks to have dwelt considerably on the most important political influence in her rise to leadership, namely the sixth phase Zanzibar government of ex-president Amani Abeid Karume whom she cherishes as having built her to become a good public leader. As this citation as being earned at home, it was most apt at that moment to remember her roots and climbing the ladder, those who trusted her along the way and prepared for much bigger trust in the years that followed. It is heard earned recognition for the now eclipsing memory of the sixth phase in Zanzibar,

as memories fade of those days.

It was evident as the president explained that experiences at that time as a minister formed the background to her strategies and methods as Union president upon taking office mid-March 2021, and not surprisingly this included a broad initiative on the tourism sector. Yet it is also apparent that the citation focused on a remarkable sphere where the president's accolades are largely without debate, as to the impact of her personal commitment and engagement on the matter. And it was also sufficiently circumscribed not to express a SUZA evaluation of what the president is otherwise doing in the reform drive as Union president, or its Zanzibar impact.

At moment when some strains are visible in how different groups feel in the governance experimentation, of bringing all political parties on board on the basis of goodwill, having a moment of celebration that has the potential of uniting Zanzibaris across the board was a laudatory initiative. In a way it was just waiting to happen, that a respected academic institution in Zanzibar would also see it befitting to honour the Union president, in like manner as other institutions here and abroad. And as this citation focused on a particular aspect of her engagements in office, it will not be surprising for other institutions to focus on similar aspect of inspiring performance to make a point with another honorary citation event.

Looking more closely at the pattern of advocacy that the president has taken up, it is apparent that the years she was minister in Zanzibar had a wider impact, and may have been backed by other experiences as well. There is no doubt that some of her closest aides are professionals either in the cabinet or outside who cut their teeth under the fourth phase government. There was also a noticeable element of travel, and President Samia knows deals are cut there, then leaving embassy officials to tie up the rest; interminable diplomatic contacts just won't do.

'Her-story' has a point to make, without losing focus on reality

ANOTHER initiative being heard from leading feminist organisations in the country, where it is said that 30 feminists are set to benefit from training on the importance of 'her-story' conducted by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP). The neologism is intended to tell history that emphasises the role of women, or that is told from a woman's (or from a feminist) point of view. It is a sort of plus on what is already said in that direction, nearly stating a viewpoint that there are two ways to know the world, one the general or masculine way, and the other a new, as yet suppressed mode of thinking of '...her-story.'

While the world is a free market play for all sorts of ideas and programmes, and the public authorities back them up when they notice they carry out educational or instrument handing efforts that complement policy or development strategy. Yet there is no doubting that at times there is excess effort directed in that aspect, creating a moral or ethical principle out of being feminine, as such. That has definite aspects of being misleading, and current demands for 50-50 representation hide glaring imbalances if the societal aspect is taken up to look at positions of authority or representation from the viewpoint of families, which feminism doesn't notice.

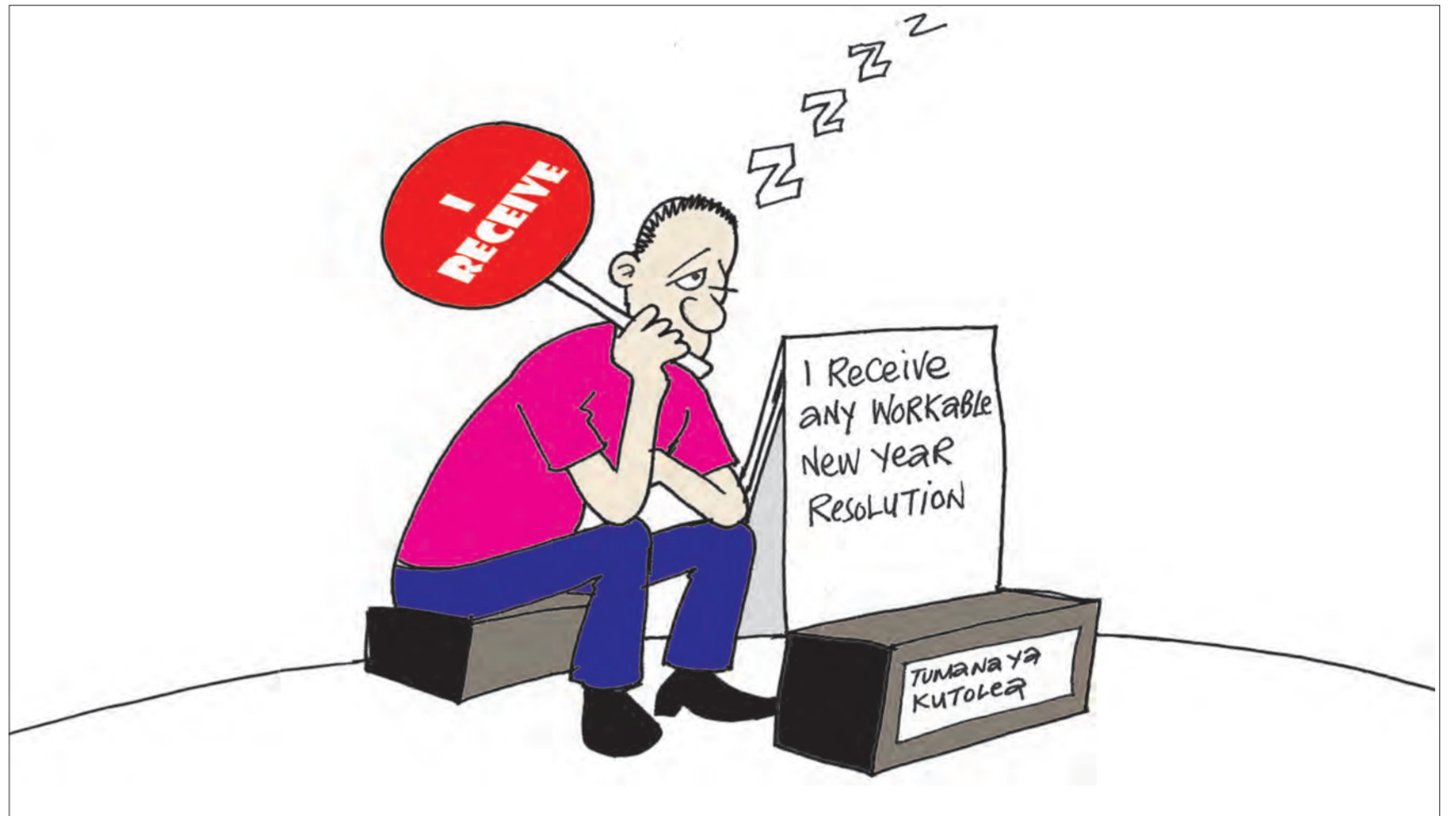
When the balance of men and women say in the legislature is poor from the viewpoint of feminism, when women account say for a third of the legislature, more families will be involved, rather than represented, at higher levels of public administration.

When the balance is more positive from a feminist viewpoint, fewer families will be involved, for the simple reason that most successful women have successful husbands as well, and thus high flung families control a disproportionate flow of resources. They would scarcely admit this much.

There are strictly moral issues about whether men oppress women and women help one another, where the verdict in society is different, in the sense that a free individual, a man in that sense, can look after more than one woman-led family, without domestic disputes. When such a person is in conjugal affinity such care or concern will dry out, as it will be negatively seen by the dominant woman in his life, thus solid marriage contributes to narrowing the use of resources in society to formal patriarchal families which feminists bash on each passing day. Feminists aren't heard to question male use of resources just to their families, viz, wives.

There was a demonstration in a European country where women were shouting that common law be relaxed to pave way for men to marry more than one woman. When one looks at such a demand, it is clear that the problem is not men to marry the women but men with cash to marry more than one woman, thus a problem of pecuniary advantage is brought out as an issue of culture or morality. The same applies to 'her-story', that despite appearances of radical solidarity or affinity with women, it has a hidden aspect of fortifying a couple or a family above other families by giving the lady a position, while the husband already has one.

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After hundreds die of starvation in Ethiopia: Millions more are at risk of grave danger

By Special Correspondent

Death by starvation has become a stark reality for hundreds of people in different parts of Ethiopia, especially in the Amhara and Tigray regions, where food production is severed by consecutive years of drought and wars.

Over the last four years, Ethiopia has been under the terrible spell of drought caused by below-average rainfall primarily due to negative Indian Ocean Dipole and La Niña conditions. The warning signs were there too.

In Tigray, regional officials recently admitted that in the month of December alone more than 400 people, including 25 children, have succumbed to starvation in four districts. Almost half of this death by starvation occurred in two districts: Abergelle Yechila in the central zone and Atsbi in the eastern zone, where extreme rain failure devastated a population that had already been reeling from the combined effects of the brutal war and siege.

A severe drought impacted at least 132,000 hectares of farmland in the south, southeast, and eastern Tigray zones, endangering a crucial harvest for the coming year. Currently, over two million people in 32 districts across five zones of the region are facing acute shortage of food, prompting regional authorities to establish an 'Emergency Response Committee' to respond to the looming humanitarian crisis.

Similarly, in the Amhara region, Wag Himra and North Gondar zones in particular, the severe drought, coupled with the ongoing conflict, is having a calamitous effect on the local population. In November, more than 20 people were reported to have died from starvation in the two zones alone, and more than 85,000 livestock had already perished. Further compounded by the hindrance of life-saving humanitarian assistance as a result of the ongoing conflict, the drought and subsequent crop failure pushed nearly one million people residing in 43 districts in the region to the verge of starvation.

In southern and southeastern Ethiopia, particularly the Borena Zone of Oromia and the Liban, Afder, and Dawa zones of the Somali Region, where recovery from prior severe droughts is sluggish, there is an imminent risk of starvation.

According to the latest report by Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), a global early warn-



ing and analysis on food insecurity, a staggering number of Ethiopians who remain displaced and destitute from the previous shocks face extreme difficulty accessing food in these zones. With the high likelihood of further flood-related displacement and additional asset losses, the FEWS NET projected that famine is looming in these areas.

...neither the response nor the level concern displayed by the the authorities of the federal government seem to match the rapid deterioration into acute food insecurity transpiring on the ground.

The network has classified the drought-hit parts of the Tigray region, the south and southeast in the Somali and Oromia regions, and the northeastern Amhara region under 'Emergency' (IPC phase 4), with a credible risk for more severe outcomes. "As a result, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes with households in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) are considered most likely through early 2024; however, there is a credible risk for more severe outcomes if anticipated food and income from livestock production does not materialize," the report warned.

There is no IPC Phase 6! However, neither the response nor the level of concern displayed by the authorities of the federal government seem to match the rapid deterioration into acute food insecurity transpiring on the ground over the past couple of months.

Instead, Shiferaw Teklemariam (PhD), the commissioner for the federal government's Disaster Risk Management Commission, issued direct warning over semantics against those who dare refer to the crisis as famine and report instances of death by starvation. The Commissioner told state-affiliated

media that "the information that the drought has turned into famine is baseless and being circulated by parties with ulterior motives."

Our call was made following firsthand field reports by our reporters exposing how the drought had already put in danger the lives of hundreds of thousands of households and decimated millions of livestock in several parts of the country."

The commissioner pointed out that a humanitarian response worth 15.2 billion birr, including more than 4.2 billion birr from partner aid organizations, is on course to be distributed to the drought affected areas in eight zones in Amhara, three zones in Afar, and three zones in Tigray regions. While the efforts are commendable, if implemented, for millions at risk of death by starvation it may be too little too late.

Furthermore, in the same interview the commissioner admitted that security problems were posing significant challenges to the delivery of humanitarian aid in some areas, but he failed to address the severity of the crisis, or to propose drastic measures commensurate with severity of the looming danger.

As early as February 2022, this publication urged the government to declare the drought a matter of national disaster in order to mobilize the level of response it deserved. Our call was made following firsthand field reports by our reporters exposing how the drought had already put in danger the lives of hundreds of thousands of households and decimated millions of livestock in several parts of the country. More than 20 months later, and after hundreds of people have already perished, let alone to declare an emergency and mobilize a national

response the government instead is denying the extent of the calamity.

After millions of Ethiopians have fallen victims of the 1984 famine, including the death by starvation of up to a million, it has to be acknowledged that the recent reports of death by starvation in Amhara and Tigray regions are the first to have been officially admitted by regional authorities.

Millions are on the verge of death. Authorities must stop wrangling over the semantics of description and declare the crisis a national emergency.

In addition to establishing an 'Emergency Response Committee' the Tigray Interim Administration has allocated 50 million birr for emergency life support, calling on entrepreneurs, Tigrayan diaspora, and other concerned stakeholders to provide urgent support through the emergency response committee. This is commendable, but it needs the federal government's concerted effort to facilitate and fast-track a coordinated response mechanism.

In the Amhara region, in the Wag Himra zone, for instance, local officials revealed that only 42% of those in dire need received one round of food aid. This cannot be allowed to be taken as a standard response in the face of this looming tragedy.

Failing to properly understand the severity of the crisis, or admit the death of helpless civilians by starvation will significantly hamper the response to the catastrophe. Millions are on the verge of death. Authorities must stop wrangling over the semantics of description and declare the crisis a national emergency in order to coordinate appropriate responses before it is too late.

Construction of new markets, upgrades set to decongest Dar

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

THE 10th anniversary celebrations of the World Cities Day 2023 which was marked at the end of October last year shed more light on the pressing issues facing most cities in several countries across the globe including Tanzania.

According to statistics from the World Habitat, there are numerous persisting challenges with some emerging on daily basis in cities worldwide and amongst the prominent ones is the increasing influx of rural folks migrating to urban centres.

This trend is largely driven by young individuals seeking job opportunities and hence causes overpopulation in cities resulting into a number of consequences such as the improper use of public facilities and many others that ultimately become overwhelmed by users due to limited spaces.

Major issues and problems confronting cities today include those involving challenges such as mass crowding, poor housing, traffic jams, environmental pollution, limited number of health facilities and lastly joblessness hence high rates of crimes.

Global statistics project that by 2050 more than half of world's population will be living in cities despite the fact that many urban development projects championed by most governments fail to adequately address issues related to infrastructure as well as poverty.

Basic services provided in cities are hailed for their cultural, healthcare, educational and economic opportunities. However, the rapid and poorly managed urban development has resulted into environmental degradation and waste generation contributing to these challenges.

Uncollected heaps of solid waste dumped along streets in cities and towns is the source of many diseases, especially in informal settlements and poses health hazards to passersby and street scavengers.

In Tanzanian context, the government is striving under the project called Tanzania Cities Transforming Infrastructure and Competitive Services (TACTICS) that aims to strengthen urban management performance and deliver improved basic infrastructure and services in targeted areas.



An artist's impression of the planned Ilala market in Dar es Salaam (front view). Photo courtesy of Dar es Salaam City Council

Dar es Salaam, the commercial capital which is Tanzania's main base for economic activity and income generation, is not left behind as there are a number of challenges which have constrained strategic plans for human development.

This is due to high population of people who immigrated from rural areas settlements compared to availability of infrastructural resources which are low to accommodate them in some suburban surrounding the city which has five municipal councils namely Ilala, Temeke, Kinondoni, Kigamboni and Ubungo.

The 2022 Population and Housing Census data statistics show that the city has the highest population of about 6 million people which represents about 10 percent of the country's total population.

The growing number of residents in the city makes use of improved sanitation which cannot be separated from broader structural issues, hence contributing to the proliferation of informal settlements, frequently characterized by low income people who are

exposed to environmental risks and security issues.

In addition, most streets are quite impassable due to congestion as they are flocked by street vendors who have remained amongst the persistent challenges which significantly affect ease of accessibility and commuting.

The most affected zone is a thriving business hub of Kariakoo which is the largest in the country operating throughout 24 hours bearing in mind the fact that many traders from within East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) blocs come here for shopping.

Kariakoo is a market centre which supplies a variety of food products and other essential commodities to neighboring countries which include Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) within EAC and Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique within SADC.

The Dar es Salaam City Council (DCC) has taken significant steps towards modernizing the bustling business dis-

trict as part of the strategic plans so far towards modernizing the status of Tanzania's leading commercial city.

Efforts by DCC have contributed so far to the city's growth, thus cementing its pivotal role in generating nearly half of the nation's total income in various sectors of the economy.

In order to address these challenges, DCC has introduced a comprehensive plan of building new markets and renovate the existing ones within Ilala municipal council which is leading with high number of residents so as to address space constraints and infrastructure challenges in order to accommodate street vendors.

These efforts demonstrate the council's commitments championed by the sixth phase government of President Samia Suluhu Hassan that aim to decongest the city and enhance quality of life for its residents as it navigates the urban challenges of the 21st century.

Amongst the priorities put forward in order to achieve the goals are many and more diverse in terms of their locations. Additionally, the implementation of the same needs money and effective

engagement by stakeholders and development partners to succeed.

But the most important are the infrastructural developments in particular sectors linked to improved health, education services, social and economic development, said Julius Ndele who is an economist with DCC during an interview in Dar es Salaam recently.

According to him, there are new services for the reforms to be introduced in basic sectors under which the city council is operating. The essence of doing this is to decongest the city by expanding new infrastructure upgrades.

According to the economist, city council authorities have embarked on the evaluation that was carried out between July and September 2023 in order to ascertain provision of health services and markets development within all city's municipal councils.

There are some markets in the city of Dar es Salaam which are overwhelmed by traders as well as people who go for shopping mainly due to limited space. Plans are underway to construct four new markets in Ilala municipal council alpine.

Two markets which are nearest to the city's business district have been earmarked for reconstruction. These are Mchikichini (Karume) and Ilala market located at Boma which are to be demolished and rebuilt on the same spot so as to have enough space for shoppers.

The state-of-the art markets will be constructed in modern styles so that the structures have the basement and parking lots to resolve the existing challenges of limited space.

The building plans for both markets have been designed to consider a structural adjustment as a precautionary measure in order to allow enough space for motorists to move along especially during fire outbreaks so that rescuers can have ease of access and movement.

Other two new ones will be built in Gongo la Mboti and Chanika suburbs and each market will cost approximately 25bn/- and in total about 100bn/- will be spent on the project. Other two markets located in Buguruni and Kigogo Sambusa will be renovated to expand their infrastructural facilities.

About the towering multi-storey Machinga Complex overlooking Karume Memorial Stadium which was constructed 10 years ago for street vendors, the economist said:

"Its status will be changed and to cater specifically for selling agricultural inputs and livestock medicines."

According to him, an engagement with current occupants has been initiated in collaboration with stakeholders to accomplish the status change. Plans are also underway to change the shape of the internal structure of both wings whereby partitions will be made to make it active for the intended purposes.

Let us make daily intake of balanced diet a top priority

By Telesphor Magobe

MANY Tanzanians are aware of the importance of eating a balanced diet as they are aware of the importance of drinking safe water but only few have developed a culture of living on a balanced diet and safe water. Some even argue that if they have been living on an unbalanced diet and unsafe water throughout their lives and are still healthy, why should they bother to heed health expert recommendations?

Although the majority of Tanzanians have been to school where they learned about balanced diet and safe water, the problem lies in not practising what they learned. Even those who did not have an opportunity to attend formal schooling could have been exposed to the practice of balanced diet intake and drinking safe water in one way or another. It is only in rare circumstances that some people may be ignorant of what a balanced diet or drinking safe water is all about.

It can be rightly said that the surest way of knowing that a person drinks safe water is when that person boils drinking water to the required standard, filters and keeps it in a clean and safe container from which he or she drinks it. Even rainy water should be boiled, filtered and kept in a clean and safe container before it can be drunk.

If people know the importance of eating a balanced diet and drinking clean and safe water, but don't practise it, what they know has no health benefits to them. Knowing something good, but not practising it is the same as not knowing it at all. Therefore, there is a need to make strenuous efforts to know the importance of eating a balanced diet and drinking safe water all the time to avoid developing health conditions associated with unhealthy foodstuffs and unsafe water. Living on a balanced diet and safe water makes a person avoid many health problems.

Mainland Tanzania Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for a Healthy Population (Technical Recommendations) 2023 (FBDGs) have been formulated to guide healthy eating and lifestyles for a healthy population. FBDGs have been introduced by the Ministry of Health through the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) with technical and financial support from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

FBDGs have been formulated to help promote adequate food diversity intake in terms of consuming various foodstuffs from six different food groups and limit the consumption of unhealthy sugar, salt, fats and oils. The six food groups, according to FBDGs, include (1) cere-



als, starchy roots, tubers, plantains and green bananas, (2) vegetables, (3) fruits, (4) pulses (legumes), nuts and oil seeds, (5) animal-source foodstuffs and (6) healthy fats (animal-source) and oils (plant-source). The six groups are based on key nutrients they supply to a diet and their contribution to a healthy and quality of life. The key nutrients associated with six food groups are carbohydrates, protein, fats/oils, vitamins and minerals.

According to FBDGs, most di-

ets in Tanzania are monotonous, comprising disproportionate food varieties, mainly from the same food group. Many families consume foodstuffs belonging to only one food group and may only add to it protein-rich foodstuffs like beans, eggs, fish, insects (kumbikumbi and senene) and meat. Yet, only few families eat diversified foodstuffs from the six food groups in the right proportions every day. Thus, it is good to maintain dietary diversity that includes daily intake

of vegetables and fruits, which are rich in fibres (roughages). Other sources of fibres grains and pulses (legumes).

FBDG recommendations suggest that the human body requires more than 50 different nutrients consumed in the right proportion to stay healthy. "There is no single food or food group that supplies all daily energy and nutrient requirements for infants, children and adults (breast milk being an exception, but is only applicable to the

first six months of life)." According to FBDGs, it is important to eat food varieties from each of the six food groups to meet daily nutrient needs. This is because within each food group, different food varieties provide different types and amount of nutrients.

"For example, although vegetables are a great source of vitamin C, only dark-green leafy vegetables and orange-coloured vegetables contain large quantities of provitamin A. All fish, milk and meat provide the body with protein. However, milk and small fish like sardines (when eaten with bones) contain a lot of calcium, while liver is the richest source of iron in this food group." Health guidelines suggest that daily intake of a balanced diet helps to maintain a healthy body weight and reduces the risk of malnutrition and diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer which are non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Report (GBD, 2017) highlights two factors associated with food varieties and food groups. The two factors are that 1) diets that lower health risks include those which are high in fruits, vegetables, pulses (legumes), whole grains, nuts, seeds and milk as well as diets with low in red meat, processed meat and sugar-sweetened beverages. 2) Diets that increase health risks are those which are low in fibres, calcium, seafood, omega-3 fatty acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids as well as those which are high in trans-fatty acids and salt.

So, let us develop a culture of daily intake of a balanced diet, which means eating foodstuffs which supply the body with carbohydrates, protein, fats/oils, vitamins and minerals taken in right proportions.



The historical city hosted some 13 million tourists in 2019, before the Covid pandemic

Venice to ban large tourist groups and loudspeakers

By George Wright & Adam Durbin

VENICE is to ban loudspeakers and tourist groups of more than 25 people, in a bid to ease the impact of mass tourism on the Italian city.

The new rules will come into effect from June, the city said in a statement.

The use of loudspeakers have been banned as they can “generate confusion and disturbances”, it added.

Over-tourism is widely recognised as an urgent issue for the canal city, one of the most visited places in Europe.

In September, Venice approved the trial of a €5 (£4.30; \$5.35) fee for daily visitors.

Elisabetta Pesce, the official with responsibility for the city’s security, said the latest policies are “aimed at improving the management of groups organised in the historic centre”.

The city is just 76 sq km (2.7 sq miles) in size but it hosted almost 13 million tourists in 2019, according to the Italian national statistics institute. Numbers of visitors are expected to



In 2021, large cruise ships were banned from entering the historic centre of Venice via the Giudecca canal after a ship crashed into a harbour.

exceed pre-pandemic levels in the coming years.

More and more residents in Venice are choosing to leave, fearing that tourists could overwhelm the historic island city.

Citizen associations in Venice launched studies in April to monitor how many beds are available for both tourists and residents in the city.

According to the most recent update from one of them, Ocio, the number of beds for tourists has risen to more than 50,000 - exceeding those available to locals.

In July, experts from Unesco said the city should be added to a list of world heritage sites in danger, as the impact of climate change and mass tourism threaten to cause irreversible changes to it.

The UN cultural body’s experts blamed the Italian authorities for a “lack of strategic vision” to solve the problems faced by one of Italy’s most picturesque cities.

Ultimately, Unesco did not add Venice to the list. Italian Culture Minister Gennaro Sangiuliano said Unesco had recognised attempts to address the

island’s problems via an anti-flooding system and by the approval of the entry fee for tourists.

In 2021, large cruise ships were banned from entering the historic centre of Venice via the Giudecca canal after a ship crashed into a harbour.

Critics had also argued that the ships were causing pollution and eroding the foundations of the city, which suffers from regular flooding.

How have other hotspots dealt with over-tourism?

Venice is not unique among Italian and European hotspots in trying to address problems related to tourism.

In nearby Florence, authorities have banned new Airbnbs and short-term holiday lets in its historic city centre.

In 2019, the Italian capital Rome introduced fines aimed at tourists - barring men from being shirtless in public, banning so-called “love padlocks” from being attached to bridges and cracking down on messy foods around famous tourist attractions like the Trevi Fountain.

The picturesque fishing of Portofino, on the Italian Riviera, has brought in no-waiting zones in photogenic

spots, with Instagram-happy tourists facing fines of up to €275 (£238) if they linger too long for that perfect selfie.

Away from Italy, Athens in Greece capped visitor numbers at the iconic Acropolis to 20,000 a day, to try to reduce damage to the ancient temple complex.

And in the Australian Alps, the town of Hallstatt - said to have inspired the setting of Disney film Frozen - has built wooden barriers to block views in popular spots for a lakeside snap, on top of capping the number of tourist buses and cars entering the area.

Last September, Venice has approved the trial of a €5 (£4.30; \$5.35) fee for daily visitors, in a bid to control tourism. All visitors over the age of 14 will have to pay the charge and book their entry to the city in advance.

City council member for tourism Simone Venturini says the trial will run during peak tourist periods next year. “Venice is among the most visited European cities... [and so] suffers the most from excess tourism,” he said.

Over-tourism is widely recognised as an urgent issue for Venice.

The city is just 76 sq km (2.7 sq

miles) in size, but it hosted almost 13 million tourists in 2019, according to the Italian national statistics institute. Numbers of visitors are expected to exceed pre-pandemic levels in the coming years.

“The objective is to invite daily tourists to choose [off-peak] days,” Mr Venturini said. Tourists who stay overnight in the city will be exempt.

“We want to test [the fee] and, if needed, improve it. We cannot discuss for [an]other 40 years what’s best to do.”

Earlier this year Unesco said the city should be added to a list of world heritage sites in danger, as the impact of climate change and mass tourism threaten to cause irreversible changes to it.

In 2021, large cruise ships were banned from entering the historic centre of Venice via the Giudecca canal after a ship crashed into a harbour. Critics had also argued that the ships were causing pollution and eroding the foundations of the city, which suffers from regular flooding.

It is not clear, however, if the plan to introduce a daily charge will deter tourists.

Karina, from Germany, said she would have no problem paying the fee. “We are on holiday, €5 is not too much.”

But other visitors agree something should be done.

“It’s definitely crowded,” said Cal, a student from Ireland. “We went to the main square and we were planning on going to St Marks, but the line was too long.”

“But I suppose €5 is quite a lot to walk around for a day.”

BBC

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Africa forges global ties, seeks more international influence

By Mohammed Yusuf

AFRICA worked in 2023 to become a focus of global power and draw the attention of influential nations seeking to build political and economic relations with the 54 countries on the continent.

In the past 12 months, African leaders visited European Union headquarters in Brussels, as well as India, Russia, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. They also met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Africa to discuss China's Belt and Road Initiative infrastructure program, climate change financing, business and trade deals, global peace and security.

Professor Chacha Nyaigotti-Chacha, chairman of the Kenyan Commission for University Education and an expert in diplomacy and international relations, said that Africa is an important player in global affairs and that other countries want to engage with the continent.

"They want to create strategies on how they can continue assuring the African states that they are friends of the Africans and, consequently, expecting that African countries will be able to continue relating with them amicably," Nyaigotti-Chacha said. "They expect a lot of economic gains and political goodwill."

With conflicts such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war, political experts say international gatherings provide a means for some countries to seek Africa's support.

Paul Melly, a consulting fellow with the Africa Program at research organization Chatham House in London, said Africa can be an influential voice in venues where countries vote on political and security issues, including the United Nations.

"There is a simple numerical fact in Africa," he said. "Depending on how you count them, you are looking at 50 votes at the U.N. That's quite an arguing power."

Some other continents have many countries in them, he said, but "one of the things that stands out for Africa is it's a continent where there is ... a culture of collective action."

"That's quite a lot of votes, and quite a lot of political leverage," Melly said.

The tone other nations take is important when connecting with African leaders, he said.

"You can have as many summits as you like, you can mobilize as many resources as you like, but ... if the tone is seen as not sufficiently respectful or [if they seem] unwilling to sit and listen to what African leaders have to say, you can sometimes find it doesn't work," Melly said.

Even as African nations reach out to the rest of the world, they will need to engage more among themselves to present a stronger image, Nyaigotti-Chacha said.

"They will remember the year 2023 as the year they have made so many interactions with other international and foreign countries," he said. "They will remember that and learn very fast to network within themselves in order ... to have one voice."

Breakthrough raspberry TB meds available for children



Health workers receive members of the public for TB screening in Ntungamo, Uganda, during commemoration of World Tuberculosis Day.

By Gilbert Nakweya, Nairobi

A NEW child-friendly formulation of rifapentine, approved for TB prevention in children, promises easier access and improved treatment outcomes.

The announcement came on December 11 after weeks of clinical trials led by South African Scientists at the Aurum Institute.

The institute said the regimen developed through the Unitaid-funded IMPAACT4TB consortium offers shorter and cheaper formulations for children.

The formulation called 3HP (a short course tuberculosis prevention treatment that combines a high dose Isoniazid - a first line antibiotic used to treat TB infections - and high dose rifapentine), is water-soluble and raspberry-flavoured, making it easier for children to consume.

"Given the higher risk and the potential for developing severe forms of the disease, it is crucial to evaluate and provide TB preventive treatment to children as appropriate to prevent progression to TB disease."

The Aurum Institute, says this option, currently priced between \$6.53 and \$15.80 per child, is cheaper than alternative TB preventive treatments for children which cost about \$24 depending on the weight of the child. And addresses the long-standing need for better TB prevention solutions for kids.

According to the World Health Organization, multidrug resistant tuberculosis is a serious public health threat in Africa, with the continent recording some 452,000 new cases that are resistant to rifampicin, the most effective TB first-line drug.

Gavin Churchyard, group chief executive officer, Aurum

Institute, notes that children, particularly those under five, face a greater risk of progressing from a TB infection to TB disease compared to adults. This risk is amplified by factors like living with an infectious TB patient, being HIV-positive, suffering from malnutrition, or having any existing health conditions.

"Given the higher risk and the potential for developing severe forms of the disease, it is crucial to evaluate and provide TB preventive treatment to children as appropriate to prevent progression to TB disease," said Churchyard.

"Research and development for most medicines have left children behind. Most medicines are first made for adults, and then paediatric formulations are developed. This limits access for children," Churchyard said.

He added that as current tools for TB diagnosis in children are inadequate, proactive

prevention can shield them from needless, early deaths.

Churchyard says the IMPAACT4TB project has made available 85,000 patient courses to early adopter countries to start implementation of the shorter, child-friendly TB treatment (3HP) through donors like USAID's Global Drug Facility or direct manufacturer tenders.

Tendayi Westerhof, the national director of Pan African Positive Women's Coalition, a network of women living with HIV in Zimbabwe, said: "We need to utilise this regimen to ensure it becomes available to many children by sensitising the communities especially in Africa".

She underscored the vulnerability children in Zimbabwe face - especially if they live in households with TB victims. Westerhof then urged for mapping of households with TB survivors and victims so that children in such households are targeted for the drug ad-

ministration.

Limakatso Lebina, lead clinical trials unit, South Africa based Africa Health Research Institute, told SciDev.Net that the new regimen fills the gap that exists in tuberculosis preventive strategies for children and adolescents.

She called for minimal delays in the policy translation and guidelines for TB prevention process, and urged policies that will lead to a high uptake when these new regimens are implemented.

Lebina described the TB prevention therapy as a key unmet public health need since children are at increased risk of due to their underdeveloped immune systems.

"These are some of the few trials that have shown that children and other people eligible can be included in clinical trials irrespective of where they live, and they included both urban and rural populations," said Lebina.

'West Africa earns 5pct cocoa revenue despite making 75pct of global output'

By Gbenga Salau

ABBA Bello, managing Director of Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM) has revealed that the cocoa industry is worth \$200 billion yearly, out of which the entire West Africa's producing region, made up of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria, accounts for about 70-75 per cent of the global output, but yet earns only \$10 billion.

Represented by general manager/head of strategy and corporate communications, Tayo Omidiji, yesterday at a briefing to announce the International Cocoa and Chocolate Forum (ICCF) 2024 to be held in Abuja on the 9th and Lagos on the 11th of January, the NEXIM boss added that cocoa is a leading non-oil export commodity in Nigeria, noting that during the pre-oil era, the product was indeed a major driver of foreign exchange earnings for the country.

Bello regretted that Nigeria has lost its leading position in the production and export of cocoa over the years, now ranking as fourth producer be-

hind Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Indonesia.

He said: "This problem can be attributed mainly to the aged plantations and lack of investment in the sector over the years. However, of more significance is the need for Nigeria to add value to its cocoa exports as a major step towards maximising the benefits of investments in the sector."

"It is instructive to note that the cocoa industry (including beans, cake and chocolate) is worth \$200 billion yearly, out of which the entire West Africa's producing region (made up of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria), which accounts for about 70-75% of the global output, earns only \$10 billion. To further drive home the point, I would like to make reference to the report by the International Trade Centre (ITC) in 2021," he said.

According to the report, Nigeria produced 208 MT of cocoa beans in 2021, but generated a total income of \$628 million. However, Germany, which did not produce cocoa, earned a whopping \$57.3 billion from export of cocoa



Cocoa plantation

products.

"The foregoing underscores the need for all hands to be on

deck amongst all stakeholders, including policy makers, researchers, the organised

private sector and financial institutions to discuss strategies to crowd in investments and

address all the other issues towards achieving the huge potential in the Nigerian cocoa

industry."

Bello said the upcoming summit aligns with the Renewed Hope Agenda of the President Bola Tinubu administration to promote economic diversification, address scarcity of foreign exchange and enhance job creation nationwide.

"The Nigerian Export-Import Bank, being the Export Development Bank of Nigeria, is also partnering in organising this conference for the same reason. This is in keeping with our mandate of developing the external sector of the Nigerian economy and facilitating export trade," he added.

Speaking on behalf of the organisers, Sola Muhammad, explained that Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, is to flag off the Lagos leg of the event, while Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, would open the Abuja's.

He said those expected at the conference include critical stakeholders like the Minister of Agriculture, cocoa farmers, exporters, regulators, researchers and policy makers.



A wind farm on the Western Cape and Northern Cape border near Matjiesfontein (Photo: Shelley Christians)

Renewable energy projects may keep the lights on longer in 2024

By Neesa Moodley

As the country basks in what many South Africans recognise as the luxury of uninterrupted electricity supply, one can't help but wonder when the bubble will burst. It's been just more than two weeks since load shedding was suspended around 14 December.

However, a flurry of generation capacity coming online from renewable energy power producers brings with it the hope that rolling blackouts may reduce in 2024.

Early in December the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy opened Bid Window 7 (BW7) under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP).

The additional 5,000MW of new generation capacity from independent power producers (IPPs), with a substantial portion (3,200MW) dedicated to wind energy, will hopefully help address energy security.

Contrary to a geographically agnostic approach, bid round seven takes into consideration the country's grid constraints. The department has explicitly directed bidders to assess available supply areas based on the Generation Connection Capacity Assessment (GCCA) of the 2025 Transmission Network (GCCA 2025).

Niveshen Govender, chief executive of the South African Wind Energy Association, emphasised the importance of rolling procurement to attract market investment and mitigate risks.

"To ensure a successful bid window, the industry is mindful of outstanding critical issues which require clarification, particularly those related to grid capacity and its allocation. In addition, the industry will examine

the bid window document to assess its implications for upcoming projects set to come online," he says, adding that ongoing constructive engagement with Eskom will be maintained until these issues are effectively resolved.

The department has set a bid submission date of 30 April 2024 for round seven.

As noted in the PWC Africa Energy Review 2023, southern Africa has significant solar and wind potential, with South Africa having installed 10GW of renewable projects. However, that has not been enough to stop rolling blackouts as the ageing coal infrastructure energy availability factor (EAF) dropped from 58% in 2022 to 54% in 2023. "Changes in legislation, the start of the unbundling of Eskom into transmission, generation and distribution units, and the draft South Africa Renewable Energy plan all indicate that there is a drive to accelerate renewable energy deployment anchored with dispatchable power," says Dr Roelof van Huyssteen, PwC South Africa energy law expert.

Hybrid renewable energy projects on the cards for 2025

The first Hybrid Renewable Independent Power Producer Programme projects with dispatchable power are expected to come online in 2025.

The two projects totalling 203MW will incorporate wind, solar and battery storage technology on a utility-scale, a first for the government's procurement programmes.

Also known as co-location power projects, these hybrid IPPs will provide dispatchable electricity during peak

hours, amplifying the contribution of renewable energy to the energy crisis and helping to reduce the effects of load shedding.

"This is a massive benefit for the country, as these renewable energy hybrid systems will showcase the complementary nature of solar PV, which produces power during the day, and wind, which produces most of its power during the morning and evening peak. This combined with battery storage means dispatchable power when it's most needed," says Govender.

The two projects, situated at three sites in the Western Cape, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape, are expected to attract a total investment of about R14.6-billion, generating almost 4,000 jobs in the construction and operation phases.

The projects are: 128MW Oya Energy Hybrid Facility in Matjiesfontein, Western Cape; and 75MW Umoyilanga Energy, to be built across two sites at Avondale in the Northern Cape and Dassenridge in the Eastern Cape.

Ten years of clean energy production

While the hybrid renewable energy projects are just starting their journey, the RustMol Solar Project, the first renewable energy project developed under South Africa's large renewables tender programme, recently marked 10 years of clean energy production.

The 7MW project has generated about 12.5 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, enough to power several thousand low-income homes.

Developed by Momentous Energy and

now owned together with Reatile Renewables, the 19-hectare project site, 22km outside of Rustenburg, was built and is operated by JUWI Renewable Energies South Africa. Project debt was provided by the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa and financial services group, Nedbank.

"The RustMol Solar Project exemplifies the profound importance and power of private-public partnerships in steering the world towards clean energy, with us pioneering on financial close, project agreements, and so on, that still remain in use across the independent power producers industry today," says Dr Pravin Semnarayan, chief executive of Momentous Energy. "It has truly been a joint effort, requiring deep commitment and collaboration from various institutions dedicated to advancing our country's energy transition over the past decade."

Richard Doyle, managing director of JUWI Renewable Energies, points out: "As the first REI4P project, RustMol demanded constant innovation and creative problem-solving from the JUWI and Momentous Energy teams and partners, navigating uncharted waters. With no national grid rules in place during the project's commissioning, the partners worked closely with the Renewable Energy Technical Evaluation Committee to create the grid code, now guiding all solar plants connecting to the grid."

JUWI has been operating the plant for the past 10 years and has just signed a new agreement to continue management operations. In the next decade the project will generate a further 110 million kilowatt-hours of clean energy, reducing carbon by about 66,000 tonnes of CO2, the equivalent emissions of about 24 million litres of diesel consumed.

DM



The 7MW project has generated about 12.5 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, enough to power several thousand low-income homes.

RADIO One 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 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 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BUSINESS

Group of youths based in Dodoma establishes local chicken farming

Ugalla River National Park receives more international tourists for the past 3 years

By Beatrice Philemon

THE number of foreign tourists visiting the Ugalla River National Park has increased from one in 2020 to 40 in 2023.

Mathayo Melau, park tourism assistant officer, said in a statement that the move is due to different government initiatives of making the area visible including the execution of the Tanzania Royal Tour Film.

Melau said that the number of local tourists who visited the park has increased from one tourist in 2020 to 026 tourists in July-November.

He said in 2020, one international tourist visited the park, nine in 2021, six in 2022 and 24 last year, making 40 in total.

He called upon Tanzanians and other people to visit the area because it has a lot to offer them in terms of leisure, walking safari, bird watching, professional filming, photographing, camping site and picnic.

Ugalla River National Park is one of the beautiful safari park to visit for anyone planning Africa Tanzania wildlife safari tour; it is situated in Tabora Region for tourists willing to visit in Tanzania to see the tourist attractions.

In a bid to attract more tourists to visit there, the park's management has come up with new marketing strategy to promote the tourist attractions.

He named the marketing strategy as use local and international media outlets to market the tourist's attractions available within the park through adverts and different international tourism fairs.

Melau said that the park has introduced a door-to-door campaign to local communities living close to the park that includes businesspersons, public and private institutions, universities, colleges, primary and secondary schools in Tabora region and encourage them to visit the park to see what the park has to offer in tourism sector.

Sadick Mohamed, Ugalla River National Park, community relations unit, conservator added that in a bid to improve good relationship between park and local communities living close to the park, they

provides different trainings on conservation issues to allow people engage and participate in the conservation of natural resources found within their localities and around the park area.

"We use public meetings, seminars, exhibitions within Tabora Region and outside the region to educate people on conservation issues and environmental preservation," he said.

He said since 2020 to 2023, a total of 38, 244 people were trained on conservation issues through 213 sessions. Apart from that the park is also expected to implement two projects worth 296m/-, including construction of new OPD building at Ukumbisiganga Health Centre in Kaliua district, Tabora Region worth 250m/- and construct 24 pit latrines at Lunyeta Primary School in Urambo District, Tabora Region worth 45m/-.

"We have been able to provide table and chairs for teachers at Ushokola Secondary School and one printer at Ukumbisiganga secondary school located in Kaliua district worth 3m/-," he said.

Prosper Sakaya, Usinga Village deputy executive officer, lauded Ugalla River National Park's management to provide different support including conservation education to the communities in their localities through Support for Community Initiated Projects (SCIP) Unit.

"Through the knowledge and skills gained from the park's staff, the village leaders are now educating villagers on conservation issue as well as stopped them from entering inside the park for poaching activities and other illegal human activities," he said.

Samike Lyaku from Usinga village also expressed thanks to the park's management to team up in the village and trains them on conservation issues.

"Usinga villagers are now knowledgeable about the importance of the park for the country's development and people as well," he said.

He called upon villagers living close and adjacent to the park to stop damaging the environment of the river and park as well as value boundaries of the park.



TYEG chief executive officer, Christopher Dioniz collects eggs at one of the group's chicken farms in Dodoma.

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Dodoma-based youth entrepreneurship group, Tusumuke (TYEG) has established local chicken farm for the hatching of improved local chicken breeds.

Christopher Dioniz, TYEG chief executive officer (CEO) unveiled the new development here over the weekend when launching local

chicken breeds' farm that is seated within ten acres at Mbadala ward on the outskirts of Dodoma city. The farm has been installed incubators facilities for hatching varieties of local chicken breeds.

With passion in poultry farming, Dioniz said that the reason behind the project is to restore, and heighten production and availability of local chicken breeds.

"Demand for local chicken keep on skyrocketing in surpass to the

relevant production capacity and most of poultry farmers are now seems busy producing hybrid breeds, through artificial insemination (AI) as an alternative means to help quench the increased demand," he unveiled.

According to him, the on-going trends will automatically resulting into a total extinction of the healthier-valuable local chicken breeds, hence a need to venture into a specific strategy to help improve

the situation. Dioniz said: "We're hatching a mixture of improved local chicken breeds, through crossbreeding, taking into account those from Singida and Tabora regions."

"Apart from possessing high in Vitamin B, particularly B3 and B12 for brain function and blood health, these local chickens (improved breed) are easy to raise, they use low breeding costs, and are resistant to diseases, whereby in terms of food, they consume little supplements," he observed.

The poultry farmer challenged the government to see the imperative of using it relevant training centres, as the Livestock Institute Training Authority (LITA) as well as the on-going Building Better Tomorrow Youth Program (BBT) to impart and sensitizing the involved beneficiary in the relevant sector to play key role in heighten production of the improved local chicken breeds.

"Among others, we've inception this farm in order to be used as a learning stick yard for well-wishing entrepreneur youth to acquire necessary skills and technology over the sector," he said.

Dioniz also expressed that the group was keen, and will continue cooperating with the government to implement different programs aimed at disseminating the poultry skills across the country.

The group comprises with professional youth in poultry, and other key sectors in agribusiness.

Apart from generating profits, the core vision for the establishment of the group is to roll out free training to the youth so as enabling them to venture into diverse agribusiness project to help overcoming challenges of unemployment.

The group which has so far claimed various national and international awards and recognitions, engages into several products, including poultry, aquaculture (fish farming), rabbit rearing, production of livestock feeds, chicken cages production, to mention but a few.

Intra-EAC trade grows less than bloc's external trade, as member states impose more barriers

By Guardian Reporter

While trading less within the EAC, members of the regional bloc are trading more with other African countries, particularly West Africans, and non-African nations.

EAST African trade is threading in the wrong direction as member states of the East African Community (EAC) are trading more with countries outside the bloc rather than with each other, owing to pesky trade barriers.

While trading less within the EAC, members of the regional bloc are trading more with other African countries, particularly West Africans, and non-

African nations, which is blamed on persistent trade disputes and non-tariff barriers (NTBs), which are choking intra-regional trade as well as undermining the regional integration agenda, according to a recent report by The East African.

One example is the trade dispute between Kenya and Uganda that has been running for years after Kenya impounded milk from Uganda and banned the imports of the com-

modity. The news publication also warns that this situation undermines the entire purpose of the regional bloc, which is to further intra-EAC trade, thus weakens the regional integration goal.

EAC Secretariat's 2022 Trade and Investment Report has showed a new trend where the bloc's member countries are doing increased business with the West African countries, Japan, the United States, India, China and the United

Arab Emirates (UAE).

Although the EAC has so far resolved 23 out of 33 NTBs, Peter Mathuki, Secretary-General, EAC Secretariat, notes that "the persistence of NTBs (still) continued to negatively affect intra-EAC trade."

Provisional data show that in the 2021-2022 period, EAC imports from the UAE surged by 81.9%, from India increased by 20.9%, from China grew by 16.6%, whereas total intra-EAC trade grew by a mere 11.2%.



Flood victims in Mwanza get insurance worth 36.5million/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

FIFTEEN businessmen at the Mlango Mmoja in Nyamagana District, Mwanza region have benefited from insurance worth 36.5m/- from NMB bank and Reliance Tanzania Ltd Insurance Company.

The traders were paid the insurance after the Mlango Mmoja market was hit by floods on December 10 this year.

Speaking at a short ceremony to hand over the payment of insurance compensation at the Mlango Mmoja market for beneficiaries of NMB insurance, one of the beneficiaries Levina Derick thanked bank for supporting them.

She said that the support has helped her a lot, so without NMB insurance, she would no longer be

able to get her capital.

Mlango Mmoja market secretary general Siriacus Rwezaura has asked the NMB bank to increase education on insurance so that many entrepreneurs in the market can purchase insurance.

"There are 1000 entrepreneurs in our market, but only 15 have taken insurance, insurance education is still very much needed," he said.

Adam Msenga, NMB's senior bancassurance manager said that the bank will continue to develop various products for businessmen, bus conductors and food vendor.

He said that NMB bank has succeeded in paying the claims of insurance of 15 businessmen who suffered flood disasters. He has asked the merchants of the Mlango Mmoja market to use the NMB mkononi mobile service.

"Our bank has very cheap insurances, a businessman can pay for insurance from 10,000 for a capital of 500,000 and 60,000 for a capital of 10m/-," he said.

Joel Mwakalebela, Reliance Limited bank assurance manager said that their insurance company in collaboration with NMB bank have come up with a solution of 'machinga insurance' with the aim of helping businessmen during disasters.

Khalfan Isango, Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) representative said on Tuesday that their authority has the task of managing the insurance market.

He asked businessmen to ensure that they take out insurance in NMB bank with the aim of protecting their assets. He thanked NMB Bank and Reliance Insurance Tanzania Company for helping businessman.



NMB Senior Bancassurance Adam Msenga, speaking at a compensation ceremony for 15 business community of Mlango Mmoja market in Mwanza whose business was affected by floods. Left is the Acting Manager of NMB Lake Region Hamadan Silliah and the Quality Officer of the Tanzania Insurance Management Authority, Khalfan Isango. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ministry urged to invest more in grape farming, wine production

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

FORMER Prime Minister, John Samwel Malecela has challenged the ministry of Agriculture to bridge efforts with relevant stakeholders from private and public sectors, including the financial institutions, to accelerate more investments towards the country's grapes and wine processing sector.

Malecela made the call here yesterday when visited the Dodoma-based Chinangali II grape farm.

He cited most of the grape farmers are still crowded-out of access to necessary farming inputs and capital loans from financial facilities the constraints that deny them to attain needed productivity and high yields.

Malecela said that availability of reliable markets and reasonable prices also stands among tall snags that upset the vine growers in the country, and the economic sector in general to thrive.

"Tanzania, especially Dodoma, has been endowed with a most favourable climate for the cultivation of grapes more than any part in the world but it is unfortunate that the country has yet to tap and benefit from the rarely found prestigious



Former Prime Minister, John Malecela inspects grapes at the Dodoma-based Chinangali II grape farm.

economic opportunity," he observed.

Despite admitting and appreciating the so far efforts being initiated by the government towards general

improvement of the side, Melecela underscored the need for further efforts, especially for assisting the farmers to venture effectively into grapes bulk juice processing as a

way to counter market challenges. "Majority of grape farmers are forced to sell their crops at prices of loss due to lack of financial muscle to process the grapes at their own

shadows," he observed.

Should the grapes farmers be empowered to process grapes bulk juice in their vineyards, he said they would stand a beneficial side as they will be able to preserve the product for some time while waiting for the potential customer who will be willing to dish out deserved prices.

"Currently, it appears that most of the wine processing factories, from within and outside the country, prefer to procure grapes bulk juice rather than raw grapes and thus it is imperative for the local farmers to adopt the system in order to benefit from their farming outputs," Malecela insisted.

He said that the parent ministry must work in sync with the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) and other financial facilities with loan scheme packages towards agriculture to see how best to assist the farmers to start processing the raw grapes on their own capacity.

To solve on going market woes among the grape farmers, the government is under the process to install at least three major plants for the processing and storage of grape bulk juice in different locations in Dodoma region.

The project, to gobble up to 3bn/- upon its completion will see erection of the modern plants in Chinan-

gali II area of Chamwino District, to occupy at least 6000 acres, in Mpunguzi area (3000 acre) and the last to plant will occupy 4000 acres in Hombolo suburb of Dodoma capital city.

As per the project's targets, the facilities will be used by the grape farmers to process and store their raw wine grapes into bulk juices while waiting for possible buyers.

Malecela who is the country's leading wine maker pundit, who doubles as the proprietor of the Aliko Vintage Company, Archard Kato, observed that the development was laying a fresh foundation stone to support the country's wine sector to carve a new successful niche.

The wine mogul, Kato, who's a producer of best wines that are currently competing highly in the world market, including Domo, Image, For You and Alter, to mention but a few, said Tanzania has an prestigious potential to stand at the apex of the global wine making industry, should all barriers removed.

In further efforts to spur performance of the sector, the government had decided to increase wine importation duty from 2,466.45 to 5,600 per one liter, being in more focus to help promote the performance of the local wine sector.

Being the country's grapes and wine hub, Dodoma region is currently with at least three major wine factories- Aliko Vintage Co. Ltd, Central Tanganyika Wine Company (CETAWICO), and Dane Holding Company (DHC), and more than seven other small scale plants scattered at different locations under ownership of farmers associations.

Women in science: Two Cameroonians win prize

YAOUNDÉ

IN Cameroon's rural north, a career in science is a rarity for most women. Two young women have bucked the trend, winning a prestigious science award on November 8.

Sabine Adeline Fanta Yadang, 32, a doctor of neuroscience, and Hadidjatou Daïrou, 33, a doctor of cellular physiology, have overcome societal prejudice to win the L'Oréal-Unesco Young Talent Award for Women in Science for their work on the power of medicinal plants.

The two young scientists were chosen from among 30 scientists in sub-Saharan Africa to win the award on November

8 at a ceremony held in Botswana.

Fanta and Hadidjatou were praised for their work on the potential of traditional medicinal plants in Cameroon for treating cardiovascular disease and Alzheimer's.

The two young scientists work together in the laboratory of the Institute for Medical Research and the Study of Medicinal Plants (IMPM) in Yaoundé, the capital.

Traditional, ancestral medicine is recognised as a health sector in its own right in the country.

Hadidjatou believes that the bark of the kola nut (*Garcinia kola*) could improve cardiovas-

cular health.

Fanta is banking on tigernut milk, widely consumed in Central Africa, extracted from a plant that has been renowned locally for its medicinal properties for thousands of years.

In the face of expensive conventional treatments to slow Alzheimer's, the researcher hopes to prove that this plant will make it possible "to combat the degeneration of neurons and reduce stress in the affected brain".

With the €10,000 and €15,000 grants accompanying the Young Talent prize, Hadidjatou will complete her thesis and Fanta will continue her research at the University of Ibadan, in

neighbouring Nigeria.

"The future of Africa is in the hands of its scientists", says Fanta.

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Moroccan farmers on track for bumper harvest of avocado

RABAT

MOROCCO'S climate has proved perfect for avocado growers, with the fruit's widespread popularity and ability to command high market prices seeing exports increase year on year.

The country has become a significant player in the global avocado market since their introduction.

Mohamed Lakchouch owns an avocado farm of some 10 hectares in Larache, north western Morocco, with some 5-thousand avocado trees.

He produces three varieties of avocado namely, Hass, Fuerté and Zutano, with the Hass variety representing some 80% of the avocado trees on this farm.

Lakchouch says this year he's produced 90 tones of Hass avocados, a 30% increase in comparison to the last three years.

But he says he's mindful that avocados are a thirsty crop.

"Each avocado tree can consume approximately 30 litres per hour, and the amount can change according to the seasons. We can use only half that amount, almost 15 litres per hour, and it can reach as much as 60 litres per hour."

He says extreme temperatures and wind "can cause ma-

lor losses to avocado trees because they are very sensitive".

Lakchouch's farm utilises an irrigation system with sensors to reduce water wastage.

Abdellah Elyamlahi, President of the Moroccan Association of Avocado Exporters, says Morocco's northern regions have important water reserves which have boosted agricultural production.

"The northern region of Morocco experiences rainfall and there are important water reserves, unlike southern Morocco, such as Agadir and the Sahara. 20% of the increase in production is due to the growth of farms."

Morocco has recently endured a severe drought due to a reduction in rainfall and an increase in temperatures, especially during the summer months.

This has had a very negative impact on the water table and led to low water levels in dams.

Despite water scarcity issues, the country's avocado industry has shown resilience.

Mustapha Laissate, an environmental researcher in Rabat, says it is important to regulate farms so they are not in water scarce areas.

"The state has now developed a strategy to confront water scarcity. In this context, it is



necessary to regulate the cultivation of these types of trees, as well as watermelons, which must be in areas characterized by abundant water, such as the Lookkos Basin and the Gharb region. However, their presence is difficult in areas where we need drinking water and where livestock and factories are located, in order to avoid an imbalance in water resources that should cover other areas."

Lakchouch says production has increased on his farm as the trees have matured.

"I had young trees. So, it is normal for the production to increase with each year. There are other factors that play a role in increasing the production, for example, the absence of both ice and high temperatures and wind as well. So, with the presence of suitable climat-

ic conditions the production increases."

Avocado production across the country for this season could reach 60,000 tons, says Elyamlahi of the Moroccan Association of Avocado Exporters.

Last year general production reached 40,000 tons, he says, with 90% the Hass variety.

Every year, Morocco exports almost all the avocados it grows. They began exporting to Spain, but later added countries such as Italy, Portugal, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Russia to the list of importers.

However, currently two thirds of this year's avocado harvest do not yet have a destination and several export units have been forced to close.

Elyamlahi explains that this

year's avocados are smaller and there is greater competition on international markets for larger fruit.

Morocco had become accustomed to exporting large calibres.

"There are problems that accompany the increase in production, which is the small size of the fruit. When the tree is full of fruit, this negatively affects its size. When the tree is full of fruit, the fruit is small, and vice versa. This is what has affected marketing at the present time, because in these months there are a group of countries that have the same (uniform) avocado size which are then exported to the main market to which Morocco exports, which is Europe."

And Elyamlahi says the dangers for the industry are real.

Low-cost technology helps to boost quality of lives in Rwanda

KIGALI

A GROUP of former students at Stanford University had an idea to adapt a proven simple floor technology from the United States.

Their non-profit social enterprise Earth Enable, based one hour from Kigali now helps to improve the quality of life for families throughout the country.

Their aptly named "earthen floors" are made without industrial. They use machinery from a mixture of compacted, locally sourced materials – gravel, sand and clay.

It is then sealed with natural oil mixed with a self-developed additive which is kept as a trade secret. In the US linseed oil is used, but it is rather expensive and difficult to source. The team found a replacement in flax oil, and developed a compatible sealant additive that made this floor concept work and affordable for low-income homes in Africa.

The plant oil and additives are mixed at Earth Enable's compound at the booming town of Nyamata, and ready for dispatch after cooling off within 24 hours. But local customers are not so much interested in the production process and rather if the new solution is living up to their expectations:

"The Earth Enable floor is a floor which is not harmful to the environment. It is affordable and very cheaper. We do use the varnish from our people who do research and development. It is very good and helps us to make the floor very strong", a call centre agent at Earth Enable, Jeanne Ishimwe said.

A team from Earth Enable led by Operations assistant Olivier Hozana takes us to a village house where the dirt floors are to receive a make-over. House owner Chantal Uwera did her own research and was convinced that installing hard floors can reduce risk of illness. As she realized quickly with the high cost of materials and delivery using concrete as flooring solution would cost her \$300 to \$500 for her 40-square-meter home - a prohibitively expensive proposition.

Earth Enable is now providing her with an affordable alternative at roughly one third of the price of concrete flooring - and cost is an important factor for subsistence farmers like her:

"I choose what we know as Tura Neza as it is rather cheap, and I did not have money to buy cement, that is why I choose Tura Neza", Chantal said.

In two weeks' time, after a staged process of clearing dirt, compacting natural floor materials and sealing the ground with Earth Enable's oil mix the new floors will provide a healthier home environment for the family.

Olivier Hozana, Operations Assistant at Earth Enable said "they did not have an earthen floor, so what we going to do for them, is to do the floor for a cheaper price. This will help them avoid diseases like diarrhea. So it is going to change their live and they are happy about that".

But home owners are not the only ones profiting from this flooring concept. Earth Enable has also developed training workshops to equip Rwandan masons with the skills they need to market, construct, and install such high-quality earthen floors. After the training, masons are granted rights to purchase the Earth Enable drying oil and serve as part of the network for distribution, installation, and maintenance of such floors.

The organization is also working directly with housing-focused nongovernmental organizations in Rwanda as marketing channels for earthen floors and as a means of directing business to trained masons.

African businesses challenged to embrace technology for growth

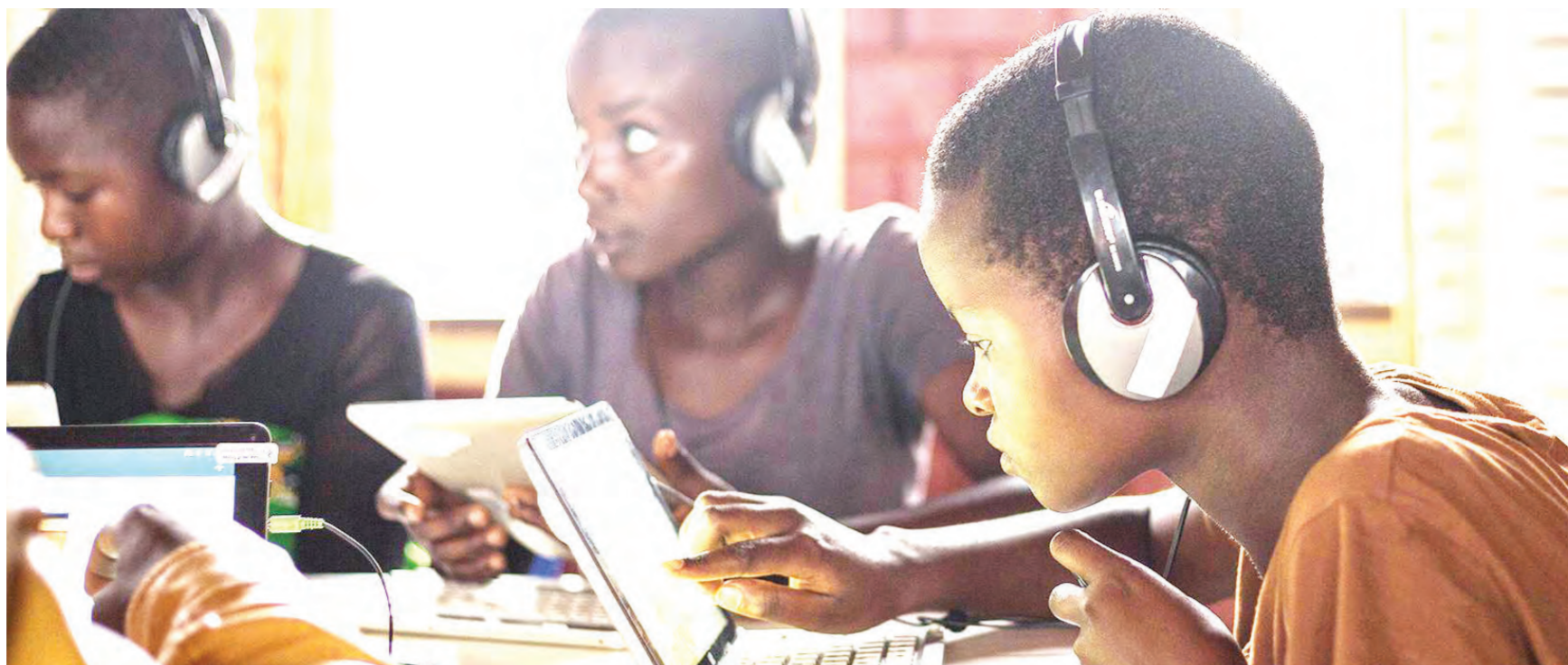
By Grace Ashiru

SAMSON Olatunde, the founder of Knowledge Digest Africa (KDA), has emphasized the importance of African business owners embracing technology to enhance their enterprises. Olatunde's company, known as a comprehensive digital knowledge repository, was recently honored with an award recognizing it as one of the top 100 fastest-growing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the country for the year 2023.

During a speech in Lagos after receiving the BusinessDay top 100 Performing SMEs 2023 award, Olatunde stressed the need for African businessmen to take greater advantage of technology for business expansion and growth.

"This year, we introduced new features, but in 2024, we are diligently working to enhance our content even further. We've noticed shifts in our audience's preferences, and in response to these evolving needs, we are committed to continually improving our website by offering more robust digital content tailored to cater to the interests of young individuals, career professionals, and entrepreneurs," he explained.

He emphasized that the Knowledge Sharing and Development Africa (KDA) platform is at the forefront of diverse knowledge exchange and learning in Africa. It serves as a meeting point for people from various backgrounds to connect, educate, and empower one another. The primary focus is on exploring the latest technology trends and their implications for the future of work and busi-



More tech companies are developing in Africa than in the rest of the world.

nesses in Africa, ensuring that the continent remains globally relevant."

The project's primary objective is to establish Africa's most extensive all-in-one digital knowledge repository, initiated by African entrepreneurs, specifically for African enterprises. This endeavor aims to curate easily understandable, timeless content intended for the upcoming generation of business leaders. The ultimate goal is to empower them to create intergenerational wealth and maintain long-lasting relevance," emphasized Olatunde.

Having accumulated 15 years of experience in the tech industry, Olatunde initiated Knowledge Digest Africa (KDA) to bridge the existing gap between digital infor-

mation and businesses spanning the African continent. Notably, KDA has been consistently delivering downloadable digital content, garnering over 1,000 daily views from its audi-

ence. This award serves as clear recognition that our efforts, initiated several years ago, are yielding positive results, and people are recognizing the

value we bring to the table. It's important to understand that we remain committed to reaching even greater heights, with the goal of becoming the preferred digital bank for infor-

mation," emphasized Olatunde.

Olatunde, an alumnus of Pan Atlantic University in Lagos, boasts certifications as a UK life coach, a management consultant in Canada, and a small business consultant in Texas, USA.

Renowned for his dedication to empowering young Africans, he regularly hosts his flagship 'Digital CEO Tribe' and nurtures Africa's community of digitally savvy professionals. Additionally, he organizes the Digital Wealth Creation Summit, a platform that exposes participants to legitimate avenues for digital wealth creation and future-of-work opportunities."

Olatunde, through his Digital CEO Tribe, passionately champions his vision of aiding businesses in Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond to excel in business performance and profitability by harnessing the power of 21st-century digital tools.

Simultaneously, Samson Olatunde has amassed a wealth of experience executing digital marketing campaigns for diverse brands spanning various industries, leading him on a journey across the continent, offering invaluable strategic guidance to emerging startups.

In a new endeavor aimed at empowering startups with his professional expertise, he has established the Samson Olatunde Foundation. This foundation aspires to become Africa's premier solution-oriented NGO, dedicated to catalyzing transformation across the continent through education and enterprise, leveraging the potential of ICT.

High inflation persists as Nigeria enters New Year

ABUJA

NIGERIA, Africa's largest economy, enters the New Year amid internal and external difficulties challenging its "Renewed Hope," with President Bola Tinubu vowing to tame stubborn inflation.

The country is battling its highest inflation rates in nearly two decades. The latest data, from the National Bureau of Statistics, put November's headline inflation at a staggering 28.2 percent.

Nigeria's inflation rate entered the double-digit zone in 2016 and has remained stubbornly high since January 2021. It surged to 22.41 percent in May, with food being the biggest driver, and then soared to 28.2 percent in November.

The consumer price index, a main gauge of inflation, jumped about 6.73 percentage points from the 21.47 percent posted in November 2022.

The effects go beyond the statistics, penetrating the daily lives of Nigerians who find themselves navigating increasingly higher costs of living.

Some say the situation has been made worse by ambitious policies and reforms embarked upon by the government.

"The situation is deepened by a complex interplay of factors, including the removal of the long-existing subsidies on petrol, multi-indicator poverty further deepening economic distress, and global economic dynamics," said Ademidun McCann, an Abuja-based economic researcher.

Since assuming office in May, President Tinubu has started bold reforms, including the removal of costly fuel subsidies that sent pump prices up, and the floating of the naira against international currencies that saw a weakening of the local legal tender.

Some of these policies have provoked criticisms, with many Nigerians calling for "sequencing of reforms" and a few short-lived nationwide strikes protesting economic hardship.

High inflation and the devaluation of Nigeria's local currency have pushed up costs for the import-dependent economy, McCann said, highlighting profound challenges faced by ordinary Nigerians.

Nigeria heavily relies on imports for various goods and services, including refined petroleum products, machinery, and consumer goods. It is particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in the global market.

"Fluctuations in global commodity prices and exchange rates have impacted the cost of imports, influencing inflation rates. The depreciation of the local currency has profound consequences, contributing significantly to the surge in consumer prices witnessed in November," said Esther Lewis, a Lagos-based exporter of electronic gadgets. "The devaluation of the naira, a critical component of Nigeria's economic struggles, has led to a spike in the costs of imported goods and services."

While some point to global economic factors beyond the country's control, others attribute the inflation surge to structural issues within the Nigerian economy.

The inflationary pressures are affecting households, businesses, and various sectors of the economy, creating a domino effect that amplifies the challenges faced by individuals and communities, said Charles Onunaiju, a global affairs analyst.

The critical challenge of "taming the inflation monster" is to increase productivity, Onunaiju said. "The structural nature of the economy has laid it out for inflationary pressures because inflation comes from money supply that is not in tandem with the goods produced."

As a way of attracting more foreign direct investment to boost productivity, Tinubu has continued to take the gospel of his "business-friendly reforms" to every part of the world he has traveled so far, urging foreign investors to take advantage of the government's policies to provide jobs for the teeming youth, improve infrastructure, and grow the economy.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM



ITV	18:00	18:15	18:30	19:30	20:00	21:05	21:45	22:30	00:00
MONDAY 1 Jan	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:00 Watoto wetu	11:00 ITV Top Ten
	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Igizo: Filimbi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	15:00 Meza huru:	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu
	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	18:30 DW: Afrimaxx	19:00 Afya ya Jamii	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari	21:05 Dakika 45	22:00 Bundesliga na DW	22:15 Mapishi	22:30 Soap: Uzalo
	23:00 Music: The Base	00:00 DWTV							
TUESDAY 2 Jan	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:25 Jagina
	11:00 Chetu ni chetu	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Afya ya jamii	13:00 Jungu Kuu	13:30 Shikabamba	14:00 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen	15:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
	17:00 Music: The Base								
WEDNESDAY 3 Jan	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:30 Igizo: Filimbi rpt
	11:00 Kipindi maalum: ITV	Mwisho wa mwaka 2023 rpt	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu
	17:00 Music: The Base								
THURSDAY 4 Jan	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha					
FRIDAY 5 Jan	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:30 Usafiri wako
	11:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco	11:25 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT	13:30 Jungu kuu rpt	14:00 Shamsam za pwani rpt	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)	17:30 Kiisiam	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Top ten	19:00 Shamba lulu	21:05 Soap: In Love with Ramon	20:00 Habari		
SATURDAY 6 Jan	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and lifestyle	13:20 Shamba lulu	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
	19:00 Jungu kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
SUNDAY 7 Jan	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt:	12:45 Mjue zaidi
	13:30 Usafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	15:30 Mwangaza	16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen
	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe						

CAPITAL TV

Mon 01 Jan

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Kumekucha Michezo rpt
- 10:00 Meza Huru Rpt
- 11:30 Business edition
- 12:00 Out and About
- 12:30 Our earth
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
- 14:00 Ripoti maalum
- 14:45 Sports Gazette
- 15:15 Jagina
- 16:00 Tomorrow Today
- 16:30 Eco@Africa
- 17:00 Dw News Africa rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 The Décor rpt
- 19:30 Shamba lulu
- 20:00 Innovation Rpt
- 20:45 The Monday Agenda
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Kipimo Joto
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 02 Jan

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Kumekucha Michezo rpt
- 10:00 Meza Huru Rpt
- 11:30 Monday agenda rpt
- 12:15 Spots gazette
- 12:45 Filler doc
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
- 14:00 Business Edition Rpt
- 14:30 Ingood Shape
- 15:00 Shamba Lulu
- 15:30 Bundesliga Kick off
- 16:00 Culinary Delights Rpt
- 16:30 Capchat rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Innovation
- 19:30 Our Earth
- 20:00 Décor Rpt
- 20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Jagina rpt
- 22:30 Eco@Africa
- 23:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Foes hope Constitution's 'insurrection' ban to keep Donald Trump off '24 vote

WASHINGTON

MAINE on Thursday became the second US state to bar Donald Trump from a Republican presidential primary ballot, part of a flurry of legal challenges to his eligibility to run for president in 2024.

The challenges are being filed under a provision in the US Constitution banning officials who have engaged in "insurrection" from holding public office.

Here is a look at some of the notable challenges under the provision known as Section 3 of the 14th Amendment and where they stand:

What is Section 3 of the 14th Amendment?

Passed after the US Civil War, Section 3 bars anyone from holding public office if they were engaged in "insurrection or rebellion" after previously swearing an oath in support of the United States.

The provision was enacted in 1868 to prevent former members of the pro-slavery Confederacy from serving in the US government.

Advocacy groups and some anti-Trump voters have brought legal challenges to Trump's 2024 presidential campaign in several states based on Section 3, arguing that then-president Trump engaged in insurrection when he urged his supporters on Jan 6, 2021, to go to Washington and stop Congress from certifying the November 2020 election won by Democrat Joe Biden.

A mob of his supporters then stormed the US Capitol and were unsuccessful in blocking the certification.

What did Maine rule?

The state's top election official, Democrat Shenna Bellows, granted a challenge from a group of former state lawmakers who argued that Trump, the frontrunner for the

Republican presidential nomination, was not qualified to serve as president again under Section 3.

Bellows ordered Trump kept off the ballot for the March 5 Republican primary but put her ruling on hold to allow Trump to appeal to a state court.

Have any other states disqualified Trump?

Colorado became the first state to exclude Trump from a primary ballot. The state's highest court ruled on Dec 19 that Trump engaged in insurrection.

Colorado is viewed as a safely Democratic state in the November 2024 general election, meaning Biden would be expected to carry the state regardless of whether Trump is on the ballot.

The court paused its ruling to allow Trump to appeal to the US Supreme Court, which the former president indicated he would do. The Colorado Republican Party filed its own appeal to the Supreme Court on Dec 27, clearing a path for Trump to remain on the primary ballot despite the state court ruling.

What is Trump's defense?

Trump and his allies have criticized disqualification cases as undemocratic and part of a conspiracy by his political rivals to keep him out of office.

His lawyers have argued that only Congress can enforce Section 3 and that presidents are not subject to disqualification. A lower court judge in Colorado agreed that Section 3 does not apply to presidents before that ruling was overturned by the state's top court.

Trump's legal team also disputes that he engaged in insurrection, arguing that Trump was exercising his First Amendment right to free speech on Jan 6.



Former US president Donald Trump speaks during a campaign event in Waterloo, Iowa, on Dec 19, 2023. AFP

Trump has pleaded not guilty to criminal charges accusing him of conspiring to overturn the 2020 election results but has not been charged with insurrection.

What happens next?

The Maine decision will be reviewed by state courts.

The US Supreme Court is likely to take the Colorado case given its political importance and the unsettled legal questions it raises.

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It is not clear how the Court will rule, but it is dominated by a conservative majority that includes three Trump appointees.

The court may not need to decide whether Trump engaged in insurrection and could rule narrowly that Section 3 does not apply to presidents or that it cannot be enforced by courts.

A ruling that Trump is disqualified from the presidency would be momentous step with seismic political implications.

Which states have rejected ballot challenges?

Lawsuits in several states seeking to keep Trump off primary ballots have failed. Courts in Minnesota and Michigan ruled that Trump could not be excluded from the primary but allowed challengers to revive their cases for the November 2024 general election if Trump is the Republican nominee.

Courts in both states ruled that Trump's eligibility for the presidency under the US Constitution was not relevant to internal party primaries.

Michigan is considered one of the hotly contested states that can swing to either Democrats or Republicans and likely to decide the outcome of the general election.

Some state election officials have also turned aside efforts to keep Trump off the ballot. California Secretary of State Shirley Weber on Thursday announced that Trump would be included on the list of candidates in that state's Republican primary. California is a Democratic stronghold in general elections.

Where else are cases pending?

Challenges to Trump's eligibility have been filed in at least 12 states. One of the more closely watched cases is in Oregon, where the state Supreme Court is poised to decide in the coming days whether to consider a lawsuit seeking to disqualify Trump from the state's primary ballot.

Russia's UN envoy says Kiev regime shells Russian cities to please West

UNITED NATIONS

THE Kiev regime shells Russian cities to please the West, Russia's UN envoy Vasily Nebenzya said.

"The shelling of populated areas in the Donbass, Kherson and Zaporozhye regions, Crimea and other Russian regions, the ruthless and blind killings of civilians testify to the agony of the neo-Nazi regime of [Ukrainian President Vladimir] Zelensky, which is mired in terrorism, lawlessness, corruption and cynicism and seeks to kill as many Russian people as possible in its impotent rage as it wants to please its Western masters," he said at a UN Security Council meeting that was convened by Russia in connection with the shelling of Belgorod.

"All organizers and perpetrators of this and other crimes of the Kiev junta will be inevitably punished. We call on all responsible governments and relevant international organizations to condemn this terrorist attack that used cluster munitions, which are banned in most Western countries, and to publicly distance themselves from the Kiev regime and its Western handlers that commit such crimes," the diplomat went on to say.

The city of Belgorod and the surrounding region have recently come under shelling. The latest strike was carried out with Czech-made MLRS that fired two rockets with cluster munitions into downtown Belgorod. At least 20 people were killed and 111 were injured.

Exclusively civilian facilities were hit. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, air defense systems intercepted both rockets and most of the other projectiles. Otherwise, the consequences would have been much more serious, the ministry said.



PM Modi's temple invite from Abu Dhabi more important than Rahul's 'Nyay Yatra': Giriraj Singh

BEGUSARAI

WEIGHING in on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's upcoming 'Nyay Yatra' from January 14, Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Sunday said it doesn't hold much significance for his party or the people, adding that the invite to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for opening a Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi was more significant for the country.

The Congress recently announced the 'Nyay Yatra' from January 14 in the Manipur capital, Imphal. Going east to west, the rally, led by Rahul, will culminate on March 20 in Mumbai.

The rally will follow from Rahul's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' earlier this year, during which the Congress MP was seen matching steps with fellow Opposition leaders and people from all walks of life. During the march that straddled several states, Rahul was also pictured interacting with locals informally.

Rahul is expected to interact with youth, women and marginalised people during the yatra.

The Congress said the Nyay Yatra will cover 6,200 km, on a route straddling Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Speaking to ANI on Sunday, the Union Minister took a dig at the Congress leader, saying, "This is an India of the 21st century and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leading the efforts to spread the message of Sanatan Dharma across the world. As for Rahul Gandhi, he should decide whether to launch a 'Nyay Yatra' or a 'Gyan Yatra' on January 14. I believe what is of more significance for us as Indians is that Prime Minister Modi has received and accepted an invitation to inaugurate a Sanatan Temple in Abu Dhabi. He is following in the footsteps of Swami Vivekananda."

Hitting out at the Samajwadi Party (SP) over the statements of some of its leaders ahead of the grand opening of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, the BJP leader accused the party of trying to disrupt peace and stoke violence. Samajwadi Party MP Shafiqur Rahman Barq recently triggered a row earlier, calling for the return of the Babri Masjid that, he claimed, was snatched away.

"Sanatan had awakened the whole country and no Babar (Muslim leader) would ever dare demolish a temple again and raise a mosque on its ruins," he added.

On Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan) Singh's resignation as the JD(U) national president, the Union Minister said the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar may look orderly from the outside but is in a state of chaos within.

ANI



Strategic partnership between Russia and India continues to develop dynamically - Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin extended his New Year message to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday and highlighted that, despite the difficult international situation in the world, relations between both countries developed dynamically.

Russian President also noted some major developments and India-Russia bilateral cooperation in the outgoing year.

The note read, "The messages addressed to President of the Republic of India Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi note that, despite the difficult international situation, the special and privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India continues to develop dynamically: in the outgoing year, trade has been growing at an exceptionally high rate and joint projects in various areas have been successfully implemented."

He also stressed the cooperation between the two countries to develop multifaceted bilateral ties and coordinate efforts to strengthen security and stability at the regional and global levels.

The document read further, "Vladimir Putin praised the results of India's chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the G20 and stressed his conviction that Moscow and New Delhi will continue to develop multifaceted bilateral ties and effectively coordinate efforts to strengthen security and stability at the regional and global levels."

In addition, Vladimir Putin extended Christmas and New Year greetings to several former foreign heads of state and government, including Belarus, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey and many others.

On December 28, Putin met with the External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar who was on his formal visit to Moscow from Decem-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar calls on Russian President Vladimir Putin, in Moscow on Wednesday. ANI

ber 25 to 29 as a part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between the two sides.

During the meeting, Putin emphasised the positive stance of Prime Minister Modi on complex global developments, including the situation in Ukraine.

"We know the stance of Prime

Minister Modi and we mentioned that repeatedly on many occasions. Well, his attitude towards some complex developments, including the flashpoints like...in Ukraine," he noted.

The Russian President mentioned that he has advised Modi on the developments in Ukraine multiple times and indicated that further discussions on the matter would take place.

"Many times, I advised him of how things have been going there and I know that he (PM Modi) is willing to do his utmost so that the issue is resolved by peaceful means. So, we probably will delve into that deeper now, and we will give additional information to you on that time," Putin added.

The Russian President also expressed gratitude for the progressing relationship between Russia and India amid global turmoil. "We are gratified to note that despite all the turmoil happening worldwide, the relationship with our true friend in Asia, India has

been progressing incrementally," Putin said.

India has often articulated and clarified its stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue. Russia's invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths on both sides.

Amid the raging military conflict, PM Modi has spoken to Putin as well as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. PM Modi also met Ukraine President Zelenskyy in Japan during the G7 summit in May 2023.

In the meeting, PM Modi assured that he would do whatever was possible to help resolve the conflict. "India and I will do whatever we can to resolve the conflict," PM Modi said.

New Delhi has sought a diplomatic solution to the conflict, with PM Modi telling Russian President Vladimir Putin in September that "now is not an era of war." ANI

China, US should implement consensus between heads of state and promote healthy, stable, sustainable development of bilateral ties

CHINA and the U.S. should faithfully implement the consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden in San Francisco, and promote the healthy, stable and sustainable development of their bilateral ties with a sense of responsibility for history, for the people and for the world.

In December 1978, China and the U.S. issued the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations, announcing both countries' decision to recognize each other and to establish diplomatic relations as of January 1, 1979.

2024 will mark the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

At this key juncture linking the past and future, it's important that the two

countries look back on their history of bilateral relations over the past decades to seek inspiration and guidance, which is of great significance for improving and developing their relations.

In the 1970s, the leaders of China and the U.S., with the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples at heart, made a historic decision with farsighted strategic vision and extraordinary political wisdom to break the ice that caused mutual isolation between China and the U.S.

After that, they continued to normalize the China-U.S. relations through unremitting efforts, opening a new chapter in the development of China-U.S. relations.

Over the past decades, China-U.S. relations have made historic progress

despite twists and turns, bringing tremendous benefits to the two peoples and making important contributions to world peace, stability and prosperity.

History has fully proven that for two large countries like China and the U.S., turning their back on each other is not an option, it is unrealistic for one side to remodel the other, and conflict and confrontation have unbearable consequences for both sides.

The two countries must recognize the irrefutable truth that China and the U.S. both gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation.

Mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation are the lessons learned from 50 years of China-U.S. relations and the conflicts between major

countries in history, which should be the direction of joint efforts between the two countries.

About a month ago, Xi and Biden held a historic meeting in San Francisco to explore the right way for the two major countries to get along in the new era, establishing the "San Francisco vision" oriented toward the future.

From an overall and strategic perspective, Xi pointed out at the meeting that China and the U.S. should jointly develop a right perception, jointly manage disagreements effectively, jointly advance mutually beneficial cooperation, jointly shoulder responsibilities as major countries and jointly promote people-

to-people exchanges. These are the five pillars that have laid out a roadmap for the sound, steady and sustained growth of China-U.S. relations.

The Xi-Biden meeting has consolidated the momentum of stabilizing China-U.S. relations and injected much-needed certainty and stability into the world of changes and chaos, therefore receiving widespread applause in both countries and the international community.

In recent years, China-U.S. relations have encountered serious difficulties. The root cause of that is the serious misperceptions some people in the U.S. have regarding China and the China-U.S. relations. China and the U.S. are two major countries with different histories, cultures, social systems and development

paths, and there have been and will continue to be differences between the two countries. However, such differences should not become an obstacle to growing China-U.S. relations. The two sides should look for ways to build bridges to help them walk toward each other.

The two sides must appreciate each other's principles and red lines, and refrain from flip-flopping, being provocative, and crossing the lines. They should have more communication, more dialogues and more consultations, and calmly handle their differences as well as accidents.

Win-win cooperation is the trend of the times and should also be an inherent property of China-U.S. relations.

People's Daily

Russian criticises Czech Republic for snubbing UNSC meeting on shelling of Belgorod

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has blasted the Czech Foreign Ministry for a statement about the UN Security Council meeting on the Ukrainian shelling of the Russian city of Belgorod.

The diplomat was referring to the Czech envoy's refusal to attend the Security Council meeting, which had been requested by Russia, and the statement by Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky, who said that, "We refuse to be summoned anywhere by Russia."

"I did not think that the Czech Foreign Ministry is so incompetent as not to know how the UN Security Council is set up. This is a multilateral organization that still works in accordance with international law and not heed the 'rules-based world order,'" Zakharova said on Telegram.

The city of Belgorod and the surrounding region have recently come under shelling. The latest strike was carried out with Czech-made MLRS that fired two rockets with cluster munitions into downtown Belgorod. At least 21 people were killed and 111 were injured.

Exclusively civilian facilities were hit. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, air defense systems intercepted both rockets and most of the other projectiles. Otherwise, the consequences would have been much more serious, the ministry said.



Israeli forces kill dozens of Hamas militants in Gaza City

JERUSALEM/GAZA

THE Israeli ground troops, backed by aircraft, have killed dozens of "terrorists" during operations in Gaza City over the past day, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said Saturday morning.

In a statement, the IDF said the air forces, directed by ground troops, struck more than 15 armed militants in Gaza City within three hours. Additionally, fierce battles were going on, and more Hamas militants were killed.

In northern Gaza's Beit Lahia, the Israeli troops dismantled two Hamas military compounds, where they located numerous weapons, explosive devices, guns, military equipment, and communication devices before the strike, the statement added.

The IDF also stated on Friday that it has started military operations in southern Gaza's Khirbat Ikhsa'a region, from where Hamas launched its attack on Israel on Oct 7, resulting in casualties and the abduction of civilians to Gaza.

As the Israeli army intensified its military campaign in Gaza, Osama Hamdan, a Hamas politburo member, denied on Saturday Israeli media reports of talks unfolded on a new hostage deal in exchange for another temporary ceasefire in the enclave.

Hamdan told Al Jazeera that Hamas had informed mediators that a permanent ceasefire is the militant group's major priority and that there is currently "no talk of releasing hostages before the fighting stops."

Meanwhile, at least 165 Palestinians were killed in Israeli air and ground attacks on the Gaza Strip during the past 24 hours, said the Gaza-based Health Ministry on Saturday.

It raised the death toll of Palestinians to 21,672 since the conflict broke out on Oct 7, the ministry added.

Also on Saturday, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned of the intensification of infectious disease spread in the Gaza Strip, which suffered a lack of humanitarian aid and subsequent disastrous repercussions.

The spread of diseases in Gaza has intensified, especially due to the recent mass displacement throughout south-

ern Gaza and the need for some families to move several times, OCHA said in a statement.

The agency added that this situation increases pressure on the already overwhelmed Palestinian health system, which is struggling to meet the enormous needs of the population at a time when the majority of hospitals across the strip are out of service.

It explained that nearly 180,000 people suffer from upper respiratory infections, while there are 136,400 cases of diarrhea, with half of them reported among children under the age of five.

Meanwhile, 55,400 people have had scabies, 5,330 have chickenpox, 42,700 suffer from skin rashes, and 126 suffer from meningitis.

The statement pointed out that 1.9 million people in Gaza, or approximately 85 percent of the whole population, have become internally displaced, including those who are forced to move frequently to seek refuge.

It added that the lack of food and survival items and poor hygiene exacerbate the already difficult living conditions of the displaced and prompt the spread of diseases.

The UN office said that due to the major security incidents that occurred in the vicinity of the Kerem Shalom crossing since it was partially reopened on Dec 17, humanitarian aid through this crossing between Israel and Gaza was suspended during the past four days.

Meanwhile, 81 trucks loaded with food and medicine entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing with Egypt on Friday, the office added.

However, the aid convoys could face multiple challenges in their delivery.

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees said the Israeli forces opened fire Friday on an aid convoy that was returning from northern Gaza in a route designated by the Israeli army, leading to damage to one vehicle.

The World Food Program warned a few days ago that the Palestinian enclave is facing the fifth stage of acute food insecurity and that the risk of famine is increasing daily amid intensified conflict and restricted humanitarian access.

Xinhua

UN chief deeply concerned over escalating Middle East tensions

UNITED NATIONS/GAZA

THE UN secretary-general on Friday expressed grave concern about the ongoing hostilities between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

"As the hostilities between Israel and Hamas and other groups in Gaza intensify, the secretary-general remains gravely concerned about the further spillover of this conflict, which could have devastating consequences for the entire region," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for Antonio Guterres.

The UN chief emphasized the increasing risk of a wider regional conflagration, cautioning that the longer the conflict in Gaza continues, the greater the chance of escalation and miscalculation by multiple actors.

The escalating violence in the occupied West Bank, including intensified Israeli security forces operations, high numbers of fatalities, settler violence, and attacks on Israelis by Palestinians, was described as "extremely alarming."

"The daily exchanges of fire across the Blue Line risk triggering a broader escalation between Israel and Lebanon and affecting regional stability," warned Guterres.

Furthermore, the secretary-general expressed growing concern about the spillover effects of continuing attacks by armed groups in Iraq and Syria, as well as Houthi attacks against vessels in the Red Sea, which have escalated in recent days.

In response to these concerning developments, he urged all parties involved to exercise maximum restraint and take ur-



People inspect the damage following Israeli bombardment in Rafah on the southern Gaza Strip on Dec 29, 2023, amid the ongoing battles between Israel and Hamas. (PHOTO / AFP)

gent steps to de-escalate tensions in the region.

He also called upon the international community to utilize their influence to prevent a further escalation of the situation.

"The secretary-general reiterates his call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages," said Dujarric.

Meanwhile, Qatar has proposed a new deal to end Israel's offensive on the Gaza Strip and formulated a Palestinian consensus government that did not directly involve the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), a Palestinian source said on Friday.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the source said Doha has presented the proposal to Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Hamas, and influential Arab and international entities on the Palestinian issue.

In the proposal, Qatar suggests a permanent ceasefire to pave the way for an extensive prisoner exchange between Hamas and Israel to resolve the issue of hostages held in Gaza, the source said.

The proposal seeks to provide guarantees against the recurrence of Oct 7 when Hamas launched a surprising attack on southern Israel, and aims at securing a sustainable ceasefire, it added.

So far, Israel has not made any official response to the proposal, the source add-

ed. Meanwhile, Hamas leader Mahmoud Mardawi said the group is open to all initiatives and efforts aimed at ending the conflict in Gaza.

Any talk not based on a permanent ceasefire or a halt to displace Gaza residents is not suitable and cannot be discussed, he said, reiterating that ending the aggression on Gaza and ensuring a complete ceasefire is the premise of negotiations regarding other issues, including a prisoner exchange plan.

So far, the basic Palestinian demands for a permanent

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao GBA makes solid steps in high-quality development

THE Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) is one of the most open and economically vibrant regions in China. Covering an area of 56,000 square kilometers, it is home to more than 80 million people. Its GDP exceeded 13 trillion yuan (\$1.82 trillion) in 2022.

On Dec. 21, China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) issued a plan for the Guangdong-Macao in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin, Zhuhai and another plan for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone in Shenzhen. These two documents are expected to accelerate the development and opening up of major cooperation platforms in the GBA.

As the GBA sees a better foundation of transportation and logistics, its steps of high-quality development have become more solid, which unleashes tremendous vitality for development.

This October, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge marked its 5th anniversary. As a "golden channel" enhancing the GBA's connectivity, the bridge has facilitated trips of 36 million cross-border passengers and 7.5 million vehicles over the past 5 years. The total import and export volume through the Zhuhai land port of the bridge amounted to 718.75 billion yuan.

Infrastructure projects such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, Nansha Bridge and Guangzhou-Shanwei high-speed railway, have further strengthened the connectivity in the GBA.

Besides, thanks to a new policy that took effect on Dec. 12, travelers arriving at Zhuhai Jinwan Airport on the Chinese mainland are allowed to reach the Hong Kong International Airport via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge to fly to overseas destinations without going through immigration in Hong Kong. The convenient and developed transport network is an accelerator for the integrated development of the GBA.

While improving hard connectivity on transportation, the GBA is also improving rules and mechanisms. In April this year, a total of 110 "GBA Standards" were announced in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, covering 25 fields including food, Cantonese cuisine, traditional Chinese medicine, transportation, elderly care, and logistics.

Under the joint efforts of Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao, residents from Hong Kong and Macao have been enjoying increasingly high-quality and convenient public services in the GBA mainland cities since this year.

For instance, the Guangdong-Macao social security one-stop service counters have enabled Macao residents to handle Macao social security matters in Hengqin.

Guangdong and Hong Kong have set up cross-boundary public service counters to strengthen the convenience for businesses and individuals in handling relevant matters. So far, the first batch of more than 50 services has been made available.

"These measures have allowed residents and businesses in Guangdong and Hong Kong to bid farewell to the hassle of running back and forth for government services, and we have all benefited from it," said Chen Chi Ming from Hong Kong who currently works in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province. These convenient services, which are accessible to the people, have made the GBA better



People visit the Avenue of Stars by the Victoria Harbor in Hong Kong, south China, May 18, 2022. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland. (Xinhua/Lo Ping Fai)

connected, Chen added.

Thanks to the "soft connectivity," the investment and development of Hong Kong and Macao enterprises in mainland cities of the GBA have been further facilitated.

The sound business and living environment are attracting more and more people to study, work, live, and start their businesses in the GBA, which effectively promotes the high-quality development of the area.

Huang King Hei from Macao works at a law firm headquartered in Hengqin. He calls himself the "new-gen youth of Hengqin and Macao."

Huang was born into a family of lawyers. He has passed the lawyer qualification examination of the GBA, obtained a lawyer's license in the Chinese mainland, and become one of the first qualified arbitrators from Macao in the Guangdong-Macao in-depth cooperation zone.

"Among the some 50 lawyers in my law firm, more than 10 are from Macao," said Huang. According to him, it takes only a half-hour drive for him to go home from his office, and this has greatly facilitated Macao lawyers to work in Hengqin.

According to statistics, more than 3,200 professionals from Hong Kong and Macao are currently working in the GBA mainland cities in various sectors such as law, healthcare, and urban planning, and over 3,500 individuals have obtained skills certificates that are recognized by all GBA cities.

Guangdong province has established 237 counters to meet the social security needs of individuals and businesses from Hong Kong and Macao. The number of Hong Kong and Macao residents participating in social insurance in the province has reached 346,700. Efforts have also been made to ensure that Hong Kong and Macao residents enjoy equal treatment in terms of employment and entrepreneurship in Guangdong.

From the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub to the Guangdong, Hong Kong & Macao (International) Youth

Entrepreneur Hub, and from the Hengqin-Macao Youth Entrepreneurship Valley to the Foshan-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Entrepreneurship Center, a number of innovation and entrepreneurship bases are nurturing the dreams of countless young entrepreneurs in the GBA.

According to statistics, the Hong Kong-Macao youth innovation and entrepreneurship bases in the Pearl River Delta have incubated around 4,000 projects from Hong Kong and Macao, providing employment opportunities for approximately 5,500 young people from the two regions. The GBA has become a fertile ground of innovation and entrepreneurship for young people from Hong Kong and Macao.

Nowadays, an increasing number of young people from Hong Kong and Macao have come to realize the tremendous potential for development in the GBA. They believe this region can bring them better prospects for their careers.

According to a survey conducted by the Hong Kong United Youth Association this year, 65.5 percent of respondents agreed that the GBA created opportunities for their career development, and 71.3 percent were willing to work or pursue their careers in the Chinese mainland.

People's Daily



According to statistics, more than 3,200 professionals from Hong Kong and Macao are currently working in the GBA mainland cities in various sectors such as law, healthcare, and urban planning, and over 3,500



Israeli armed forces and tanks are seen in Israel's border with Gaza on Thursday. XINHUA

Talent hunting sharper as fans want parity with CAF top guns

By Correspondent John Kimbute

As the mini registration window eased to open, fans and pundits on either side of the western part of the central business district in the commercial capital were peering their ears to hear who their clubs have signed on already or were on the verge of putting ink to paper.

Already there are confirmed signings but it is expected that the Mapinduzi Cup tourney will provide an opportunity to find good talent, with 12 teams taking part, from Pemba, Zanzibar, Mainland Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi, and Rwanda.

In the tournament, not just CE-CAFA and CAF rules are observable but also the Isles peculiarity where a keen rivalry plays out between the two principal islands, too.

Already some earlier tourneys including the respective premier leagues have led to signings, for instance, a defensive midfielder for Yanga Shekhan Khamis, whom pundits were comparing with Faisal Salum in his early years in Zanzibar.

He seems to be following in the footsteps of Ibrahim Hamad 'Bacca' as a talent find, meanwhile signing veterans with a wealth of experience was also on the cards, as Yanga sought out Simon Msuva and even appeared to confirm the news he was ready to sign.

The news was corrected from his parental household, which means he is not yet ending his decade-long engagement outside. He looks like Said Ntibazonkiza at Simba SC.

There was talk and photos of a Cameroonian player at Yanga already but his images were not as yet replete for routine search engines but on specialized social media, as the two city giants appeared to be keen on a contest as to who will improve the side faster and more convincingly.

While everyone in the city knows that the Simba SC sponsor or key shareholder has more money than the private firm GSM Group, which is all the same tied to a multinational company rather than of purely local origins, there is no mood at Yanga to accept second best, so the signing rivalry will persist.

Yet the method of finding play-



Yanga's newly signed defensive midfielder Shekhan Khamis. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

ers remains the same, finding new talent like out-of-contract experienced players, or handing a better contract than renewing an existing contract.

At the same time, Taifa Stars' technical bench was also on a talent hunt as they called into camp dozens of players to select a squad to prepare first for a Zanzibar Heroes vs Kilimanjaro Stars friendly match, followed by starting preparations for the Africa Cup of Nations finals.

The Kili Stars vs Heroes encounter was judged as timid and lackluster by all accounts, in which case the confirmation of talent

was only partial as the test wasn't strong enough.

At a different level, this same kind of test has now led to the city archivals making frantic registration efforts at midseason for the teams they were satisfied with faced an acid test at the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League.

Both teams scrambled out of the bottom with solid wins at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, nicknamed 'Estadio Lupaso'.

The talent search with the Taifa Stars technical bench has in the past few months solidly taken a turn, hunting for Diaspora youths

recognizing themselves as Tanzanians, where a few are playing at the Championship level (the league tourney just below the England Premier League).

The old guard is on its way out though Msuva and his pal Mbwana Samatta have shown quite some resilience, it is apparent that Aishi Manula, despite some effort to keep him in competitive matches both at the club and national level, cuts an image of the past, increasingly so.

Both spheres of talent search appear to be geared for relative success as local teams play increasingly better football now that premier league sides prepare to tackle top sides beefed with professionals.

The coaches are judged by the rates of success in that regard, and that means uplifting their soccer to reflect the tactics of professional coaches from abroad so that they are not hammered in the league run, and to a considerable extent, they have succeeded in that effort.

This has resulted in raising the quality of local football and capacity for analysis, such that reviewing an important encounter is a class in technique and tactics, such that the reason a coach fails can even be foreseen, and replacements of coaches repeatedly set higher standards.

So there is no drastic change in talent hunting but there are improved upward markings, since local talent search yields better results on account of improvement of the premier league, and a better grassroots environment for player formation.

League tournaments in the neighbouring countries are improving similarly as right here, and some countries have a head start in soccer prowess, notably the Congo DR nearby and, to an extent, Uganda.

Outside these parameters, the hunting goes out wider, especially in West Africa, with the most attention given to players who are nearing the end of their contract and are open to negotiations on an improved package.

Yet the failure of Jonas Mkude at Yanga and the relative failure of Luis Miquissone at Simba SC after his Al Ahly contract ended implies that the gap in standards is narrowing, just the cash gap now, but as experience shows, when standards close up, the gap in players' worth is more manageable.

SPORT

New Ihefu SC head coach sets sights on tactical evolution

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

NEWLY appointed Ihefu SC head coach, Mecky Mexime, recently shared insights into his approach to the job.

Mexime mentioned that as he steps into the role he intends to assess the team's needs and formulate tactics during the mini transfer window.

He highlighted his commitment to understanding the dynamics before officially starting his duties.

In an interview with The Guardian, Mexime vowed to fight for Ihefu SC's success, pledging to inject his signature style of play that has captivated fans across the country.

The outspoken coach disclosed: "I'm a fighter," he declared. "I believe in hard work and determination. I'm going to give everything I have to make Ihefu SC successful, and that means playing a brand of football that is not only effective but also a joy to watch."

Mexime takes over a team currently sitting 13th in the Premier League table. He recognizes the challenges ahead but remains undaunted.

The tactician stressed: "I'm not afraid of hard work," he affirmed. "I'm here to roll up my sleeves and get to work. I'm confident that with the talent we have in this squad, we can turn things around and climb up the table."

Mexime's coaching CV boasts stints at some of Tanzania's biggest clubs, including Mtwara Sugar and Kagera Sugar.

His attacking style, often described as 'breathtaking' and 'poetry in motion', has earned him a legion of ad-

mirers across the league.

"I want to create a team that is not only successful but also exciting to watch," he explained.

"I want our fans to be proud of the way we play, to be on the edge of their seats every time we step onto the pitch. I believe that beautiful football can be just as effective as any other strategy."

Mexime's arrival has ignited a wave of optimism among Ihefu SC fans. They see him as the man who can finally unlock the club's potential and propel it back to a better position in the Premier League.

A jubilant Ihefu SC fan stated: "We're thrilled to have Mecky Mexime on board. He's a proven winner with a track record of success but more importantly, he's a coach who understands that football is about more than just results."

He added: "It's about entertainment, about passion, about giving the fans something to cheer about. And that's exactly what we need at Ihefu SC."

Only time will tell if Mexime can live up to the lofty expectations. But one thing is for sure: his arrival has injected a much-needed dose of excitement into the club, and fans are eager to see his brand of beautiful football light up the Tanzanian Premier League.

Mexime's appointment is the third time Ihefu SC has changed coaches this season. The club is currently in 13th place in the league table, with 13 points from 14 games.

Mexime's previous club, Kagera Sugar, is currently occupying 14th place in the Premier League table.



Tanzanian coach, Mecky Mexime (L), is pictured holding Ihefu SC's souvenir jersey with one of the club's officials when the former was unveiled as the club's newly appointed head coach in Mbeya recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF IHEFU SC



Dar es Salaam junior swimmer showcases her virtuosity at a training held at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) swimming pool recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Morogoro Stars wallops Dar Motor36 Stars in TCA Bilateral Series

By Guardian Correspondent

OMARY Ramadhani put scintillating batting as Morogoro Stars cruised to a comprehensive 32-run demolition of Dar Motor36 Stars in the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Moro-Dar Bilateral Series tie which took place in Morogoro recently.

Morogoro Stars won the toss and elected to bat in the tie played at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)

venue, registering 170/9 in the allotted 20 overs.

Opener Ramadhani had the best batting performance when Morogoro Stars took the crease, having recorded 86 runs which included five fours and two sixes.

Top-order performers Augustine Mwamele (23 runs) and January Joseph (20 runs) were the other players with notable displays at the crease, chipping in with two-digit scores for the batting squad.

The remainder of the batting squad's cricketers could not step up, having made their way back with less convincing contributions.

Romani Adinani, deployed at number four, returned with five runs.

Johnson Sospeter ended with a four-wicket haul to play a pivotal role in efforts by Dar Motor36 Stars to prevent Morogoro Stars from ending with a bigger score. The bowler had an economy rate of 8.75 in four

overs bowled.

He was ably assisted by Shaban Jumanne as the latter chipped in with two wickets for 46 runs in four overs.

Even though they were facing the modest target of 117 runs, Dar Motor36 Stars lost steam in the chase and failed to live up to their expectations, having notched 138/7 in 20 overs.

Opener Abdulrazak Mohamed was by far the batsman with a performance worth

writing home about for Dar Motor36 Stars, given the cricketer ended with 50 runs.

The opener duly stepped up and successfully spared the blushes of fellow top-order performers, John David and Ibrahim Job, who suffered early exits.

David made his way back for duck, whereas Job returned whilst being three runs short of a two-digit figure off 21 knocks.

Rijali Fentu (16 runs), Ab-

dallah Hassan (12 runs), and Salum Jumbe (13 runs) sought to have Dar Motor36 Stars stay within reach of the successful chase after making their way back with two-digit scores but their efforts hit a snag.

Ibrahim Said was a cricketer whose impressive bowling figures helped Morogoro Stars keep Dar Motor36 Stars in check, having taken two wickets in two overs.

Much as Dar Motor36 Stars lost the tie, the outfit is lead-

ing the three-team showdown with a 0.4399 net run rate from a victory in four ties and two losses.

Second-placed Uluguru Stars has collected a -0.3112 net run rate from a victory in one tie and a loss in two clashes.

The tournament's other participating team, Morogoro Stars, is sitting third having notched a -0.5833 net run rate - having recorded a victory in one clash and a loss in two ties.

Ten Hag slams Man Utd after 'unnecessary' Nottingham Forest loss

LONDON

ERIK ten Hag slammed his Manchester United flops after Saturday's dismal 2-1 defeat at Nottingham Forest condemned the troubled club to their worst start to a season since 1930.

Ten Hag accused his players of lacking energy and motivation during an awful first half display in which they mustered just one shot.

It got even worse for the beleaguered United boss after the interval as Nicolas Dominguez put struggling Forest ahead.

Marcus Rashford equalised with just his third goal this term, but Morgan Gibbs-White's late strike handed United a fourth defeat in their last six games in all competitions.

"It's disappointing. The loss was unnecessary. We lost it in the first half. We weren't energised enough or invested enough," Ten Hag said. "We should invest more in the first half. In the second we were better. In the first half we should have created some moments and we didn't."

"We know these results are below our standards. The players are not happy with this but we have to do better."

United, nine points adrift of the top four, have lost nine of their opening 20 league games for the first time since 1989-90.

It is now 14 defeats in all competitions for seventh placed United this season -- the last time they had more heading into the new year was 1930-31.

They finished 2023 with 21 defeats in all competitions, an unwanted figure they have only surpassed three times in their illustrious history.

Asked to explain United's disastrous form, Ten Hag blamed the injuries that have denied him key players at various points in the campaign.

"The injuries. Also some issues but mainly the injuries hold us back in the process. In January we have a lot of players returning so then our levels can be higher," he said.

"We had to change again so every time we have to swap our team. That doesn't help or support the routines of the team and it explains why you are so inconsistent."

"We had nine different partnerships in the back. It doesn't matter as well, the fans don't want to hear this, they want to see us winning and that is what we have to serve them."

United's first defeat to Forest since 1994 came in front of Dave Brailsford, who serves as the head of sport for the club's new investors INEOS.

Brailsford, seated next to United's former boss Alex Ferguson at the City Ground, is the right-hand man to INEOS chief Jim Ratcliffe.

British billionaire Ratcliffe will head United's football operations after buying 25 percent of the club from unpopular owners for the Glazers on Christmas Eve.

Asked what he thought Brailsford would take from United's woeful performance, Ten Hag referenced the absence of ill striker Rasmus Hojlund, who scored the winner against Aston Villa in the previous game.

"Definitely he will see we have our problems. You want to build on the last result but we had to change our striker," Ten Hag said.

Yet to speak to Ratcliffe and his group, Ten Hag is facing a fight to avoid the sack.

But the former Ajax boss remains adamant he can turn the tide at a club drifting dangerously off-course.

"It will happen. No doubt about that," he said. "We will work together to set high targets of course for achievements and structures. We will talk about that."

AFP

Erdogan plays down row over Saudi-hosted Super Cup

ISTANBUL

PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday brushed off criticism after the Turkish Super Cup final between two Istanbul giants was postponed following a row with its Saudi hosts.

Friday night's Turkish Super Cup between Galatasaray and Fenerbahce had been due to be played in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. But it was postponed before kickoff after Saudi organisers refused to allow players to wear jerseys bearing political slogans.

Both teams had wanted to warm up wearing shirts featuring the image of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of modern-day Turkey, to celebrate the republic's centenary, Turkish media reported.

In a joint statement, the two teams and the Turkish football federation said the match had been postponed due to "mishaps in the organisation", while thanking the match organisers.

The Turkish Football Federation had come under fire for allowing the match to be played in Saudi Arabia rather than in Turkey as part of the republic's centenary celebrations.

The opposition CHP party, founded by Ataturk, accused Erdogan's government of having failed to defend Turkey's honour.

"Neither the clubs nor the Football Federation is to be blamed," said CHP leader Ozgur Ozel. "The main guilty party is Erdogan, who made Ataturk ... a subject of bargaining."

AFP

Aston Villa, Man City close on Premier League lead, Man Utd beaten again



Aston Villa's Douglas Luiz keeps his cool to slot home a late penalty and secure the win against Burnley on Saturday (Dec 30). Photo: AFP

LONDON

DOUGLAS Luiz's late penalty took Aston Villa joint top of the Premier League with a 3-2 win over 10-man Burnley on Saturday as Manchester City closed on the leaders by sweeping aside Sheffield United 2-0.

But Manchester United's thrilling comeback to beat Villa on Boxing Day proved to be a false dawn for Erik ten Hag's men as they slumped to a 2-1 defeat at Nottingham Forest.

It looked like a festive

season to forget for Villa was set to continue after dropping points at home for the first time this season to Sheffield United and blowing a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2 at United.

However, Luiz's spot-kick, that crept in off the underside of the bar, sent Unai Emery's men level on points with Liverpool at the top of the table.

Leon Bailey's opener for the home side was quickly cancelled out by Zeki Amdouni for Burnley.

Moussa Diaby restored Villa's lead before half-time and they had a man

advantage for the final 35 minutes after Sander Berge saw a second yellow card.

But Villa's high line is begging to be picked off by opponents and Lyle Foster timed his run to blast past Emi Martinez 19 minutes from time.

There was a final twist, though, as Jhon Duran was upended inside the box and Luiz fired home.

"Everyone is so happy, we need to enjoy the moment," said Luiz.

"The last three games we don't play so well. It is halfway through the season, the players are tired, we lost three or four im-

portant players to injury. It is difficult, but we need to keep going."

- Man City cruise -

Despite missing Erling Haaland for a seventh consecutive game due to a foot injury, City were never troubled by the bottom-of-the-table Blades.

Rodri ended Sheffield United's resistance after just 14 minutes when the Spanish midfielder surged forward and fired low into the far corner.

Julian Alvarez again ably filled Haaland's shoes as the Argentine tapped in his fourth goal in three games to make the points safe

from Phil Foden's cross just after the hour mark.

City move alongside Arsenal on 40 points, just two points behind Villa and Liverpool, who are in action at home to Newcastle on Monday.

United, by contrast, are 11 points off the top after losing for the 21st time in 2023. A second win in three games under Nuno Espirito Santo lifts Forest five points clear of the relegation zone.

Nicolas Dominguez swept the home side in front after a well-worked move on 64 minutes.

Marcus Rashford rolled home only his third goal

of the season after Alejandro Garnacho pounced on an error from Forest goalkeeper Matt Turner to level with United's first away goal in four games.

But the Red Devils were quickly cut open on the counter-attack as Anthony Elanga teed up Morgan Gibbs-White to fire home the winner from outside the box.

- Palmer inspires Chelsea -

Chelsea snapped a run of four consecutive away defeats thanks to Cole Palmer's double but had to withstand a nervy finale to beat Luton 3-2.

Powerful strikes from Palmer and Noni Madueke gave the visitors a 2-0 half-time lead. Mauricio Pochettino's men appeared to have ridden out a second half storm when Palmer's classy finish made it 3-0.

But former Chelsea midfielder Ross Barkley sparked a Luton revival and Elijah Adebayo bundled home from close range to set up a thrilling finale.

"That is the Premier League. Luton are a team that fight until the end," said Pochettino.

Luton remain just one point adrift of safety as Everton slumped to a 3-0 defeat at Wolves.

Max Kilman, Matheus Cunha and Craig Dawson were on target for Gary O'Neil's men, who secured a third win in seven days. Any fears that Crystal Palace could be dragged into the relegation battle were eased by the Eagles' first win in nine games as Brentford were beaten 3-1 at Selhurst Park.

AFP

Antony is the £85m dud that will define Erik ten Hag's tenure

By Ian Whittell

WHEN it comes time to write the analysis of Erik ten Hag's time as Manchester United manager - and that may be coming in the not-too-distant future - the Dutchman's fate will be inexorably linked with that of Antony.

Unfortunately, as Anthony Elanga enjoyed a sterling evening in Nottingham Forest's win against Ten Hag's team, there was yet more evidence the United manager let the wrong Antony leave Old Trafford this summer.

The Brazilian winger who stayed was signed for £85million from Ten Hag's former club Ajax in the summer of 2022 and is becoming, with every passing week, the symbol, or at least one of the symbols, of United's current malaise.

The glimpses of promise he showed early last season have long been a distant memory and his last goal, at this very ground, is now 30 games ago. In the instant gratification world of modern football, it might as well be 300.

If, and when, Ten Hag becomes the fifth permanent manager to depart the hot seat in the decade-plus since Sir Alex Ferguson retired, he will forever be associated with Antony, a phenomenon familiar to those who came before him.

Ten Hag's record as United manager after 20 games this season - 31 points with a 22-27 goal

difference - is worse than Moyes' at a comparative stage - 34 points and 33-24 in goals.

Moyes was sacked before he even reached the end of his first season and, to many United supporters, his reign will forever be linked with Marouane Fellaini, the Belgian midfielder he was forced to sign late in the day from his old club Everton after his new employers failed to deliver any significant signings in the summer post-Ferguson's retirement.

The pattern continues. Take your pick from Louis van Gaal's shopping basket, but Angel Di Maria, or Memphis Depay, are on the shortlist. Jose Mourinho almost broke United's bank - which takes some doing - to sign free agent Alexis Sanchez. For Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's reign, Jadon Sancho, still in limbo after his public falling out with Ten Hag, is arguably among the worst pound-for-pound signings in the club's history.

Among them, but nowhere near the worst. Antony surely holds that dubious distinction by quite some margin, based on current form. His 21 appearances this season in all competitions have failed to produce a single goal or assist, while last season's Premier League campaign saw the 23-year-old contribute four goals and two assists in 25 appearances.

Acceptable numbers,



Antony has no league goals or assists this season. Agencies

perhaps, for a debut season from a young overseas winger in the Premier League but not at a club like United. And not for

somebody signed for a deal that cost that much.

The latest disaster saw Antony replaced after 54 minutes against Forest.

Ten Hag was giving him the benefit of the doubt in leaving him on that long.

The Brazilian had much-publicised off-field issues that took him out of the team in the autumn but the 2-1 win over Chelsea at the start of the month was his only complete 90 minutes this season, despite United's lengthy injury problems.

With Sir Dave Brailsford, of marginal gains fame and a key user of data-driven analytics, overseeing football matters in the new year, the form of Elanga will surely not have gone unnoticed as he watched from the City Ground directors' box.

The winger, two years Antony's junior, was sold for £15 million last summer and now has 10 goals and assists in the Premier League, the first time he has hit that mark for a season ... and 10 more than his namesake.

Antony, of course, cannot be blamed in the slightest for United's catastrophically bad recruit-

ment team having paid the fee they did for his services. His attitude and work ethic are a different matter.

"He is obviously no way near that. There's a lot of deals you can look at with a glass half empty," said Gary Neville on Sky.

"It's worrying. He has two things: he can cut inside and whip it in as a cross, or put a shot away. He is no way near (former Manchester City star) Riyad Mahrez. He doesn't look like he's had any work with him - I can't believe the coaches aren't saying simplify the game a bit.

"He needs consistency. I have my fears the temperament is not there. He is so frustrating. I blame the football club. It's not the boy's fault he was bought for that money. The money was too much. There has to be a 'no' when it gets to that level. If I was looking at him at £25m, we would be looking differently."

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Ten Hag slams Man Utd after 'unnecessary' Forest loss

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Taifa Stars set to face Egypt in friendly match ahead of AFCON finals



Some of Tanzania's senior national soccer team players are pictured participating in intensive training at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar recently, shaping up for the 2023 AFCON campaign slated for this month in Ivory Coast.

the African Cup of Nations competition although The Guardian understands the Belgo-Algerian tactician already has his ideal squad.

Amrouche has announced 27 foreign-based players, half the number of the provisional squad of 55 players that is set to be trimmed to 27 play-

ers for the final squad.

Despite being pitted against teams with far greater AFCON pedigree, Tanzania's squad remains upbeat about causing an upset.

"We have already gained experience in this competition and we are aware of the strength of these two teams

we've played before," the squad's striker Simon Msuva revealed, referring to DR Congo and Zambia.

The forward noted: "The important thing is for us to go and fight hard. Even those nations seen as African football giants started like us. We are now going up and I'm sure we

will shock them."

Msuva, who had his professional stint in Algeria coming to an end recently, believes the team's European-based players can help bridge the gap if they perform to their potential.

Amrouche is expected to use the camp in Egypt to prepare his team well ahead of the AFCON campaign that will see them placed in a tricky Group F alongside 2022 FIFA World Cup semi-finalists Morocco, DR Congo, and Zambia.

Tanzania has never progressed beyond the Group Stage in four previous AFCON appearances, most recently in 2019.

Taifa Stars nevertheless are confident of holding their own against the continent's star-studded sides when the finals kick off in 12 days.

The top two in each of the six groups will advance to the knockout rounds along with the best four third-placed teams.

The 2023 AFCON which will bring together 24 teams will take place from January 13 to February 11, 2024, in Côte d'Ivoire.

Tanzania is the only team from the CECAFA Zone that qualified for the continental tournament.

Taifa Stars will open their campaign against Morocco on January 17 and later take on Zambia on January 21. Amrouche's team will line up against DR Congo in the last Group match on January 24.

Salah leads Egypt at 2023 African Cup of Nations

CAIRO

MOHAMED Salah will lead Egypt at the African Cup of Nations in the Ivory Coast, skipping a 27-man squad named by coach Rui Vitoria.

The group includes all but two of the starting lineup for the last Cup of Nations final two years ago when Egypt lost on penalties to Senegal in Yaounde.

But there is a first call-up for 22-year-old Ahmed Nabil Kouka, who in June helped Egypt's under-23 side qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics and also played for Cairo giants Al Ahly at this month's Club World Cup in Saudi Arabia.

Egypt competes in Group B at the tournament in the Ivory Coast, starting their campaign in Abidjan against Mozambique on Jan. 14. They also meet Ghana and the Cape Verde Islands in their opening round group.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Mohamed Abou Gabal (National Bank), Ahmed El Shennawy (Pyramids), Mohamed El Shennawy (Al Ahly), Mohamed Sobhi (Zamalek)

Defenders: Mohamed Abdelmoneim (Al Ahly), Ahmed Fatouh (Zamalek), Ali Gabr, Osama Galal, Mohamed Hamdy (all Pyramids), Mohamed Hany (Al Ahly), Ahmed Hegazi (Al Itihad), Omar Kamal (Future), Ahmed Samy (Pyramids)

Midfielders: Emam Ashour, Marwan Attia (both Al Ahly), Mohamed Elneny (Arsenal), Hamdi Fathi (Al Wakrah), Mahmoud Hamada (Al Masry), Ahmed Nabil Kouka (Al Ahly), Ahmed Zizo (Zamalek)

Forwards: Mostafa Fathi (Pyramids), Mahmoud Kahraba (Al Ahly), Ahmed Hassan Kouka (Pindikspor), Omar Marmoush (Eintracht Frankfurt), Mostafa Mohamed (Nantes), Mohamed Salah (Liverpool), Mahmoud Trezeguet (Trabzonspor).

Meanwhile, defender Stoppila Sunzu, who netted the decisive penalty when Zambia won the African Cup of Nations in 2012, returns for the next edition of the tournament after being named as one of the 27 players in his country's squad for next month's tournament in the Ivory Coast.

Sunzu's kick handed Zambia an 8-7 win on spot kicks over the heavily fancied Ivory Coast in the 2012 final in Libreville.

He is one of only two players named on Saturday by coach Avram Grant who has previous finals experience.

Iraq-based Roderick Kabwe was also in the squad on their last appearance in 2015 but Zambia have since missed out on three successive editions, failing to qualify for the 2017, 2019, and 2021 editions of the tournament.

Zambia take on the Democratic Republic of Congo in their opening game in San Pedro on Jan. 17 and also meet Tanzania and Morocco in Group F.

Their squad heads for Saudi Arabia on Monday for their preparations where they will meet Cameroon in a friendly warm-up game.

Goalkeepers: Lawrence Mulenga (Power Dynamos), Francis Mwansa (Green Buffaloes), Toaster Nsabata (Zesco United)

Defenders: Dominic Chanda (Power Dynamos), Benedict Chepeshi (Red Arrows), Roderick Kabwe (Zakho), Gift Mphande (Hapoel Rishon LeZion), Frankie Musonda (Ayr United), Tandi Mwape (TP Mazembe), Zephaniah Phiri (Prison Leopards), Stoppilla Sunzu (Jinan Xingzhou)

Midfielders: Emmanuel Banda (HNK Rijeka), Rally Bwalya (Sekhukhune United), Miguel Chaiwa (Young Boys Berne), Clatous Chama (Simba SC), Edward Chilufya (Hacken), Kings Kangwa (Red Star Belgrade), Kelvin Kapumbu (Zesco United), Golden Mafwenta (MFK Vyskov), Kelvin Mubanga (Zesco United), Frederick Mulambia (Power Dynamos), Lubambo Musonda (Silkeborg), Switzerland), Benson Sakala (Mlada Boleslav)

Forwards: La-meck Banda (Lece), Patson Daka (Leicester City), Kennedy Musonda (Young Africans SC), Fashion Sakala (Al Fayha).

REUTERS

Mohamed Salah. AGENCIES



By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S senior national football team, Taifa Stars, will face Egypt in a 2023 TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) build-up match scheduled for January 7, 2024.

Clifford Ndimbo, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer, confirmed that the team will camp in Egypt and later play a friendly match while there.

Taifa Stars is currently in Dar es Salaam after a friendly tie between Zanzibar Heroes and Kilimanjaro Stars which took place in Zanzibar last week.

Stars' players selected for the friendly match played on December 27 returned to Dar es Salaam yesterday morning.

"The team will return from Zanzibar today and travel to camp in Egypt. The team will travel straight from Egypt to Cote d'Ivoire ready for the AFCON," Ndimbo added.

Adel Amrouche, Taifa Stars' head coach, is yet to reveal the 27-man squad ahead of

Simba eyes historic glory in 2024 Mapinduzi Cup, faces JKU

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC gears up for a historic challenge as the club sets its sights on becoming the first champion of the Mapinduzi Cup at the inaugurated New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

The outfit's journey begins today at 8:15 PM EAT, as it locks horns with JKU SC of Zanzibar in the opening match of Group B.

The group also features Singida Fountain Gate FC and Rwanda's APR FC, with Singida Fountain Gate FC having already claimed a 4-1 victory over JKU SC on December 29 last year.

While Simba SC arrived in Zanzibar yesterday, the spirit of ambition burns bright within the Msimbazi Street side.

Simba SC Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, declared the squad's intention to etch its name in history as the first victor at the revamped New Amaan Complex.

"For a team of Simba SC's caliber, setting records in new stadiums is a must," Ahmed stated.

The official noted: "The New Amaan Complex has undergone a remarkable transforma-



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training at Mo Simba Arena, Bunju in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for various tournaments including the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup and the 2023/24 NBC Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

tion, and we want to be the first club to lift the Mapinduzi Cup trophy within its walls."

He emphasized the shared goal between the club and head coach Abdelhak Benchikha to conquer this tournament, not only for its prestige but also to

solidify Simba SC's dominance in the competition.

With the club's impressive track record, having secured the trophy three times, another victory would further solidify the squad's legacy.

Benchikha, however, sees the

2024 Mapinduzi Cup as an opportunity to refine his squad before returning to the Mainland Premier League and tackling the daunting CAF Champions League Group Stage.

To that end, all available players, excluding those on nation-

al teams' duty, have made the journey to Unguja.

The Msimbazi Street outfit will miss key players like Aishi Manula, Israel Patrick Mwenda, Mohamed Hussein, Mzamiru Yassin, Kennedy Juma, and Kibu Denis, who are currently with Tanzania's senior national team.

Additionally, Henock Inonga is representing the DR Congo national team, and Clatous Chama is on duty with the Zambia national team.

Simba SC's second group stage clash comes on Wednesday, taking on Singida Fountain Gate FC again at 8:15 PM EAT at the New Amaan Complex.

With Azam FC holding the record for most Mapinduzi Cup wins (five), Simba SC's determination to dethrone them and carve the squad's path in the new stadium is palpable.

This year's Mapinduzi Cup promises to be a spectacle of excitement and determination, with Simba SC leading the charge for a historic victory.

The outfit's journey begins today, and the entire footballing nation awaits to see if the outfit can etch its name in the annals of the competition at the magnificent New Amaan Complex.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

