



Returning officers tasked to prioritise transparency

Page 3



Rukwa seeks stakeholder support to fight stunting

Page 4



Leaders out to identify new tourist attractions

Page 6



Guardian BUSINESS Foreigners sell TBL shares half priced in a pre-arranged deal

'US eyes Africa's LNG expansion'

Defence deal concluded before Sweden's Nato accession vote

Page 13

SPORTS

Page 20



Must-win game for Yanga as they host CR Belouizdad in Champions League

Page 18



Lions A cricketers sail through to TCA Dar 50 Overs Cup Div A last four

'Cannabis fuels school drop-outs, street crime'

Corruption and illicit drugs are two evils which operate in tandem

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE use of cannabis among primary school children has been cited as among major causes of dropouts and street robbery groups.

Aretas Lyimo, the Tanzania Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) commissioner general, made this assertion at the closure of a three-day training for public educators about the effects of corruption and drugs here yesterday.

He said the finding was noticed as DCEA conducted research by the ongoing education initiative, focused on efforts to roll out awareness for pupils at different levels of education, especially primary school pupils.

The study found out that cannabis is now used by children aged 10 to 12, with many primary schools falling into drug use, and being propelled into various upsets in their prospects in life.

To help address the challenge, DCEA sought assistance from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) for a joint constructive campaign to fight corruption and the use of narcotic drugs from the grassroots, he said.

The research indicated that in primary schools, the use of cannabis sativa is noticeable at a low age by smoking, he said, qualifying it as a dangerous habit needing to be contained as early as possible.

The three days capacity building workshop was meant to equip PCCB officers charged with community level liaisons, along with community level officials of the drug agency.

The training on PCCB information, education and communication strategy and the fight against corruption and illicit drugs was a timely workshop tailored to impart the participants with constructive skills to fight the two vices, he said.

Awareness on the negative effects of corruption and drugs will help to curb the weakness to refuse the vices, instead of focusing on street-based operations, he said.

DCEA is collaborating with PCCB to provide useful education to rescue the younger generation in primary schools by deterring them from the dangerous behaviour, he said, asserting that apart from affecting their health drugs have multiple effects on their learning abilities.

Anti-drugs education was being offered through well-established school clubs, tailored to show the effects of corruption and use of illicit drugs, he said.

"Corruption and illicit drugs are two evils which operate in tandem," he explained, pointing out that those who are importing and peddling illicit drugs apply bribes as



PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan inspects an honour guard yesterday shortly after jetting into Windhoek's Hosea Kutako International Airport to attend the funeral of former Namibian president Dr Hage Geingob, who died early on February 4 aged 82 while undergoing treatment at a Windhoek hospital. Nangolo Mbumba (62), who served as vice president from 2018, was immediately sworn in as interim successor. Photo: State House

AfDB issues \$158.1m loans for SGR, TADB

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government yesterday signed two concessional loan agreements for \$158.1m (398.7bn/-) with the African Development Bank (AfDB) for financing the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and re-capitalising the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB).

Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said at the signing ceremony that the loan will finance two sections of SGR linking Tanzania and Burundi.

"This project will contribute to our regional integration mandate, but also support the African Union's Vision 2063 of an integrated Africa," he said.

It will also facilitate East Africa's quest for a modern regional railway network that enables development benefits from Tanzania's mineral and agricultural potential, he

"This TADB Phase II financing of \$66m is a loan to Tanzania as an equity investment in TADB"

said.

The SGR project will support Tanzania's efforts to achieve its development objective to transform the central transport corridor to a strategic corridor in support of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) initiative.

In SGR the government intends to build

651km of single track electrified standard gauge railway where the sections under the loan relate to Tabora to Kigoma, and a branch from Uvinza in Kigoma Region to Musongati in Burundi.

The SGR facility will reduce transport costs by shifting the transport mode from road trucking to railway, reducing road accidents and vehicle maintenance costs, he said.

As an electrified rail line, the SGR will be powered fully by renewable hydropower energy, he said, qualifying the project as 100 percent green, reducing carbon emissions.

The socio-economic benefits include cost savings for rail users, with the total projected savings for the project's life span

Borno State health team peers over maternal deaths cut

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

A state-level Nigerian delegation has arrived in the country to learn how Tanzania has succeeded to reduce maternal mortality rates.

Dr John Jingu, the health permanent secretary welcomed the delegation led by Prof. Babagana Zulum, the Health commissioner for Borno State north of

TURN TO Page2

TURN TO Page2

TURN TO Page2



Borno State health team peering over maternal deaths cut

FROM PAGE 1

Nigeria, saying that Tanzania feels happy to receive the delegation and exchange information and ideas on how the country managed to reduce maternal mortality.

The Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and the Malaria Indicator Survey for 2022 show that maternal mortality had gone down to 104 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022 from 530 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015/2016.

He credited the reduction of maternal and child deaths as anchored in the M-mama system, described online as an affordable emergency transport service that connects mothers and newborns to vital life-saving healthcare in the rural areas.

He said the system has shown success, as evidence of creativity and investments in fighting maternal and child deaths, which is now attracting a range of experts and administrators from other countries to see how it works.

He said the Nigeria delegation was told how firm leadership had contributed to the success as the period from 2016 to 2022 saw vast investments in the health sector, including quality equipment and workforce.

The government has invested in robust strategies to fight maternal mortality ensuring safe deliveries plus services to mothers and babies, he said, affirming that the stride implies that Tanzania is on the right track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number three, to ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being of all ages.

SDG vision has it that by 2030, maternal mortality should not exceed 70 deaths per 100,000 births, thus the drop to 104 deaths was a clear indication that it is possible to arrive at the set goals, he stated.

The new system of safe delivery is currently used in 30 district councils on a trial basis before the second phase is rolled out in 110 councils, he said, noting that important stakeholders in the community are fully involved. In his remarks, Prof Zulum said Nigeria is still backward in the prevention of maternal and child deaths, thus Borno State sought to look at Tanzanian efforts.

"There is no good place to go to learn like your relatives, so due to the big steps that Tanzania has taken as a nation in reducing maternal and child deaths, we saw it better to come and see how you have achieved this, for us as well to apply the techniques to our country. It is an indisputable fact that we in Nigeria have not yet made progress in this area," he declared.

The visit also helps to strengthen relations between the two countries and open up greater collaboration, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured with other Muslim faithful during prayers at the Mubarak Bububu Kihinani Mosque in Unguja's West District A yesterday. The others (foreground) include Zanzibar's Deputy Mufti, Sheikh Mahmoud Mussa Wadi (3rd-R) and Zanzibar Mufti Office executive secretary Sheikh Khalid Ali Mfaume (R). Photo: Zanzibar State House

'Cannabis fuels school drop-outs, street crime'

FROM PAGE 1

fuel for their trade, hence the need to fight the two malpractices together.

He referred to a directive by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa demand-

ing that the two law enforcement agencies to cement efforts in the war against corruption and drugs use.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was drawn up to engage synergies to provide vital

education against the vices from the grassroots, he said, emphasizing that corruption and drugs are a venom weakening the country's economic growth and community welfare.

DCEA has opened zonal officers spearheading the war against importation, peddling and use of the diverse forms of illicit drugs, he stated while the PCCB acting director general

Neema Mwakalyelye said the bureau is ready to work with DCEA in the fight against corruption and drug use.

During the workshop, participants were imparted with skills on how to detect drug users, reasons

that attract young people to use drugs, as well as therapy extended to drug addicts, she said.

Attracting potential stakeholders from the private sector to join the fray against bribes and drugs was vital, she added.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Minister Dr Doto Biteko pictured at a dispensary in Mufindi District, Iringa Region, on Thursday switching on power provided under a newly implemented Rural Energy Agency (REA) electrification scheme. Photo courtesy of REA

AfDB issues \$158.1m loans for SGR, TADB

FROM PAGE 1

set at \$269m; while cost savings for road maintenance agencies is estimated at \$106.7m, he elaborated.

Increased earnings for labourers working on the project, the value of reduced road accidents in future as congestion and highway use are cut are some of the benefits, along with the social cost of carbon emissions avoided.

Patricia Laverly, the AfDB country manager, said at the event that the bank understands that TADB is an important institution in agricultural financing, requiring enhanced capitalisation to offer more competitive and better structured fi-

nancing options to farmers. "This TADB Phase II financing of \$66m is a loan to Tanzania as an equity investment in TADB," she affirmed, stating that the loan will support the entire agricultural value chain.

Using the loan will have a special focus on women-led businesses by providing lending at more affordable rates and extended maturities, she said.

AfDB was also exploring opportunities to support TADB through its Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative to carry out a gender diagnostics assessment, support product development and gender mainstreaming training, she added.

Zimbabwe wants miners to produce battery-grade lithium

HARARE

ZIMBABWE wants miners to come forward by the end of March with plans to produce battery-grade lithium, despite a sharp fall in global prices for the mineral, a senior government official said yesterday.

Africa's top lithium producer Zimbabwe in November last year gave miners the March deadline to submit plans for the local

production of battery-grade lithium, used in electric vehicles and clean energy storage, as it hopes to benefit from a global shift from polluting fuels.

The Chinese miners that dominate Zimbabwe's lithium sector produce concentrates that are shipped to China for further processing.

With global supply of the metal outpacing demand from the

battery market over the last year, prices have fallen by more than 80 percent. In response, many firms have started to cut jobs and curtail output.

Last month, the world's top lithium miner Albemarle (ALB.N), opens new tab announced plans to lay off workers and halt expansion. Another U.S. miner, Piedmont Lithium (PLL.O), opens new tab on Feb. 6 said it had laid off 27 percent

of its workforce.

Although some lithium producers in Zimbabwe are reportedly to be struggling for viability at the current price levels, Deputy Mines Minister Polite Kambamura told Reuters the government still wanted miners to put forward firm plans for building processing capacity.

"As government, we are not going backwards on beneficiation. We would like to urge all lithium

players to come forward to the ministry with their beneficiation plans," Kambamura said.

"We did not say by March they should have set up these plants, we said they should come up with plans," he added.

One of the miners, Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt (603799.SS), opens new tab, has said it would explore local production battery-grade lithium "only when the construction

and economic conditions are right". Huayou says Zimbabwe lacks resources needed to produce battery-grade lithium, including reliable renewable energy, natural gas and sulphuric acid.

Zimbabwe's hard-rock lithium reserves, some of the world's biggest, have attracted over \$1 billion of investment from Chinese miners.



Ridhiwani Kikwete (R), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), has a word with e-Government Authority staff in Iringa municipality yesterday. It was shortly before welcoming the respective minister, George Simbachawene (C). Left is e-GA director general Benedict Ndomba. Photo courtesy of President's Office (PSM&GG)

Hundreds of drug users opt for methadone treatment

By Guardian Correspondent, Bagamoyo

A TOTAL of 744 people in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region, are on methadone treatment as they seek to quit drug addiction.

Husna Kipilipili, the district's drugs and mental health treatment coordinator, made this statement yesterday during a meeting to encourage drug addicts to choose healthy life.

The meeting was organized by Life and Hope Rehabilitation Organization (LHRO), a non-governmental organization that assists drug users at Dunda, Magomeni, Nianjema, Kisutu and Kiromo wards in the district.

Kipilipili said that they began with eight addicts in 2020 and the number had increased steadily to 744 as of 21st of this month.

"We have found many addicts due to the education about effects of drug abuse provided by various stakeholders who collaborate with the government," she said.

Godluck Khatib, Bagamoyo District Social Welfare Officer, said drug abuse is one of the factors fueling mental health issues, adding that the

organization's education programme for addicts seeks to turn them into productive members of the society.

He said drug users become a nuisance since the addicts lack family support and begin stealing items from their houses and sell them to pay for drugs.

He urged all anti-drugs organisations to work with the government in order to protect the next generation which would be lost if action is not taken to eradicate drug abuse.

Al-Karim Bhanji, executive director of LHRO, said the initiative is being funded by Pefpar and the US Ambassador Fund for HIV/AIDS Relief (AFHR Grant).

"We wanted to reach all 11 wards of Bagamoyo but due to the limited budget, we have chosen only five to deliver education on making addicts realize their rights, including taking methadone, as well as encouraging society not to stigmatize them," he said.

Bhanji added that a plan that includes entrepreneurship training and funding to launch a business, agriculture, and other revenue-generating endeavours is necessary to support youth who give up drugs.

EA monetary union set for realisation by 2031

By Marc Nkwame

THE East African Community envisages having the bloc's monetary union in place by the year 2031, and a single currency shortly afterwards, it has been revealed.

This came to light at the weekend during high-level talks conducted between Ugandan government of

officials and the East African Business Council (EABC) in a bid to strengthen regional trade and economic cooperation.

Vincent Waiswa, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda, highlighted the significance of intra-EAC trade and collaboration among partner states in aggregating exports to the

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the European Union (EU).

He said shared resources such as Lake Victoria present abundant opportunities for export collaboration and aggregation.

Waiswa also highlighted the positive progress made by EAC partner states on the One Network Area in tele-

communication for voice and data.

Enhancing the interoperability of telecommunication services for mobile money transfer will facilitate business operations across borders, as the region anticipates the monetary union in 2031, he said.

The high-level delegation to the EABC included Ugan-

dan High Commissioner to Tanzania, Richard Kabonero and Head of the Uganda Consulate in Arusha, Anne Katusiime Kageye who paid a courtesy visit to EABC headquarters in Arusha.

The East African Business Council's Executive Director John Bosco Kalisa reiterated the council's steadfast commitment to amplifying trade

for enhanced prosperity in East Africa.

He emphasized the paramount role of public-private partnerships in propelling socio-economic growth, underscoring the private sector as the driving force behind regional development.

"We appreciate the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uganda for partnering in the East

African Business Summit 2023 and the 19th NAM Summit Business Summit 2024," said Kalisa.

"The EAC is the fastest-growing economic bloc, and EABC remains resolute in advocating for the elimination of non-tariff barriers to expedite EAC integration amidst geopolitical tensions."



Mara regional commissioner Said Mtanda (gesturing) makes an assessment tour earlier this week of progress in the construction of a Butiama District Commissioner's Office building. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ITA drills new TRA staff on digital currencies

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) has launched a special programme to train new staff employed by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) on Blockchain and cryptocurrency to help them in their roles as revenue collectors.

Speaking during the final day of the training yesterday, Elly Mlosso Tutor and head of short courses at ITA said the training was designed to help the new employees to be aware of the new digital currencies.

"This training will help our new employees to properly collect tax but also to be cautious of digital currency frauds which are now common so that they do not fall victims," he said.

He said cryptocurrency is a digital currency which is an alternative form of payment created using encryption algorithms, adding that the use of encryption technologies means that cryptocurrency function both as a currency and as a virtual accounting system.

Japhet Birunda, Managing Director of the privately-owned Millennium Ecosystem Company which deals with establishment of Blockchain systems said the use of cryptocurrency has been increasing in the country, adding that it is important for tax collectors to be aware of it.

"Most of the people who deal with TRA use cryptocurrency; therefore, it is important for the officers to understand their safety and how they work," he said.

He said Blockchain is a secure, transparent, and efficient way to share data across multiple parties, noting that it cannot be altered or reversed, which means participants can trust the data that they are presented with.

One of the participants, Andrew Chale, said the training was beneficial as they are going to begin their tasks as tax collectors.

NEC leader urges transparency in pending by-elections

By Guardian Reporter

NATIONAL Election Commission (NEC) Vice chairman Judge (rtd) Mbarouk Salim Mbarouk has urged returning officers in the upcoming by-elections to prioritise transparency and fairness.

He urged the officers to ensure that all necessary preparations for the coming election in the 23 wards are completed for the exercise to be conducted smoothly.

Speaking at the opening of training session for election officials in Morogoro Region on Thursday, Mbarouk, emphasized the importance of involving election stakeholders at every stage of the electoral process.

He urged the election supervisors to engage closely with political parties and other stakeholders in their respective areas.

He stressed that collaboration with stakeholders would facilitate smooth execution of electoral duties.

Mbarouk reminded the returning officers that there are various elec-

tion stakeholders like political parties, voters and observers following up on the conduct of elections, including adherence to election laws, adding that paramount for them to implement every required step according to the election calendar.

"The huge task in front of us demands focus and sacrifice, especially after receiving this training. You should execute your duties with efficiency and professionalism to ensure the success of the elections on March 20, 2024," he said. He stressed that the returning officers should find time to read the constitution, laws and various guideline that are given by the commission to ensure free and fair election.

"It is good that you closely involve the political parties and other election stakeholders in your areas regarding the electoral issues that deserve to be involved as this will make it easier for you to carry out your duties," he said. Mbarouk cautioned election officials to avoid nepotism and favouritism when selecting per-

sonnel to oversee polling stations.

He emphasised the importance of appointing professional centre officers who are competent and capable of executing their responsibilities impartially. In addition to promoting transparency in personnel selection, he underscored the significance of logistical preparedness.

He urged election officials to familiarise themselves with the geographical and infrastructural nuances of the areas where elections will be held.

He urged officials to communicate promptly with the commission for guidance on any election-related issues that may arise.

NEC recently announced the scheduling of by-elections in 23 wards across Mainland Tanzania, slated for March 20, this year.

Nomination forms will be issued from February 27, 2024 until March 04, 2024 and nomination of candidates will take place on March 04, 2024 and the election campaigns commence from March 05, 2024 to March 19, 2024.



PEACE CORPS TANZANIA

CONFERENCE VENUE OPPORTUNITY

LOOKING FOR CONFERENCE FACILITIES AND ACCOMMODATION: Peace Corps/Tanzania is hosting a professional conference for 55 participants in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from June 24th thru 28th, 2024.. Peace Corps is soliciting fixed-price quotations from the vendor community for the supplies and/or services detailed at the link.

For detailed information, including the full Request for Quotations, please visit: <https://www.peacecorps.gov/tanzania/contracts/>

Please follow the instructions in the full vacancy announcement to send complete applications to: TZ-Applicants@peacecorps.gov.

For more information about Peace Corps, please see www.peacecorps.gov

Only shortlisted vendors will be contacted for a site visit.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Maswahiba katika uwekezaji

TIC all out to register 1000 projects by the end of 2024

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has signed an agreement with CRDB bank to promote investment, setting the goal of increasing the number of investment projects to reach 1,000 by the end of this year.

This was said in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Gilead Teri, Executive Director of TIC, during the signing of the cooperation agreement.

"I am very happy to stand here in front of you to thank the CRDB Bank for seeing the importance of promoting and improving the operations of investment in our country; we recently witnessed a major improvement in investment," he said.

Teri said improvement of the investment environment in the country has been rapid and brought impact in the economy, adding that in 2023, TIC managed to register a total of 504 projects worth \$4.6 billion expected to provide more than 230,000 jobs.

He said through the ongoing investment campaign, TIC has set goals to double the number of investment projects and reach 1000 projects by the end of 2024.

He said they have agreed with CRDB to collaborate in technology and innovation to attract and serve investors in the best possible way.

"First of all, we focus on innovation in providing various services to investors. We realized that the

needs of investors are changing and require innovative and high quality services and through our partnership with CRDB, we aim to provide a variety of innovative financial and technical services to ensure that investors get the best solutions according to their needs," he said.

Boma Raballa, Chief Commercial Officer at CRDB, said the bank was happy to enter into an agreement with TIC to make improvements and campaign to increase the number of investors in the country.

"It is important that you understand why CRDB is important in investment because for people to invest, they need money and the place where money is available is the bank," he said.

He said that when investors want to come to the country, the important question they ask is how to take care of their money and its safety in the country.



I am very happy to stand here in front of you to thank the CRDB Bank for seeing the importance of promoting and improving the operations of investment in our country



Tanzania Investment Centre director general Gilead Teri (L) and CRDB Bank Plc chief commercial officer Boma Raballa in jovial mood shortly signing an investment promotion cooperation agreement in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Avoid drinking to excel in studies, pupils told

By Guardian Reporter

SECONDARY school pupils have been encouraged to abstain from alcohol drinking to fully utilise their time and protect their health.

This was said after the launch of a special campaign at Msasani Secondary School in Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region as part of the ongoing fight against underage drinking through SMASHED programme implemented by

Serengeti Breweries Limited.

The programme leverages the power of theater performance to address the pervasive issue of underage alcohol consumption and its detrimental effects on youth.

Speaking at the launch, Moshi District Commissioner Kisare Magori who represented Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Nurdin Babu underscored the collective commitment to safeguarding the well-being and future of Tanzanian

young generation.

"We need to continue to educate our school children and protect them from alcohol use as this is not good for their academic performance and health as well," he said.

He said it was encouraging to see a beer company advocating against underage drinking, SBL.

"It is my hope that we can learn and collaborate to protect our future generations against underage drinking," he said.

A study conducted in 2019 in Mwanza and Kilimanjaro regions found the prevalence of alcohol consumption among secondary school pupils aged 15 and above ranging from 12.9 percent among girls in Mwanza to 63.9 percent among boys in Kilimanjaro.

The prevalence of alcohol use among pupils aged 13-15 in Dar es Salaam was 5.6 percent.

SBL Managing Director Obinna Anyalebechi said: "SBL is de-

lighted to support the adoption of the SMASHED underage drinking programme as it strengthens activities to ensure that our products are not sold to or consumed by persons under the age of 18 years."

"The programme involves delivery of key message on negative effects of underage drinking to both the youth and their communities. The programme combines use of drama presentations and

pupils' engagement in a motivational learning environment to equipping them with facts, skills, and confidence to make responsible choices and develop responsible attitudes in health-related matters," he said.

SBL pioneered the programme two years ago by sensitizing pupils in Dar es Salaam and Tanga regions during which the brewer reached over 20,000 pupils in the two regions.

Open appeal for support to reverse 50pc stunting rate

By Guardian Correspondent, Rukwa

AUTHORITIES in Rukwa Region have called on development stakeholders to help address stunting in children which is as high as 50 percent.

Salehe Msanda, assistant regional administrative secretary for economic affairs and empowerment, told journalists yesterday that it is important for stakeholders to extend their support to address the issue.

According to him, the region has a 50 percent stunting rate which is higher than the national average rate of 30.4 percent, and a 19.4 percent malnutrition rate compared to the national average of 12 percent.

He said overweight rate has reached 3.2 percent whereas the national average is 3.5 percent, and the underweight rate has reached 8.3 percent, whereas the national figure is 3.2 percent.

Msanda said Rukwa Region is one of the top seven regions in the nation for producing grains and other food crops. It is ranked second in the nation for food production during the most recent farming season, but it is still experiencing severe stunting.

"Clinic attendance by pregnant women is more than 90 percent, and children vaccination is more than 90 percent but there has been a challenge of stunting along with other challenges," he said.

Makongoro Nyerere, Rukwa Regional Commissioner, said that stunting has started to impact the education sector rapidly, as pupils' performance on national exams has gotten worse.

He said that over 600 pupils failed in standard seven exams, saying this was because of a number of factors, including stunting which prevents children's brains from developing and functioning normally.

The RC said nutritionists need to educate parents so that a child can have a balanced diet with all the nutrients they need in 1,000 to promote optimal brain development.

He, however, said that the region will initiate a specific campaign to offer nutrition education because despite the abundance of food, some parents lack the skills necessary for preparing a balanced diet which is a reason for the alarming stunting rates.



Officials from the Indian High Commission in Tanzania and members of the Arusha-based Kalakendra community pose for souvenir photo in the course of a consular camp held earlier this week at the Indian Cultural Centre in the city earlier this week, chiefly with a view to extending consular services to applicants from the Indian diaspora and residents of Arusha and surrounding regions. Photo: Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent

OUT drafting five-year marketing plan

THE Open University of Tanzania (OUT) has developed a five-year strategic plan which aims to extensively promote its programmes and services in the country.

Prof Elifas Bisanda, OUT Vice Chancellor made the statement yesterday in Iringa town during the closure of three-day training for public relations officers

from its various campuses.

"We are here to draft a new five-year strategic plan for marketing and communication; the Open University of Tanzania is currently all over the country and has coordination centres in both Unguja, and Pemba. The university was founded in 1992 and began operations in 1994 but there is always

more to be done to educate the public about our university," he said.

He said the training involves public relations officers from the headquarters and its 30 centres across the country to discuss and come up with a robust plan to help the varsity's services to reach more people in the country.

"This is a collaborative effort, and since they are the programme's implementers, they will undoubtedly do a good job," he said.

Dr Nasra Habibu, Director of OUT in Iringa, welcomed the working meeting participants, saying the meeting was the first big event to have happened at the centre.

"The timing of this working meeting is ideal, particularly given the current set of circumstances when there is a need for more public awareness on university services, including strategic courses. To ensure that the public is aware of this university and takes advantage of the opportunities, there has to be extensive sensi-

tization," she said.

Dr Salma Hamad, Director of OUT in Zanzibar, commended the management on the success of the session and said it will serve as a springboard to promote OUT's services.

She clarified that the goal of Zanzibar is to open OUT centres in every district of Unguja and Pemba. This

strategic plan, she said, will be very helpful in keeping the public informed about the programmes and services provided by OUT so that they can enrol and take advantage of the services.

Dr Mohamed Maguo, Director of Communication and Marketing at the OUT, expressed his gratitude to the institution's administration for organizing the working meeting.



Dar es Salaam businessman Bharat Natwani (R) arrives at Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in the city earlier this week in connection with allegations of having assaulted a neighbour of his. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

WFP expanding activities to support smallholder farmers

LUSAKA

WITH \$500,000 from Citi Foundation, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) ramps up a ground-breaking initiative that seeks to strengthen resilience to climate crises and boost financial inclusion for 17,200 smallholder farmers in Zambia over the next two years.

The grant from Citi Foundation is part of its Global Innovation Challenge awarded to WFP USA in support of resilience activities in Zambia.

WFP USA is one of 50 recipients of the Citi Foundation's inaugural Global Innovation Challenge, which is supporting organizations that address food security and strengthen the physical and financial health of low-income families and communities.

Farmers will receive training on financial literacy skills, agricultural practices, access to affordable credit and risk insurance, and forecasting services. WFP will also scale up the use of the Maano - Virtual Farmers Market application. On this app-based e-commerce platform, farmers' surplus and buyers' demand for crops are advertised and marketed.

"This programme is a game-changer. We are thrilled to partner with the Citi Foundation to facilitate services that promote climate risk insurance, helping farmers to enhance productivity by limiting the risk of crop loss and boosting access to credit," said Cissy Byenkya,

WFP's Country Director in Zambia.

"Through this program, we hope to empower farmers with the necessary tools and resources to overcome climate-related challenges and increase their income and food security."

The initiative also seeks to address gender disparities that exist in accessing resources and opportunities. With a strong focus on women farmers, the program will work towards empowering them and ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes.

"The Citi Foundation is proud to support WFP in their mission to uplift smallholder farmers in Zambia," said Lowani Chibesakunda, CEO of Citi in Zambia.

"By combining digital innovation, financial literacy, and capacity-building components, this program has the potential to impact the lives of farmers significantly and contribute to sustainable food systems."

The programme, jointly implemented by WFP and the government of Zambia, was launched in early October 2023, with a focus on increasing access to affordable capital and managing climate-related risks for smallholder farmers in Zambia.

The collaboration between WFP and the Citi Foundation demonstrates the benefits of humanitarian organisations and the private sector working together to address food security challenges and promote sustainable development.

Witness tells court how neighbours turned on each other

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A WITNESS in an assault case yesterday told the Kisutu Resident Magistrate Court in Dar es Salaam that accused person Bharat Natwani (57) attacked his neighbour Lalit Ratilal by hitting him with his forehead and the latter fell down and lost consciousness for a while.

Dominic Mpakani (43) who is a carpenter claimed that there was an argument between Bharat's wife Sangita Bharat and Lalit's wife

Kiran who were throwing words at each other violently in Indian language and after a while, their husbands arrived together to intervene.

Mpakani gave the account before Principal Resident Magistrate Aaron Lyamuya.

Led by senior state attorney Grace Mwanga assisted by Frank Michael, Mpakani, the witness claimed that on July 21, 2023, he was at Ratilal's house located on Mrima Street within Lohana build-

ing where he was called to some woodwork.

He claimed that he arrived at the building at nine o'clock in the morning and proceeded to the third floor. While he was working, he claimed that Sangita stood at her window and Kiran stood at her door and both started talking loudly in Indian language.

"After some minutes, their husbands came out and the physical scuffle ensued," he said.

The witness claimed that while

the altercation was going on, they were all standing at Lalit's door and after a while Bharat charged with his forehead and hit Lalit on the head and Lalit fell to the ground and lost consciousness.

"Lalit was unconscious because he was not moving; so, we carried him downstairs and unbuttoned his shirt then he regained consciousness and took phones and called the police and the hospital," he said.

Another witness, Dr Lucia Au-

gustino (52) who works at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Dar es Salaam said that on July 21, 2023, she was in the emergency department room number 20 during the day and received two patients of Asian origin who were dirty from head to toe, saying the woman was in more trauma than the man.

She claimed that she started taking attending to the woman (Kiran) because she was complaining that she had a severe headache and her eyes were aching so she called an

eye doctor to look at her.

Dr Augustino claimed that Kiran's medical report showed that due to the chemicals found in her eyes, she got an eye infection and her brain got concussion.

She claimed that the patient could get permanent blindness because the wounds had taken a long time without healing.

The case was adjourned until March 12, 2024 for continuation of hearing of the prosecution's witnesses.

Minister praises REA as all villages in Iringa lit up

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

ALL 360 villages in Iringa Region have been connected to power services through electrification project implemented by the Rural Energy Agency (REA).

Dr Doto Biteko, deputy Prime Minister and for Energy minister, hailed REA's efforts for significant success which he said help stimulate development in the villages.

Speaking during his visit in the region on Thursday, Dr Biteko said that the project has reached 100 percent of all villages but only few hamlets within the villages are yet to be reached.

Speaking after turning on electricity at Mkwangwe village in Mufindi District, Dr Biteko commended rural electricity contractors who worked hard to connect villages in Iringa.

"This is a remarkable step; reaching all villages with power services is very good, reports show that 1,188 hamlets out of 1,853 hamlets in the villages have been connected. As for villages, it has been implemented by 100 percent but for hamlets it is 64.11 percent," he said.

He however wanted the project's contractors to implement the connection and supply work within scheduled timeframe in order to keep up with the pace of development while instructing REA to take action against negligent contractors.

While at Mkwangwe village, Dr Biteko launched a dispensary, directing leaders to ensure that the facility immediately commences operation after it had been connected to power and having required human resource as well as equipment.

In another development, Dr Biteko urged members of various political parties in the region to put their differences aside and promote unity while working together.

On the forthcoming local government elections, he urged citizens to choose the right leaders whom they know will work hard and prioritise people's challenges.

"It is important for people to choose leaders who listen and recognize challenges and how to solve them. Also, candidates should refrain from offensive language during election campaigns," he said.



Ihala district commissioner Edward Mpogolo (C) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday symbolically receiving 500 bed sheets from NMB Bank's Dar es Salaam Zone manager, Dismas Prosper (2nd-L), as the bank's support to the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute. Others are JKCI executive director Dr Peter Kisenge (2nd-R), JKCI Women's Association chairperson Dr Angella Mutuzya (R) and the bank's Muhimbili Branch manager, Frank Makungu. Photo: Correspondent

Give journos information promptly, govt officials told

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

MWANZA Regional Commissioner Amos Makalla has directed government officials in the region to ensure that they provide cooperation to journalists by providing information timely to

stimulate development.

Makalla made the directive yesterday here at a meeting with journalists under Mwanza Press Club (MPC).

He said government officials in the region should release information to journalists, noting that delays or

hiding the same cannot stop journalists from reporting.

"When information is delayed or hidden, yet journalists can do investigative journalism and report it upon establishing facts, a situation that can bring tension unnecessarily and sometimes reporters are re-

ported to police for arrest," he said.

The RC said that information should be released on time whether it is bad or good, provided that it has public interest.

Makalla noted that the media plays a big role to bring development in any nation

and when it criticizes; criticism should be in a positive way and not offensive.

Chairman of MPC, Edwin Soko appealed to the government in Mwanza Region to ensure that journalists get information timely from government officials to avoid going to their offices frequently.

Soko said that journalists are not enemies of the governments but are friends and agents of change in the society who should be given cooperation to push forward development.

He also called on authorities working with journalists in various issues to ensure

their safety, especially in activities involving movement from one point to another to avoid uncalled for accidents to them.

He noted that journalists help to identify different challenges facing people so that the government can solve them.



Health minister Umyy Mwalimu (in head-cloth) pictured in Tanga city yesterday cutting the ribbon at the handing-over by Tanzania Health Promotion Support of 800m/- worth of equipment and supplies meant to improve health services in Tanga Region yesterday. THPS is a Tanzanian NGO that supports the government in the provision of quality and sustainable health services. Right is the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) director of projects Dr George Mgomella. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Ugandan mothers punished for sending children to beg

KAMPALA

A COURT in Uganda has sentenced more than 100 women to one month of community service each after they confessed to sending their children to beg in the capital, Kampala.

The court has also banned the women from returning to the city and ordered that they be sent back to their home district of Napak in northern Uganda, privately owned Daily Monitor newspaper reported.

The women pleaded for leniency, with some saying they were widows and others single mothers, state-owned New Vision newspaper reported.

"I have listened to their cries and a [jail] sentence would be inappropriate. I have to enforce a deterrent sentence...I will sentence them to community service. In default, you will serve one month of imprisonment," magistrate Edgar Karakire, was quoted as saying by the Daily Monitor.

Sending children to solicit or beg for alms is against Uganda's child protection laws and carries a maximum sentence of six months.

The women had been arrested last month during a crackdown to eject beggars from the capital, ahead of three international summits that were hosted there.

The children were taken to the Masulita Children's Village in central Uganda, which hosts rescued children.



I have listened to their cries and a [jail] sentence would be inappropriate. I have to enforce a deterrent sentence...I will sentence them to community service. In default, you will serve one month of imprisonment

Leaders out to identify new tourist attractions

By Guardian Correspondent, Same

AUTHORITIES in Kilimanjaro Region say there are more unexplored tourist sites that need to be promoted to Tanzanians as well as foreigners.

This was said mid-week at a local tourism fete at Mount Kidenge, a unique mountain located in Same District, which leaders here want to

be listed among the country's tourist attractions.

A number of local tourists toured the mountain during the opening of 'Utalii Festival' which is designed to promote tourist attractions in the district.

Same District Commissioner Kasilda Mgeni said the district will continue to implement robust strategies to attract Tanzanians to visit various

attractions to boost revenues.

She said she was among district commissioner who attended a training in China recently where among other things, they learned about the experiences creating new sources of revenue in the country which birthed the idea of coming up with the festival.

"We went to China for training to gain knowledge about different

facets of growth and observe first-hand the efforts being made by our colleagues in this regard. We passed by a mountain, and it looked a lot like Mount Kidenge which is in our district. I thus realized that the first thing I needed do when I returned was the possibilities of converting our mountain into an opportunity," she said.

"Same Utalii Festival's goals include raising awareness on attractions that haven't been publicized yet and develop them so that they can generate some revenue.

Mwanga District Commissioner Abdallah Mwaipaya led hundreds of tourists from both inside and outside the district to climb the mountain, which is unique due to its landscape.

"As authorities, we are committed to ensuring that we strongly market our attractions," she said.

Halfani Peter, one of local residents who took part in the mountain climb, said that considering efforts to attract tourists are concentrated in more well-known sites, it is a good idea to identify new attractions that can generate revenues no matter how small.

Kenya scraps entry fee for S. Africa, six other nations

NAIROBI

KENYA has waived entry fees for passport holders from South Africa and six other countries following widespread criticism of the recently introduced \$30 fee.

The move aims to boost tourism and attract business travellers. Previously, all foreign passport holders (except East African Community block) were subject to visa requirements, but the government's decision sparked backlash for potentially increasing travel costs and bureaucracy.

Exemptions now apply to passport holders from South Africa, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Congo-Brazzaville, Comoros, Mozambique, and members of the East African Community (EAC) regional bloc.

San Marino, Europe's third-smallest nation, is the only other country on the exemption list.

A memorandum from Kenya's interior ministry and immigration department said the exempted countries had entered "visa abolition agreements or signed bilateral visa waiver agreements" with the East African state.

However, travellers from these countries would still need to get an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) document which is valid for 90 days.



Preparations well under way yesterday for the implementation of the Bus Rapid Transit infrastructure project along the Mlimani City stretch of Dar es Salaam's Sam Nujoma Road. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Hackers attack Malawi's immigration service

LILONGWE

MALAWI has suspended the issuing of passports following a cyber-attack on the computer system at the country's immigration service.

President Lazarus Chakwera said the cyber-attack was a serious breach of national security.

Chakwera told MPs that the targeting of the government department amounted to a "serious national security breach."

He revealed that the hackers were asking for a ransom.

But the president said the government would not give in to their demands and was working to resolve the problem.

"We are not in the business of appeasing criminals with public money, nor are we in the business of negotiating with those who attack our country," he said on Wednesday.

Demand for passports is high in Malawi with many young people looking to migrate in search of job opportunities.

Mr Chakwera said he had given the immigration department three weeks within which it should provide a tempo-

rary solution and resume the issuing of passports, while waiting to regain control of the system.

He said a long-term solution with additional security safeguards would be developed.

For the past two weeks, Malawi has not been issuing passports for what officials said was "a technical glitch".

Chakwera only revealed for the first time on Wednesday that the immigration system had been "hacked" without mentioning who the hackers were suspected to be.

No other details have been given about the cyber-attack including the possible implications in terms of personal data security.

Malawians have been demanding answers over the persistent delays in the issuance of the travel document.

This is not the first time that there has been a suspension in recent years.

Last year, the government paused giving out new documents after running out of passport booklets, with an official saying that the problem was being worsened by a shortage of foreign currency.

There have been issues since 2021 when the attorney-general's office terminated a passport contract with a company that had been offering the service, citing irregularities.

Some frustrated Malawians have in the past faulted the government over the continued backlog of applications amid allegations of corruption.

For now, anyone who does not have a passport or whose passport has expired cannot acquire a new one and therefore cannot travel.

S. Africa budget boosts welfare grants ahead of polls

PRETORIA

SOUTH Africa's government has boosted welfare payments to more than 18 million people in the last budget ahead of May's General Election.

The governing African National Congress (ANC) is facing a tough political challenge as it battles to maintain its outright majority in the 29 May polls.

Left-wing rival the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) has already pledged to double payments to the underprivileged.

But harsh economic conditions leave the government little room for maneuvers.

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana was under pressure to curtail the government's growing budget deficit while also maintaining spending, and keeping taxes low, in order to not put voters off.

The ANC won the 2019 election with 57 percent of the national vote. Opinion polls suggest that for the first time since it took power at the end of apartheid in 1994, the party's share of the vote could fall below 50 percent in the upcoming election.

Amid cheers from ANC MPs, Godongwana said monthly payments to the elderly, war veterans and those with disabilities, among others, would go up by 100 rand (\$5.32; £4.22) a month - an increase in line with inflation of nearly 5 percent.

The minister also announced a rise in grants to others, including those with children.

There had been speculation, in line with what President Cyril Ramaphosa had said earlier this month, that the government would increase monthly payments to low earners and those most in need.

This Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD grant) of 350 rand is currently paid to nine

million people.

Among the key beneficiaries are those without jobs, in a country where just under a third of the potential workforce is unable to find work and joblessness among the youth stands at 4.7 million.

Godongwana said efforts were under way to "improve" their SRD grant. He failed to disclose by how much, saying more revenue was first needed to be found.

The EFF, which is eating into the ANC's support, has promised in its election manifesto to double all permanent social grants.

It has also promised a brand-new payment to all unemployed high school and university graduates.

One of the EFF's MPs, popular musician Ringo Madlingozi, suggested that the minister was avoiding responsibility with his speech and urged the party's supporters to vote the ANC out.

Meanwhile, the main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) has said it would boost payments, particularly for those with children.

It also wants to convert the SRD grant into a job seekers' payment. It has criticised the budget for doing nothing for vulnerable South Africans.

While Godongwana is looking to boost government revenue, he did not raise income tax levels, though more people will be paying tax as their wages go up.

Neither did he increase the general fuel levy for car drivers but a rise in the carbon tax will boost petrol prices.

The finance minister also increased taxes on cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars and alcohol. Overall, South Africa is faced with a slow-growing economy. Godongwana admitted that the "size of the pie is not growing fast enough to meet our developmental needs".



Minerals deputy minister Dr Steven Kiruswa pictured yesterday addressing small-scale miners at Maghung'hwa in Mwakata ward, Shinyanga Region, said to have invaded a mining site legally allotted to Canuck Company Ltd Mine. Right is Kahama district commissioner Mboni Mhita. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Govt launches wildlife, forest management guidelines

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has launched two guidelines to be used by prosecutors and detectives in handling cases of wildlife poaching, logging and illegal fishing.

Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs, Dr Pindi Chana officiated the launch here on Thursday in what she said was part of efforts to protect wildlife, forest and marine

resources.

"We are responsible for protecting our resources. I believe detectives and prosecutors will henceforth control wildlife poaching, unauthorized cutting of trees and illegal fishing in our rivers, lakes and the ocean," she said.

She said the country's resources contribute to national income and enable the continuation of numerous development projects.

Following the launch, she warned people who harvest national resources at will to desist from such activities since law enforcers are ready to punish them.

Dr Chana said the nation cannot allow some people to continue harvesting the country's resources for their own gain, adding that those who do not respect the law must be punished.

Director of Public Prosecutions

Sylvester Mwakitalu said the guidelines implementation will assist minimize resource looting crimes in the country.

"We decided to amend the wildlife and forest management rules as well as the fishing guidelines because we have seen that if we do not take precautions to protect our resources, they would be depleted due to rampant harvesting," he said.

He said such crimes are also com-

mitted by people from outside the country, adding the guidelines will assist authorities in dealing with the offenders.

Furthermore, the collection of evidence of the crimes through the rules will be aided by scientific, technological, and electronic methods, and training will be provided to sector stakeholders throughout the country.

Javelin Rugaihuruz, Principal

State Attorney, said the DPP's office recognizes the importance of organizing workshop to sensitize stakeholders on new strategies employed by criminals who loot national resources.

Katto Wambura from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said they will develop an application that allows users to view the guidelines on their phones anywhere in the world.



Stagnant sewage lying in a trench beside a Mwenge section of Bagamoyo Road endangers public health and dents the image of a strategic thoroughfare linking the country's commercial capital and a town of immense historical significance. Correspondent Sabato Kasika captured the scene yesterday.

Winter drought grips southern Europe along side North Africa

PARIS

DROUGHT that has plagued the Mediterranean has failed to recede over winter months that brought below-average rainfall, the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service has reported, prompting water restrictions and state of emergency declarations.

Just over 45 percent of southern Europe suffered from soil drought, with 2.8 percent reaching the highest "alert" level, over the first 10 days of February, according to the latest data from the European Drought Observatory (EDO) analysed by AFP.

Meanwhile, a quarter of all Europe and northern Africa is under drought conditions, according to Copernicus, with 19.3 percent of the region's soil at a "warning" level, meaning a moisture deficit is underway.

An alert level is impacting 2.5 percent of the region, meaning vegetation is growing abnormally due to the advanced stage of the drought, according to calculations by AFP.

The situation has worsened since the end of January, but has slightly improved compared with the same period last year that saw 31.3 percent of the territory under drought.

The western Mediterranean region has been particularly hard-hit, including southern Italy, Spain, northern Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

Last month was the warmest January on record globally, according to Copernicus, combined with a lack of precipitation that in some regions has lasted months, and even years.

Faced with "its worst drought in a century", according to Catalonia regional president Pere Aragonés, a state of emergency was issued including new restrictions on water.

The region's reservoirs had fallen below the level of 16 percent.

GENEVA

THE United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has welcomed the adoption mid-week of a Protocol by the African Union (AU) Assembly of States to eradicate statelessness and advance inclusion for millions of stateless people on the continent.

The protocol to the African charter on human and people's rights relating to the specific aspects of the right to a nationality and the eradication of statelessness in Africa

UNHCR lauds AU move to address statelessness

was adopted last weekend during the 37th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of the Heads of State and Government.

Statelessness is a worldwide phenomenon with those affected denied the right to recognition as citizens of any country, as well as associated rights. As a result, they are often prevented from fully participating in society, politi-

cally and economically marginalized, and vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation, and abuse.

The protocol seeks to provide solutions to legal barriers that will ensure that stateless people and those at risk of statelessness can exercise their right to a nationality and, in turn, have better access to fundamental human rights, as well as national services such

as health, education, and formal employment.

"This is a critical step in truly ending statelessness for people in Africa," said UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ruvenndrini Menikdwela.

"We stand ready to work with States on the ratification, domestication, and implementation of this Protocol so that millions of vulnerable

people can access basic human rights and services, improve their lives and contribute meaningfully to the development of their societies," he said.

Some standards set by the protocol mark a significant advance in international law. The mechanisms to effectively prevent generational statelessness from the outset, specific provisions for nomadic

and cross-border populations, and strong due process protections regarding the right to a nationality mark significant progress.

Following its adoption, the protocol now needs to be ratified by just 15 AU Member States after which it will come into force.

This initiative fulfills a pledge made by the AU Commission at the UNHCR High

Level Segment on Statelessness in October 2019 and subsequently at the first Global Refugee Forum, to advocate for the adoption, ratification and implementation of the protocol by AU member states.

Since 2019, AU member states have made notable strides to resolve the plight of stateless people in their countries. In 2022, Liberia amended its nationality law to grant women and men equal rights to confer nationality to their children.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2024

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

BBT-YIA rollout starting to pull in the hearts of farmers

THERE is a growing impression that agriculture stakeholders in various parts of our country are beginning to see the utility of the Building a Better Tomorrow-Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA), feeling that its implementation is inducing undeniably positive changes.

Some of the stakeholders are fruit farmers in the Southern Highlands zone, where an avocado growers' leader has described the drive as poised to transform agriculture, livestock keeping and fisheries. It is still early days yet but good tidings can also be seen early.

It was not apparent that the fruit growers' team leader is among youths joining the scheme, chances being that he is more of a veteran - which would explain the fact that he is truly a leader.

So it is a matter of having noticed how the initiative was having an impact in the sub-sector, and expectations that it is rolled much further out there.

It is thus neither exaggeration nor distorting saying that BBT-YIA is giving sections of our youth a new vision.

This is because, as for decades the dream has been to see it working more and better in urban areas, where there are numerous constraints such as the mismatch between supply of goods and services on the one hand and demand for the same on the other.

Meanwhile, agriculture is a sphere that looks like it will be on a growing curve for years, as demand for food crops and raw materials is largely relentlessly on the rise, despite that markets can be fickle at times.

The fruit growers' team leader focused not on the level of production but much more in the fact of their joining the scheme to transform their lives.

The view is that the scheme has come at the right time and youth ought to grab this opportunity so that they can wriggle out of pacing the roads and instead build their future and the national economy through gainful engagement in work.

It is the promise, not results, in which case it will be more enlightening to hear from the youths themselves as to how far they have integrated into the sector and how many expect to remain there.

It is unclear if farmers enthusiastic about the scheme are doing as reflected in their own commitment to agriculture or have seen a few of their kith and kin being as enthusiastic.

It is a problem of measuring popularity and acceptance where opinion is sought from the converted farming practitioners who can have no possible objection to attracting youths into farming. But of even greater consequence would be whether the public authorities are indeed succeeding in getting them into gainful self-employment as farmers.

While there was plenty of material on how farmers in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) feel good about the programme, not many youths who had completed preliminary training and joined the field were ready for interviews.

It is a situation that comes up time and again in drives of this sort which appear to be more persuasive to observers but and less so for the targeted sections of the population.

This gap will hopefully soon be covered as youths narrate their experiences, but chances are that they will not just ditch their urban orientations to become farmers overnight. There are quite a few lessons to learn here, though.

The media can do only so much in boosting democratic practice

TANZANIA has witnessed noticeable change on the governance score since Samia Suluhu Hassan assumed power - as President.

As was noticed recently during parliamentary debate on proposals for electoral reforms, not all that is prized or cherished by broad sections of activists can be reconciled with affirmative legislation as those yearnings seek to accommodate the interests of special groups.

It was all to be expected, one might say, which would in a way relate to the case of members of the media fraternity being asked to produce in-depth reports highlighting prohibitive sections of laws governing media practice in Zanzibar for subsequent pushing for amendments providing for unhindered access to information.

This position was expressed by a significant stakeholder - none other than the Zanzibar Chapter of the Tanzania Media Women's Association. It was at the recent launch of a report on provisions of current legislation seen to hinder media freedom in Zanzibar.

There may have been a 'subtle' contradiction in the call in that here was an association of professionals free enough to call a seminar and have reason to be assured they would produce such in-depth reports.

What they may not have noticed is they make an appeal for in-depth reporting on specific issues, while raising a red flag of prohibitions which are definitely not prohibitive enough to create an impression of inability to do reporting of that sort.

There is an expression about the need to count one's blessings in a regular manner instead of fo-

cus on shortfalls, and that may similarly be applicable to group fortunes, not just individual welfare.

This involves skipping - or not laying excessive stress on - ideas of unhindered access to information if unusable.

There are always 'reasonable' limits to accessing information. Even when journalists have the 'privilege' of accessing specific information, they are at times expected to keep particularly delicate portions under cover.

Such exposure would likely alter the nature of what the journalists would perhaps have already known about that issue or issues in question.

By extension, that bit of information would likely modify the perception with respect to a particular institution or on governance as a whole.

The fact that there is a proviso of not using specific information given directly can stand as a limitation but it isn't like no information was given in the first place.

Journalists have every right to highlight what they perceive as shortcomings in the existing legal framework for appropriate action.

As one stakeholder noted, this will grant people the joy and feeling that they can express their views without fear.

All this is of great importance and relevance. But it must be remembered that a country's media freedom is consonant with its level of unity, including how strong and reputable its institutions are.

Take the other remark that ready access to information and increase in accountability can only be achieved if journalists work without fear.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

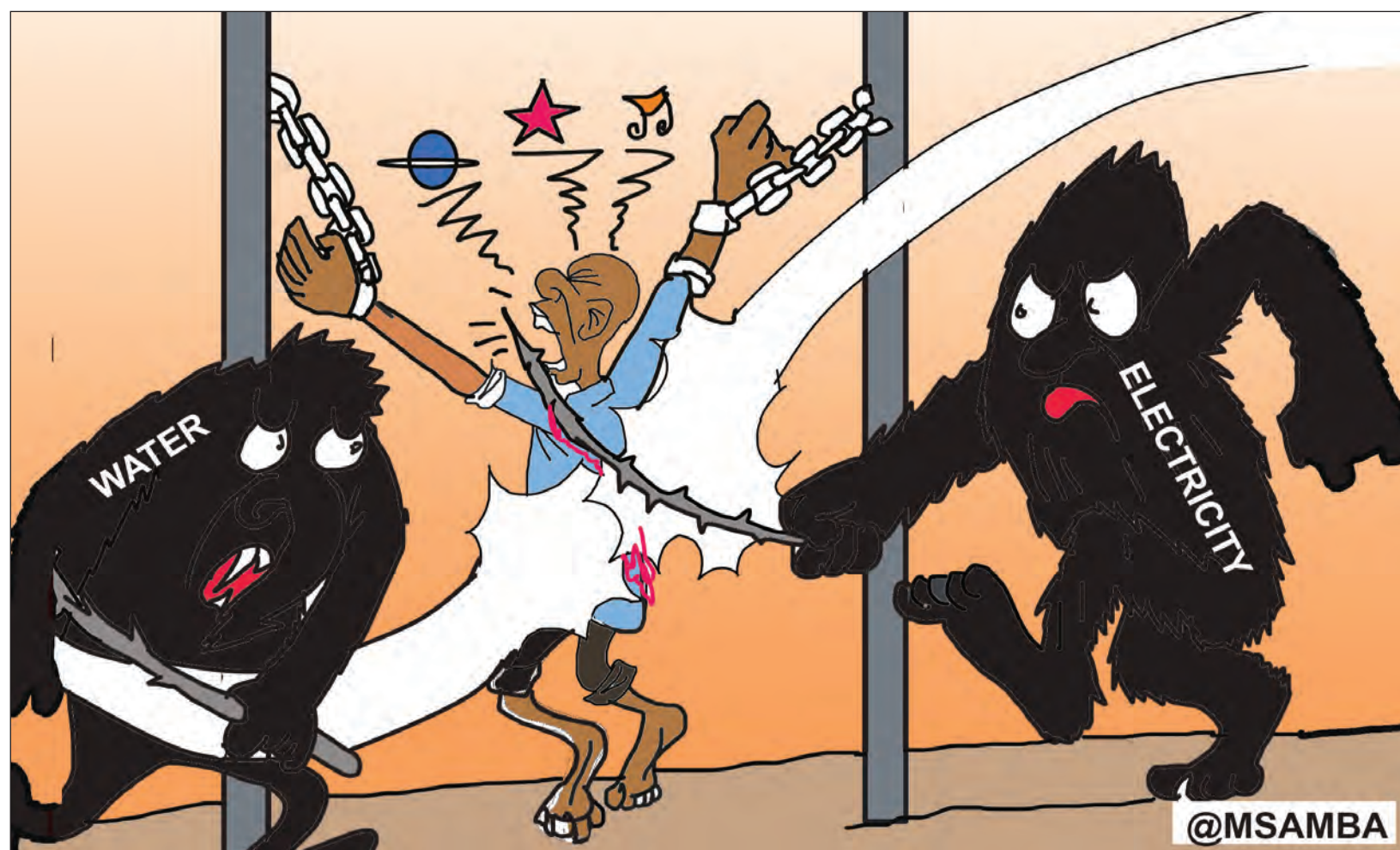
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



SPECIAL INTERVIEW

Why focusing on audiences helps newsroom transformation succeed

Changing long-established workflows and processes is very hard, as many news publishers have discovered. In particular, broader organisational changes are difficult to implement - and too many companies have seen their transformation efforts stall or fall short of their initial goals.

This is why smaller, specific transformation projects are at the heart of Table Stakes Europe, a performance-driven change management initiative for local and regional news organisations. This is a WAN-IFRA (World Association of News Publishers) programme supported by the Google News Initiative.

Now in its fifth year, Table Stakes Europe has helped more than 80 publishers from 17 countries to build on specific initial transformation projects and accelerate their digital transition to engage their audiences in a deeper way.

We spoke to Alexandra Borchardt and Lyndsey Jones, two coaches in the Table Stakes Europe programme, about different strategies that help transformation projects succeed.

We discussed why it's not enough for publishers to become "digital-first", the reasons that cause many transformation projects to fail, and why internal communication is key to spreading cultural change within the organisation.

The coaches discussed how paying close attention to the needs and interests of specific audience groups can help ensure that transformation projects stay on track and on target.

WAN-IFRA: In terms of transformation projects, most news publishers have at least started their journey to becoming "digital-first." But in Table Stakes Europe, the aim is to help participants become both "digital AND audiences-first." How is that different?

Lyndsey Jones: "Digital-first" newsrooms might publish their content online, but they are not necessarily thinking about peak audiences or deadlines for online publication. They are not really planning their content. That is what sets them apart from an "audiences-first" newsroom.

If you are "audiences-first", you might be planning up to 60 per cent of your content because you are really thinking about your targeted audiences. You are looking at what times people are coming to your site and when they are searching for a particular type of content.

More crucially, an "audiences-first" newsroom also thinks about how to tell each story to engage its audience. It is not just: "Let's put our content online"; it is thinking about whether to tell the story through video or even just a graphic. It is no longer necessarily just text.

Alexandra Borchardt: The fundamental difference in the digital world is that, previously, people used to have to go to a

news organisation - grab a newspaper, switch on the TV - to get information. But in the digital world, audiences' expectations and consumption habits have completely changed. Now news organisations have to find people where they are.

You need to be "digital-first" first because otherwise you cannot serve people on diverse digital platforms. And then you have to figure out which platforms different audiences use, at what time of day, and what their needs are.

If you are "audiences-first", audiences become your centres of attention, and you try to figure out what their needs are and how you can serve them.

Let's say I want to encourage a more audience-focused mindset in my newsroom. How should I get started?

Jones: In terms of Table Stakes, it's about setting up a mini-publisher team that's dedicated to a specific audience. The team can be very small: a reporter, perhaps a news editor, and someone from product development or IT. This team could, for example, work on a newsletter for a specific audience.

You must also start your news conference with an audience analytics person who gives a breakdown of your top 10 stories of the day online, why one story performed really well, and maybe why another one didn't perform so well. You look at what is working and what is not working to start that debate in your newsroom, as well as having your mini-publishing team experimenting on a topic idea with a specific audience in mind.

Data is very important here. You should use data to decide on your new audiences and topic ideas they might be interested in. Data also helps with affecting change in the company more broadly in terms of the messaging to the wider newsroom.

Borchardt: You really should use data, but it can also serve as a brilliant excuse. I've seen that with many teams: "Oh, we can't get started; we don't have all the data yet..."

I strongly advise to get started anyway. The starting point can be as simple as discussing the concept of different audiences with your newsroom and seeing what people have to offer. There may be "hidden gems" in every newsroom - people who are attached to a particular audience and have ideas about how to serve their needs and interests.

Are there common pain points

that cause transformation projects to stall (or fail)? And how can these be avoided?

Borchardt: One mistake is to make it too complicated, analysing everything, making plans for a huge change. And then the disappointment is tremendous when things don't work out. What's really important is to just get going, start experimenting, and start small if you have to.

Jones: I agree: get going, experiment, but then, crucially, review and monitor what you're doing. Because a common mistake that I see is that projects just run and run, particularly if it's led by someone whose idea it was, and they can't let it go.

What about internal resistance - how do you deal with colleagues or managers who are reluctant or even hostile to change?

Borchardt: Some teams spend too much time and effort trying to convince top leadership. Instead, they should just go ahead, experiment, get some data, have some success - and then go to top leadership and say: "Look, this works, can we explore this further?"

Also, as they say, it's easier to ask for forgiveness than for permission! That's important advice, because sometimes leadership resistance is mostly in your head, and it may turn out that the leadership isn't really resisting.

Do you have advice on how to share successes from smaller experiments, so that they're seen more widely in the company?

Jones: Most news organisations have a news conference, and you want to be presenting your results at that meeting. You need to promote yourself. It's about promoting your team, if you're a team leader, or it's about promoting your personal brand, if it's just you. No one else is going to do it for you.

Borchardt: It's also good to celebrate success stories. Some teams have a "win board" for this. Obviously, the newsroom needs to become data savvy at some point, and sooner or later people need to be able to read and interpret data themselves.

It's a bit of a cliché now to hear that newsrooms need to be ready for constant evolution - "change is the new normal". How difficult is it to actually encourage this mindset in the newsroom?

Jones: Let's not forget that you're dealing with people. And change is exhausting. People find it overwhelming to think that you have to keep up with

the change, you have to keep adapting. This is because if you don't, you'll be left behind and eventually become irrelevant.

There is an onus on everybody these days to keep retraining, re-skilling, look at where your company's going, and look at the trends. You are always future-proofing your skills.

Borchardt: Maybe it is a consolation for some, but it is the same in every industry, so there is really no escaping it. But the good news is that these new skills come in handy in many different jobs, so it makes you much more employable.

When Lyndsey and I started out as journalists, it felt like: "This is what I can do, and I can't really do much else." Now journalists need to have so many different skills. Data, knowing how to drive change, maybe leadership skills, knowing about user needs, customer research... It means all skills that you can easily use in a lot of different places.

Finally, many newsrooms are grappling with the implications of generative artificial intelligence. How do you think GenAI will impact publishers' transformation processes?

Jones: Three main areas will be affected: production, news gathering and distribution. Large language models are either being used or show potential for usage in the streamlining of workflows. The biggest challenge to newsrooms is how they can spot fake news before publication. What processes are in place to check if the story they are being pitched is true and accurate? Having a human in the fact-checking process will be vital to protect the brand's reputation for truth and accuracy.

Borchardt: You absolutely need a strategy for where to use AI, how to use it and how not to use it, and what you want to achieve with it. This is because the temptation will be to create a tremendous amount of new stuff just because doing so is possible. If you do not have a strategy, you could end up flooding the market with new products, new text, new videos that no one really needs. And that will contribute to people getting even more tired of the news.

** This interview is an extract from "Change agents: Using audience needs to unlock digital transformation", a 2023 WAN-IFRA report. Teemu Henriksson is a research editor with the association.*

When testimony of a child is of no evidential value

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at eyewitnesses. First, we said a witness is 'one who, being present personally sees or perceives a thing; a beholder, spectator, or eyewitness' (Black's Law Dictionary).

Second, we said a witness shouldn't, for any reason, fabricate evidence (say things s/he didn't see, hear, touch, feel, smell or doesn't know).

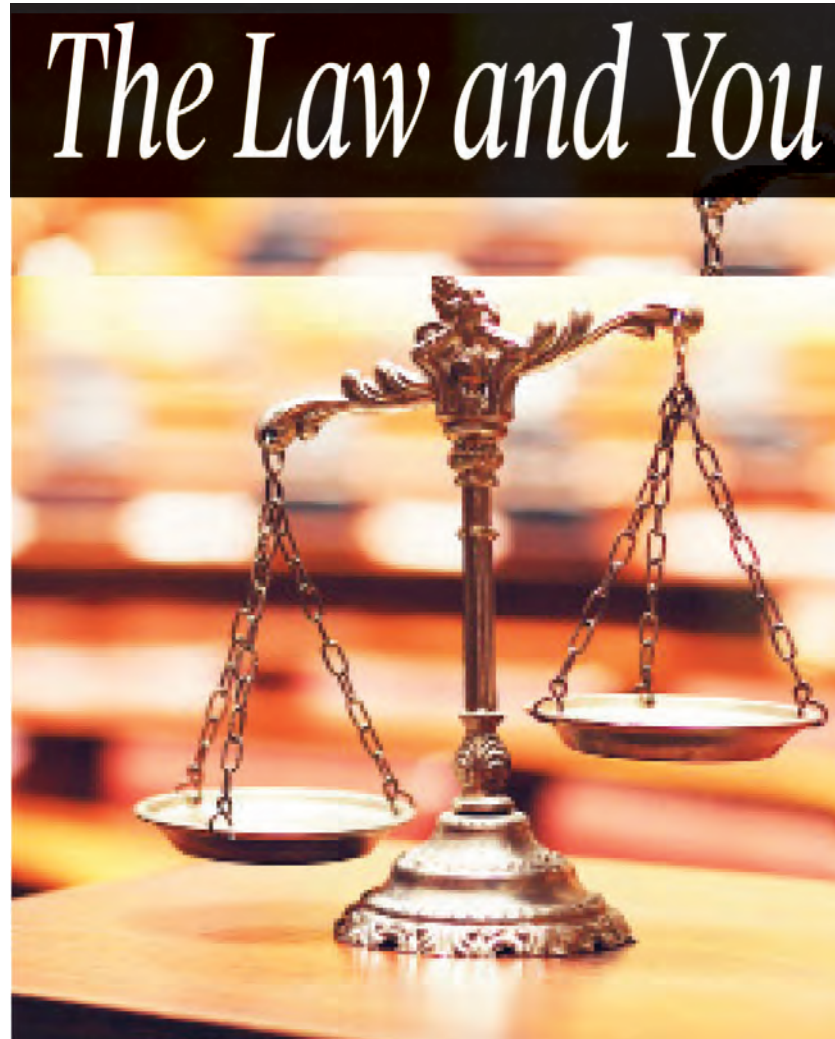
Third, we said if a witness fabricates evidence s/he may be charged with the offence of giving false evidence. Therefore, when a person is summoned to testify in court s/he must only say what s/he knows to be true at the time s/he was present when the incident s/he is testifying about occurred.

Today, I invite you to look at the evidence involving persons of tender age. Section 127(2) of the Evidence Act (R.E. 2022) states: 'A child of tender age may give evidence without taking an oath or making an affirmation, but shall, before giving evidence, promise to tell the truth to the court and not to tell any lies'.

There are some accused persons who have been convicted and sentenced in lower courts, but after appealing to the Court of Appeal their conviction was quashed, the sentence set aside and their appeal allowed. While courts may be reluctant to set aside a decision on purely technical grounds, "an accused person should never be convicted merely because his [her] defense is weak: he [she] should be convicted on the strength of the prosecution's case (to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt)," says Judge Chipeta in his book, "A Magistrate's Manual".

In the case of Mwalimu Jumanne (appellant) v Republic (respondent) (Criminal Appeal No 18 of 2019), the appellant was charged with statutory rape contrary to sections 130(1)(d)(e) and 131 of the Penal Code (before it was revised), that between 2016 and January 2017 he raped a schoolgirl aged seven years. He was tried in Tembeke District Court, convicted of the offence and sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment, and was also ordered to compensate the victim Sh300,000. He unsuccessfully appealed to the High Court of Tanzania and then appealed to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania, which exonerated him.

The facts are that one day the father arrived home at



night and was told by his wife that her daughter had been raped. The father checked her and confirmed that she had been raped. The daughter told her mother in the presence of the landlady that it was Mwalimu Jumanne who had raped her after forcing her into his bedroom. At the time of testifying, the girl said she was seven years old and that the appellant asked her to go and buy him a mobile phone top-up voucher from a shop and when she brought it to him, he forced her into his bedroom and raped her.

A medical report also confirmed the girl had been sexually penetrated because there was a ruptured hymen, the enlargement of the girl's vagina

and a discharge from it. But in his defense, the appellant denied to have raped the girl, saying he had conflict with the victim's mother over a flash disk which he picked up on the way, but which the victim's mother claimed it was hers. The trial court accepted the victim's evidence and the High Court added that the appellant's disappearance from the area of his usual residence after the alleged rape for five months suggested his guilt.

The appellant presented 10 grounds of appeal. There was also an observation that the victim's evidence was not recorded as the law required at the time. Although seven grounds were considered new and the Court of Appeal did not accept them, it accepted three grounds which raised points of law such as a defective charge, non-proof of the victim's age, and that the victim's testimony was recorded without promising to tell the truth and not lies.

The Court of Appeal said the grounds that the charge was defective and non-proof of the victim's age had no merit, but one ground of the victim's testimony without promising to tell the truth and not lies had merit. On this ground, the Court of Appeal, citing the case of Raphael Mhando v Republic (Criminal Appeal No 54 of 2017, unreported), said "The law is settled that evidence recorded without oath or affirmation is of no value without corroboration."

However, the Court of Appeal said all those were not determinant matters as earlier intimated. "The main question for our determination here... is whether the two courts below were correct in relying on the evidence of

[the victim] to conclude that it is the appellant who raped her."

It further said "This takes us to the manner in which that witness, being 7 years old at the time of testifying, was made to pass out as a competent witness... Was this procedure followed in this case?" the Court of Appeal asked. It then said, "Unfortunately, the learned trial magistrate surrendered to the prosecution the duty of ascertaining the victim's competence to testify, and this is not what the law mandates."

The Court of Appeal reiterated that in the absence of a promise to tell the truth and not to tell lies, the testimony of a child of tender age is of no evidential value. "So, here we are, with no evidence from the victim, nor from her mother and [the landlady] to whom she disclosed her ordeal. There will be no evidence left to ground the conviction because a good part of what was testified to by [the father] as to the perpetrator of the rape, is mere hearsay."

Therefore, the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, quashed the conviction, set aside the sentence as well as the order of compensation, and ordered the appellant's immediate release from prison, if he was not otherwise lawfully held. This gives us a clear message that the weight of evidence matters much in the eyes of the court.

Today's proverb: "To scare a bird is not the best way to catch it."

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

Attaining gender parity in leadership: Need to interpret and embrace national emblem

By Ananilea Nkya

TANZANIA can attain full gender parity in parliamentary seats if the symbol in the country's national emblem that signifies equality between men and women in building their nation is interpreted accordingly.

One of the key features on the Tanzanian emblem is a figure of a woman and a man, suggesting that the country can prosper if women and men are equally valued as a development resource for their nation.

However, what the Tanzanian emblem depicts does not reflect the reality happening in the country today especially in relation to elective leadership posts including legislative seats.

As the national emblem shows and as father of the nation, the late Julius Nyerere said, good leadership from a gender perspective is the most valuable resource for national development.

Currently, the National Assembly (2020-2025) has a total of 393 Members of Parliament (MPs) of which 264 are elected from constituencies of whom only 26 are women.

The other 113 women MPs are from Special Seats and "are considered as second class MPs as they are not allocated constituent funds for implementing citizens' projects, and are not allowed to hold the post of Prime Minister, Chairperson of Parliamentary Standing Committees and Chairperson of Councils", says Prof Ruth Meena, Chairperson of Women and Constitution, Election and Leadership coalition.

Prof Meena considers all that is done to women who become MPs through Special Seats as gender discrimination and against the country's Constitution.

She adds: "Part Three article 12 (1) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 which states that "All human beings are born free, and all are equal" and article 13 (1-5) further elaborates by prohibiting all forms of discrimination including gender discrimination.

If Tanzania had strived to implement what its emblem connotes in relation to equality between women and men, it would be the first country in Africa to attain full gender parity not only in parliamentary seats but in all elective posts from local to national level.

However, Global Gender Gap Report 2023 shows that Rwanda is one of five countries in the world and the only African state that have attained full gender parity in parliamentary seats. The report mentions other countries that have attained fully gender party in parliamentary seats as Mexico, Nicaragua, the United Arab Emirates and New Zealand.

Importantly, after the 2025 general elections, Tanzania could become the second; if the three bills on election matters that were passed by the National Assembly on February 2, 2024, would have abolished special seats instead allow men and women to be voted in constituencies.

The Global Gender Gap Report 2023 measured the difference between men and women in accessing economic opportunities, education, health and political leadership.

The report says: "The level of progress toward gender parity (the parity score) for each indicator is calculated as



the ratio of the value of each indicator for women to the value for men. A parity score of 1 indicates full parity. The gender gap is the distance from full parity."

The women movement coalition bringing together more than 200 organizations and networks, had proposed that special seats be abolished, instead administrative districts be converted into constituencies and each constituent represented by two people, a man and a woman but the women's activists proposal did not feature in the draft bills passed by the National Assembly.

Abolishing special seat, an old model of implementing affirmative action, not only could close the gender gap and make the House socially inclusive, but would also reduce Parliament cost and enable women and men Parliamentarians to have equal status hence ending discrimination which special seat women parliamentarians face.

Moreover, the activist's proposal could reduce 94 MPs from the present 393 MPs in Parliament because as of 2024 the United Republic of Tanzania has 138 districts, 128 in Mainland and 10 in Isles and if each constituency is represented by two people man and woman, the Parliament will have 276 parliamentarians elected from the constituencies.

Similarly, in case inclusivity in parliament, the activist's proposal suggests setting aside

12 seats for people with special needs (disability) six men and six women, and also if it is decided to maintain the current feature of the Parliament where the Attorney General automatically becomes an MP, and President is allowed to appoint 10 Parliamentarians five women and five men, in total the August House will have 299, the number which is less by 94 MPs as compared to the current number—393 MPs.

Having 299 legislators instead of 393 would enable the government to save more than 200bn/- in five years being the costs of salary, sitting allowance and the end of five years gratuity of the 94 MPs.

In fact, having a Parliament with huge number of parliamentarians while it is possible to cut the number is "misuse of taxpayers' money", argues Gemma Akilimali, the women coalition member who championed a campaign that enabled the government to mainstream gender budgeting few years ago.

Nonetheless, the 200bn/-, for example, could be used to pay health insurance of 35bn/- annually for the period of five years for all children in the country who are under 18.

The women activists' movement also proposed that each elective post from local to national level, gender equality must be considered to ensure that in the future, Constitution and legal frameworks assure that where we have a man President, the Vice President is a woman and the vice versa and where we have the village Chairperson a woman, the Vice Chairperson is a man and the vice versa.

The Global Gender Gap Index was first introduced by the World Economic forum in 2006 to measure progress towards gender parity between women and men across countries and regions in four outcomes political leadership, economic opportunities, education and health.

The Global Gender Gap report 2023 which covered 146 countries including a set of 102 countries that have been covered in all editions since the inaugural one in 2006 noted that that for "a country to be included, it must report data for a minimum 12 of the 14 indicators that comprise the index. The index aim to include the latest data available, reported within the last 10 years".

President Samia Suluhu Hassan when addressing the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 23, 2021, seven months after she became President of Tanzania following the death of President John Pombe Magufuli she said: "My government is reviewing policy and legal frameworks to come up with actionable and measurable plans to ensure the economic empowerment of women but also to other aspects pertaining to gender equality and gender parity"

Currently, Tanzania is one of the few countries in the world lead by a woman. The Global Gender Gap Report 2023 shows that as of '31 December 2022, approximately 27.9 percent of the global population, equivalent to 2.12 billion people, lives in countries with a female head of state'.

It is important for the government, legislators and election stakeholders to understand that the three election laws to be enacted; President, Members of Parliament, and Councilors' elections law 2023; the Law on Political Parties, 2023; and the Law for the National Election Commission, 2023 will not enable Tanzania make any meaningful progress in achieving gender parity in parliamentary seats.

For the 2024 local government election and 2025 general elections to make progress in gender parity, political parties should nominate a big number of women to vie for parliamentary seats and effectively support them to win.

Cultural custodian: Separating Africa's myth from its reality

By Sonya Beard

THE UN designated the International Decade for People of African Descent, from 2015 to 2024, to promote the recognition, justice, and development of African descendants worldwide.

Through various programs, events, and awareness campaigns, the Decade seeks to create a platform for dialogue, understanding, and positive change in the lives of people in the diaspora.

This article highlights the journeys African Americans are taking to reconnect with Africa - the continent their ancestors called home. The third piece in this four-part series highlights the journey of one African American woman who uncovered the true identity of Africa while researching her own.

There is a version of Africa romanticized as a place with lush landscapes and rich resources ruled by kings and queens. African Americans dream of going there and receiving a warm welcome home.

Then there is the other version. "I grew up in the era of 'feed the children' campaigns, which showed Africa with a lot of poverty and blight," Kennedy S. Johnson said in an interview. "I wanted to go there and see it with my own eyes."

When Johnson placed her feet on African soil, she knew it would be her first of many adventures on the continent.

A transformational trip to Kenya in East Africa had Johnson looking to her future while examining her past. "As I got older and started travelling the world, I wanted to understand myself and my identity."

Identity was always a question for the Detroit native. Her family dynamics were constantly shifting: she had never met her father, and her mother could not care for her. After her grandmother died, she lived with a string of relatives before being orphaned.

With 50 countries already stamped in her passport, Ms. Johnson embarked on a new journey - to discover her heritage. When she received her DNA results from Ancestry.com in 2016, her itinerary - and her life - changed.

"I rerouted my journey to all the countries that had my ethnicity markers: Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and the Gambia," said



the travel enthusiast. "I wanted to see the similarities in our traits, customs and traditions.

Named after the Negro Motorist Green Book that helped Black travellers find welcoming services and accommodations in America's segregated South, her agency offers ancestry, birthright and heritage tours for the African diaspora.

Johnson's objective for Green Book Travel was to steer away from the colonial mindset and support descendants in tracing their ancestral footprints by visiting all the places that slave ships docked.

"The transatlantic slave trade stripped us of our names, our culture, our traditions and our religion. It cut us off from our origins," she said. "By going back, African Americans can restore their identities."

Johnson traced her ancestry to Ghana. There, she received her African name, which came with a royal title - Queen Zosimli Naa - a distinction bestowed on her

through the enskinment ceremony where a candidate sits on an animal skin. Naa Fusheini Bawa, chief of Tamale in the Dagbon Kingdom of Ghana, enskinned Johnson.

According to the Ghana News Agency, Chief Fusheini Bawa said that he intended the title "to strengthen the bilateral relations [between Ghana and the United States], especially in the areas of culture and tourism."

In her role, Johnson has supported clean water initiatives, provided shoes to school children and hosted economic development workshops.

She even employed local talent and paid them fair wages through Social Fabrik, her sustainable fashion line with ethically sourced materials.

Her position, she said, includes a cultural custodianship tasked with making public appearances.

Johnson was spotted in a photograph at a royal ceremony for fellow African Ameri-

can travel entrepreneur Diallo Sumbry, who sat on a traditional stool to receive his new title.

"Yes, she attended my enstoolment. I invited the entire community," said Sumbry, honoured for his work as co-architect of Ghana's Year of Return and as author of A Smart Ghana Repatriation Guide. Sumbry was named Nkosuohene, fittingly, chief of development.

Ms. Johnson chuckles when people ask about her royal roots, which she explains as an honorary distinction reserved for a few prominent individuals throughout the diaspora. "The positions help to reintegrate African Americans into the African family."

African ambassador Through her business ventures, Johnson has had opportunities to help others take their own journeys back to Africa through cultural tours.

She sees herself as a conduit for her American brothers and sisters to come to the continent as tourists, investors or returnees.

The tours offer descendants a historical connection, Johnson said. "I get emotional visiting traditional kingdoms and meeting with the elders, experiencing those places where my ancestors took their last bath, tracing their footsteps through the Door of No Return."

The Door of No Return refers to the exit at the dungeons in Cape Coast, Ghana, where millions of Africans were detained before being forced onto ships and sold into slavery. According to the Ghana Tourism Authority, the Cape Coast Castle is now a

UNESCO World Heritage Site and a museum honouring the ancestors.

Experiencing Africa

Through her travels, Johnson realized, though, that life on the continent may not be a fairy tale. "Some areas are thriving and affluent, whereas others are impoverished and in need of assistance," she said of the disparities that mirror her hometown of Detroit.

Yet, she also recognized that the reality is far from the negative myths and misconceptions portrayed for years in the media.

Everywhere she turns, Johnson said that the beautiful brown images in advertisements overwhelm her. "In this age of social media, the continent has reimaged itself. Now Africa is on our vision board," said Johnson, a self-appointed ambassador for the continent.

"I want to share my stories, my pictures and my videos," she said. "I want to tell everyone about the richness of the culture and the kindness of the people. I want to pass on everything I have learned."

Taking the DNA test, Johnson said, was one of the most profound acts of her life. Recently, it allowed her to share those travel stories with the father who never knew she existed.

"You must go back to your roots so that you can move forward," Johnson said. "It is the concept of Sankofa. What has been lost, stripped or taken away from you can be reclaimed, preserved and revived."

The hunger in Cuba that swallows us all

By Adriana Normand

SOMEONE I deeply love says that Donald Trump is the hungriest person in the Universe. Hunger, as we well know, is not only a physical issue derived from lack of food.

The worst hunger is the insatiable one, the one that pursues something, usually power, and thus is capable of doing anything, of transgressing even the most sacred human and divine laws.

But physical hunger also exists, and in Cuba, in 2024, we have all possible hungers.

February is about to end, and in most neighborhoods of Havana, the ultra-basic products offered in the ration store haven't been sold. We are aware that what they sell there is symbolic; however, we also know that almost everyone needs it to support the great task of feeding oneself and any family members in this country.

It's a few pounds of rice at a cheaper price -luckily seven- than those that will have to be bought on the street at a price that exceeds 200 pesos in a country where the minimum monthly wage is 2,100 and most people do not earn more than 5,000 pesos a month.

It's not my intention to start listing products and prices. Perhaps it would be an interesting initiative -though terrifying. In addition, to its useful currency exchange table, to add one with the prices of basic products of the impoverished Cuban diet.

Thus, those living outside of Cuba could know how prices behave here, and, incidentally, the government would have the opportunity to blame the media for the economic disaster we are experiencing and for the outrageous inflation we have been experiencing since the brilliant idea of economic reordering (in 2021); although, truth be told, long before.

I speak of Havana and I speak from the most central municipalities, but I know very well that just moving a few kilometers away from the center is enough to see that things are worse, that poverty increases, and that the gaps widen. I wouldn't want to imagine how prices and salaries behave in the small towns of the eastern provinces, for example. Who in those areas will have access to the elitist MLC (magnetic dollar) stores where, by the way, a variety of offerings is not the priority?

I live in Lechuga most of my week, in the Managua district, in Arroyo Naranjo. I'm just 30 km away from



downtown Havana, and yet, upon arriving in Lechuga, it seems like I inhabit a kind of parallel reality. In this area, people have cell phones and internet connection, like anyone else, but time seems to pass in different ways.

There are several dairies nearby, and many of the inhabitants have had jobs in them. I say they have had because right now the facilities are practically empty. After months of waiting for back pay -many of which barely exceed the minimum-, the workers abandoned their positions tired of the promises that this week yes, that they would pay them at least one of the salaries owed to them for so long.

At noon, you can cross the main street of this town and see that people are in their homes where men and women doing nothing, almost always with music playing and accompanied by a bit of alcohol. Frustration, stagnation, hopelessness are in the air.

Some may have a harvest of something in their yards, a bit of sweet potato, corn, tomatoes, mangoes when the season comes, the cassava that saves many tables in rural areas; but others cannot.

Passing the front area of the district, you reach an even more impoverished place. It's a place where many have built houses of palm wood and thatched guano roofs. It's no man's land, torn from the marabou brush weed that covered it for years.

Those who are there mostly come from other provinces and don't even have an address in Havana to access the ration book or to get a legal job. Anyway, they prefer not to return to their places of origin, they know very well that at least around here they can find some way to survive, that the further away they get from the capital, the less likely they are to have that possibility.

The role of social networks

Social networks are undoubtedly very useful. Beyond what they may have of superficial -and even demonic- for some, they are a huge showcase to expose many issues that, at least in the case of Cuba, there would be no way to bring to light.

I think it was during the tornado that hit some municipalities of the capital in January 2019 that we began to see that on Facebook many cases of people who needed help were being made visible. We saw how the online community spread situations in which certain medicines, food, clothing, and other supplies were needed.

Delivery of aid was organized, and several groups were created with people inside and outside of Cuba who formed a relief structure to reach those who needed it most.

I'm not going to mention groups or individuals because there are many -I am extremely lucky that some of their members are also my friends-, but we know that if it weren't for the parallel network, many people would not have had access to the medicine they needed, to a decent meal, to shelter in the scarce but cruel days of the Cuban winter.

Independent media have recently publicized cases like that of Fernando -an impoverished pianist from Guanabacoa-, Kendra -a singer and visual artist with two children to support and no job- and Amanda -a girl with cancer who needs a liver

transplant and for whom an epic fundraising campaign was organized that in a few days managed to raise 20,000 dollars thanks to the significant management of activists, especially Lara Crofts.

We have also seen campaigns to bring a meal to people living on the streets, to offer them a free haircut, or to donate toys and clothes to children without parental care. Paradoxically, the government pursues the people who organize this type of aid, instead of supporting them or, at least, thanking them for what they do.

There are many opinions regarding making certain cases visible. Personally, I believe that every help is important and should be appreciated, and hopefully other people, other situations, would come to light. However, I cannot help but think about the cases that are not made public, about those that no one sees or, worse, about those that people pass by without noticing.

I am convinced that along with the levels of poverty that have increased in Cuba, so have other indicators (dementia, alcohol abuse and drug consumption, and ultimately, suicides). A couple of days ago, a friend told me that she witnessed the discovery of a woman hanged and that someone identified her as the mother of three children. Yesterday, in a Facebook group, it was said that a person jumped from the La Lisa bridge. Those are the ones we hear about, but how many are silent?

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Appeal for \$112m aid for migrants in eastern and southern Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE International Organization for Migration (IOM) and 27 partners are appealing for \$112 million to provide urgent humanitarian and development assistance to over 1.4 million migrants and host communities in the Horn of Africa, Yemen, and Southern Africa.

The Eastern route from the Horn of Africa to Yemen and Gulf States, and the Southern route from the Horn of Africa through Kenya and Tanzania to Southern Africa, are among the most dangerous, complex, and under-reported migratory routes in the world.

In 2023, nearly 400,000 movements were recorded across the Eastern route while an additional 80,000 movements were recorded on the Southern route, particularly to South Africa.

Rana Jaber, IOM Regional Director for the East and Horn of Africa said: "The past years have shown us what we can achieve when we work together."

"We are confident that we can accomplish even more in 2024, continuing to save lives and provide protection, offering access to

sustainable solutions and enhancing the resilience of populations," she added.

Migrants in the region leave home in search of better job opportunities, and in some cases to escape conflict, insecurity, and the adverse effects of climate change. On their journeys, many face life-threatening dangers including starvation, health risks and exploitation - at the hands of human traffickers and other criminals. Migrants are often left in dire need of medical attention, food, water, shelter and psychosocial support.

The communities along these routes, which provide shelter and assistance, require support in addressing the push factors of irregular migration. They need access to basic social services, help to mitigate the impact of climate change, and information on the perils of irregular migration.

According to IOM's Missing Migrants Project, at least 698 people, including women and children, died on the Eastern route, crossing the Gulf of Aden from Djibouti to Yemen in the hope of reaching the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2023. This number could be higher considering some tragedies often



go unnoticed. In November 2023, a shipwreck off the shores of Yemen left 64 migrants missing, presumed dead at sea.

Children on the move are particularly vulnerable and must be put at the heart of work on migration, according to UNICEF.

"For migration policies to succeed, we must prioritize children and adolescents, centering their rights at the core of migra-

tion policies and systems that are crucial for children, such as education, child protection, social protection, and health," said UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Deputy Regional Director, Lieke van de Wiel.

In 2023, the Regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) assisted 200,000 migrants and host communities by providing life-

saving assistance, addressing protection needs and helping migrants integrate into communities. With migration flows expected to increase in 2024, continued funding is crucial.

The appeal is being channelled through the MRP Framework for the Horn of Africa to Yemen and Southern Africa.

Excessive trust in artificial intelligence makes users vulnerable, survey finds

By Special Correspondent

A significant number of people are comfortable sharing their personal information with generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT, a recent survey revealed.

A survey, which spanned 1,300 respondents in ten African and Middle Eastern countries, revealed that 63 percent of users are open to sharing their personal information, while an impressive 83 percent expressed confidence in the accuracy and reliability of these AI tools.

"While the results clearly show that generative AI tools are widely used, they also highlight the need for increased user training and awareness regarding the potential risks associated with this powerful new technology," says Anna Collard, SVP Content Strategy and Evangelist at KnowBe4 AFRICA.

Upon its introduction in late 2022, ChatGPT revolutionised the way people work. The highly adept

chatbot, known for its natural and impeccable English, swiftly won over critics. Business teams discovered they could create marketing campaigns in a matter of minutes instead of hours, and effortlessly generate content in various forms, such as text and images. However, some argue that the world has embraced generative AI too hastily.

"The adoption of genAI offers tremendous opportunities for African users and organisations but we also need to consider the associated risks," says Collard.

"Our survey - which runs across users owning smartphones in 10 African countries - indicates that all respondents are using generative AI in their personal and professional lives, with many using it on a daily or weekly basis."

The primary purposes for using generative AI are research, information gathering, email composition, creative content generation, and document drafting. Respond-

ents highlighted several benefits of using generative AI, including time-saving, assistance with complex tasks, increased productivity, and enhanced creativity.

"Despite the hype about job losses and various industries being negatively affected by generative AI, 80% of respondents didn't feel that it threatened their job security, although 57 percent believed it has the potential to replace human creativity," says Collard.

He adds: "What is interesting in the findings disconnect between what people think and the reality, particularly when it comes to cybersecurity."

The adoption of genAI offers tremendous opportunities for African users and organisations but we also need to consider the associated risks.

The survey, carried out across South Africa, Botswana, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Egypt, Mauritius, Morocco, United Arab Emirates,

and Saudi Arabia, revealed that almost two-thirds of users are at ease sharing their personal information with generative AI tools such as ChatGPT.

The comfort level in sharing sensitive data varied across countries. For example, in South Africa, only 54 percent of users were comfortable sharing their personal information with generative AI tools, while in the UAE it was 67 percent, and in Nigeria, it was 75 percent.

According to the survey, 83 percent of users feel confident about the accuracy and reliability of generative AI, showing an excessive level of trust. Collard comments that it is important to encourage critical thinking and be aware of our psychological biases that make us blindly trust content that is synthetically generated.

"For example, research shows that people overestimate their abilities to detect deep fakes (Köbis et al., 2021) and in fact perceive AI-

synthesized images as more trustworthy than real faces (Nightingale and Farid, 2022)"

Another concerning finding is the lack of comprehensive policies in organisations to address the challenges associated with generative AI. Almost half of the respondents (46 percent) reported having no generative AI policy at work, and 8 percent stated that they were prohibited from using it. "Employees are already using generative AI, so attempting to ban it is futile. Instead, it is crucial to establish policies that protect both organisations and their employees, ensuring responsible and safe usage," asserts Collard.

A previous KnowBe4 AFRICA survey found that almost half of consumers do not know what deepfakes are, while a recent survey of South African IT managers by KnowBe4 and ITWeb showed that 60 percent of organisations do not provide training on deepfakes.

"Scammers can trick people into believing that their loved ones are being held hostage by using fake voice and video messages created with this technology," explains Collard.

Because they are so convincing, many people are falling for these scams, including organisations which stand to lose both money and their sensitive data.

With elections coming up in South Africa, the US and many other countries, the World Economic Forum has ranked disinformation as one of the top risks for this year. Previous research has shown deepfakes as one of the most worrying uses of AI, particularly when used for political manipulation.

"A zero-trust mindset needs to be cultivated to help people overcome the threats of malicious use of generative AI," concludes Collard. "Companies should provide more training and implement comprehensive policies to help their

Millions of Africans at risk of food, energy insecurity, as climate crisis advances

By Martina Igin

EXTREME weather conditions are expected to have severe repercussions on the economy, agricultural productivity, water resources, and energy security across the developing world, a new study has found.

Published Tuesday by the Centre for Global Development (CGD), the report looks at the socioeconomic impact of rising temperatures and rapidly shifting weather patterns and extreme events in the Global South and particularly in Africa in the coming decades. According to the analysis, even small temperature increases - much lower than 2C - could have significant repercussions on socioeconomic indicators in the developing world.

In Africa, more than 200 million people could face extreme hunger and undernourishment in the long run as extreme weather events impact crop yields and farmland value. Indeed, agricultural production in Africa could experience losses of up to 2.9 percent by 2030 and 18 percent by mid-century, the study suggested, while the value of farmland to drop anywhere between 36 percent and 61 percent.

While estimates are not conclu-

sive for other developing regions, researchers say rain-fed crops will suffer the most.

Besides food security, climate change is also expected to deepen poverty in the world's poorest regions. In Africa, the average per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to drop by 7.1 percent in the long term, while country-level losses are much higher, estimated between 11.2 percent and 26.6 percent of GDP. Across the continent, poverty is expected to affect households that work in the agricultural sector the most, with revenue from crops likely to drop by 30 percent and poverty expected to rise anywhere between 20 percent and 30 percent when compared to a no-climate-change scenario.

As altered rainfall patterns impact the quality and spatial distribution of global water resources, regions vulnerable to droughts and flooding are also expected to see increased displacement rates and water shortages. In Africa alone, these changes are likely going to push more than 50 million people into water distress.

"If the menace of climate change is not addressed, the socioeconomic problems of developing



countries, particularly in Africa, will deepen and erode the gains made in development in the last decades," wrote Philip Kofi Adom, the study's author.

The analysis follows months of record-breaking temperatures worldwide, with 2023 dubbed the hottest year in history and characterised by unprecedented extreme weather events that have brought about loss and devastation around the world.

Developing countries, historically the ones most affected by these events despite being those contributing the least to the issue, have long fought to hold industrial

nations accountable. At last year's UN COP28 climate summit in Dubai, delegates from nearly 200 countries approved a framework for the Loss and Damage Fund instituted at COP27 to help developing countries deal with the harm stoked by global warming.

The framework, brought forward last month by the 24-member Transitional Committee (TC), a board tasked with the operationalisation of the fund, contains recommendations on how the fund would operate, including who would get the money, and who would pay.

The final text invites "financial

contributions with developed country parties continuing to take this lead to provide financial resources for commencing the operationalisation of the Fund." It also assures the World Bank as the fund's host on a four-year interim basis - despite the US pushing to make this permanent. Developing nations initially expressed opposition to the idea of the Bank hosting the Fund due to their lack of confidence in the institution's significant shift towards promoting climate action.

Pledges for the fund exceeded US\$700 million, including \$300-

400 million from the European Union (EU) collectively, \$100 million from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), \$50 million from the UK, \$17.5 million from the US, and \$10 million from Japan.

Nevertheless, critics pointed out that contributions to the Fund represent less than 0.2 percent of the economic and non-economic losses developing countries face every year from global warming, adding pressure to developed nations to enhance their contributions and provide additional pledges in line with their historical responsibility for loss and damage.

By Maxime Houinato

AfCFTA: Upcoming protocol on women and youth in trade a chance to empower women

As we navigate the complex web of global challenges, the empowerment of women stands as a beacon of progress, reflecting not only a commitment to human rights but also a strategic imperative for sustainable development.

The foundation of women's empowerment is deeply rooted in the principles of human rights.

We recently celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and as we embark upon the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (commonly referred to as "the Maputo Protocol"), it is crucial to acknowledge the strides made and persist on our commitment to fostering a world where every individual, regardless of gender, is afforded equal rights and opportunities.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to consolidate a market of 1.3 billion people with a combined GDP of \$3.4 trillion, and lift 30 million Africans out of extreme poverty and boost the incomes of nearly 68 million others who live on less than \$5.50 a day.

It will also boost Africa's income by \$450 billion by 2035 while adding \$76 billion to the income of the rest of the world, according to the World Bank.

By promoting regional economic integration, the AfCFTA, sets the stage for a collective commitment to human rights, acting as a powerful vehicle for change.

Women rights

Human rights, including women's rights, are at the core of the AfCFTA's vision. The free trade agreement explicitly recognizes the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women as key drivers for sustainable development.



Members of the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) in Rubkona, South Sudan. UN Women South Sudan empowers the women, enabling them to engage in productive businesses in the wake of COVID-19.

Against this backdrop, the AfCFTA and the forthcoming Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, emerges as a catalyst for change, offering a unique opportunity to advance women's rights, entrepreneurship, labour rights, and equal pay within the context of a broader framework for equitable and inclusive growth.

The protocol provides an innovative approach to inclusivity of trade agreements by providing specific provisions towards enhancing women's participation in trade to fulfil the core objectives of the trade agreement.

This complements previous approaches that focus primarily on socio-economic concerns as a goal.

Once adopted, the protocol will offer an innovative and sustainable approach of improving the competitiveness of women in their various trade roles while serving to advance the global discourse on addressing gender considerations in trade agreements.

The Beijing Platform for Action, adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, remains the main framework in the global effort

to advance gender equality. Its focus on crucial areas such as the role of women in the economy and their participation in leadership and decision-making aligns seamlessly with the objectives of the AfCFTA.

In this quest, the Maputo Protocol—a groundbreaking legal instrument aimed at promoting and protecting women's rights in Africa—serves as a complementary force to the AfCFTA.

Together, they form a formidable set of frameworks that can address the unique challenges faced by women on the continent.

As the AfCFTA works towards the endorsement of the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, it is imperative to integrate the principles of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Maputo Protocol, leveraging this comprehensive approach to empower women across all sectors.

Women shaping their own destinies

One of the cornerstones of women's empowerment is the assurance of their rights as entrepreneurs.

The AfCFTA provides a platform for nurturing a new generation of female entrepreneurs. A survey conducted by UN Women, UNDP and the AfCFTA Secretariat in 2021, highlights that over 31.9 percent of women small business owners reported having encountered violence or aggression particularly when engaging in informal cross border trade, 70 percent, of which is carried out by women.

By removing not only the tariff but also the non-tariff barriers to trade and fostering a conducive environment for business, the agreement empowers women to take

charge of their economic destinies, thereby contributing to the overall development of their communities and nations.

However, the path to empowerment must be paved with the protection of labour rights and the eradication of exploitation. The AfCFTA must actively guard against the risks of labor exploitation and elite capture.

Labour exploitation, often disproportionately affecting women, leads to violation of women's rights, amounts to a lifetime of income inequality, and undermines the very essence of empowerment.

For instance, a 2023 report by UN Women found that women only earn about \$81 US cents for every 1 US dollar earned by men on an hourly basis in East and Southern Africa. Thus, it is imperative that the agreement includes robust mechanisms to ensure decent work and fair wages, creating an environment where women can thrive without fear of exploitation.

As we navigate the future, it is critical to address the specter of elite capture that threatens to undermine the egalitarian promise of AfCFTA.

Policies must be crafted to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are equitably distributed, dismantling barriers that impede the progress of marginalized communities, with a particular focus on gender inclusivity.

Support for care work and social safety nets

Equitable and inclusive growth demands a re-evaluation of care responsibilities. Women in Africa, who often bear the brunt of caregiving duties, where they spend 3.4 times more on unpaid care work compared to their male counterparts, must be supported

through policies that enable them to balance work and family life.

Equal pay for equal work is not just a slogan but a fundamental principle that must be enshrined in the economic policies emerging from the AfCFTA framework.

Furthermore, the issue of income redistribution should be tackled head-on. Policies should be designed to bridge the income gap, ensuring that the dividends of economic growth reach the grassroots and uplift the most disadvantaged.

The AfCFTA, by fostering economic integration, can serve as a vehicle for meaningful income redistribution that empowers women and redresses historical inequities. For instance, implementation of the AfCFTA could increase wages for women by 10.5 percent according to a UN and AfCFTA Secretariat report.

With careful and deliberate policy actions, it is possible to ensure that the increase in wages is not concentrated in particular sectors and that those in the lowest economic strata also see significant increases.

Moreover, in pursuit of a fair and just society, social protection mechanisms are paramount. The AfCFTA and indeed its accompanying Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade should prioritize the creation and enhancement of safety nets to shield vulnerable populations, particularly women, from economic shocks. This approach is not just morally right but also economically savvy, as empowered women contribute significantly to sustainable development.

We need innovative solutions to broaden ways in which social protection systems can also ensure that women are able to balance between their income generating activities and their care roles. A key area to consider here is how the informal sector, where the majority of Africa's women work, can have access to paid maternity leave or old age pensions that can support them when they cannot work.

Africa stands on the cusp of a new era with the AfCFTA. It is incumbent upon leaders, policymakers, and advocates championing women's empowerment as a cornerstone for sustainable and inclusive growth.

The measures taken to include women and young people in trade should not be an isolated exercise or confined to the Women and Youth in Trade Protocol only, rather they should be institutionalized into the architecture of the agreement establishing the Africa Continental Free Trade Area.

By aligning the goals of the AfCFTA and this protocol, and with the principles enshrined in the Maputo Protocol, we can pave the way for a future where the promise of prosperity is truly accessible to all, regardless of gender.

The time to act is now, and the path to a brighter, more equitable future lies in the empowerment of women and youth across the African continent.

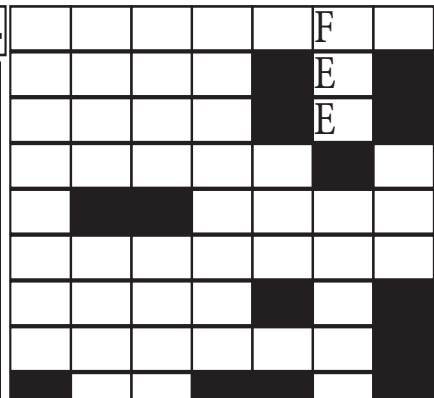
Dr. Houinato is the Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, UN Women.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 69 -

1 Across:
1 the last letter of the Greek alphabet
6 natives of southern Egypt
7 related to tides
8 a thing that takes place
10 an Indonesian deer
11 one less than three
13 Tremble
14 look fixedly at someone

2 Down:
1 wild grass resembles the oat
2 Drive in Kiswahili
3 a tropical American fruit with pink juicy flesh and a strong, sweet aroma
4 having the skill to do something
5 throw forcefully in a specified direction. Øthrow so as to spread over an area
9 at the present time
11 rip apart
12 minerals

10
11
12
13
14



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

- FEE
- EON
- YES
- MERRY
- NAIL: SILO
- DROP OFF
- KILTER
- DROP KICK
- ROME
- ODEA: LO
- RODE
- OMEN
- PEACE
- HOME
- INSANES
- CAIN

Yesterday's solution

G	A	M	A	S	D	O	D	O	A			
U	A	R	A	M	E	R	U	I	N	E		
A	S	K	E	W	A	E	T	E	R	N	A	L
R	O	N	S	E	T	S	P	L	I	R	G	E
D	O	N	A	V	E	S	U	S	O	I	L	
I	D	S	E	T	N	H	U	O				
A	G	E	N	T	E	C	H	I	T	B		
N	A	N	C	H	A	N	E	T	A			
S	C	A	R	E	D	C	H	A	N	E	T	A

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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 KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	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 KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	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 KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	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 KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	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 KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM HIZI NAZO 10:10 AM HIZI NAZO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	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 KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09:00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MTA WA MAGOMA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	



'US eyes Africa's LNG expansion'

By Guardian Reporter

AS Africa advances its gas development for both domestic consumption and exportation, the United States is increasingly focusing on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as a pivotal investment opportunity, complementing its traditional oil exploration endeavors.

A statement issued yesterday by Energy Capital & Power, and made available to this paper, highlighted that in October 2023, energy research and consultancy group Wood Mackenzie projected Africa's \$800-billion, 20-year upstream capital expenditure program would pave the way for world-class LNG projects in Mozambique and floating LNG (FLNG) initiatives in five countries.

Therefore, the projection presents significant gas-driven opportunities for US investors, operators, project developers, and service providers.

The upcoming Invest in African Energy (IAE) forum, scheduled for May 14-15 in Paris this year, will serve as a platform to showcase trade, partnership, and investment opportunities for US companies across Africa's energy supply chain.

The event will bring together projects from across the continent, aiming to establish regional African gas markets and capitalize on increasing US interest in African energy.

While American companies currently lead the continent's burgeoning LNG industry, there remains ample room for expansion, particularly in FLNG. This technology offers enhanced flexibility, reduced time to market, and suitability for smaller gas volumes.

According to energy intelligence provider Westwood Global Energy, the global FLNG market is poised to witness \$35 billion in new investments by 2027, with Africa expected to dominate short-term investments, totaling 18.3 million tons per annum (mtpa) of additional capacity.

"This increase in capacity is projected to generate an associated engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract value of \$13 billion," the statement reads in part.

It adds: "After 2027, an additional 36.5 mtpa of capacity is expected to come online, with an EPC value of \$22 billion. The IAE forum will showcase the projects and companies driving these capacity increases, as well as new projects in the pipeline."

In Equatorial Guinea, US operators and contractors are spearheading the country's flagship Gas Mega Hub

(GMH), aimed at monetizing all stranded gas fields in the Gulf of Guinea to facilitate intra-African LNG trade.

Following the project's initial phase, Chevron's Noble Energy E.G. signed a Heads of Agreement with Houston-based Marathon Oil and the Equatorial Guinean government last March to develop phases two and three.

Additionally, the GMH could pave the way for the construction of West Africa's first LNG storage and regasification plant, the Akonikien LNG Terminal, proposed in 2019 and to be built by American manufacturer Corban Energy Group.

Mozambique represents another strategic market for US gas investments, having surpassed \$1 billion in LNG exports last November.

American multinational Exxon-Mobil is currently leading the development of the \$23-billion Rovuma LNG project, with a final investment decision anticipated in 2025, utilizing a retooled, phased construction approach. With a planned capacity of 18 million tons per year, the facility aims to deliver reliable, affordable energy to local customers and export to global markets.

In neighboring South Africa, ExxonMobil is evaluating the commercial and technical feasibility of an LNG regasification terminal to provide low-cost, reliable fuel to the country. Such projects can enable US participation in enhancing Africa's gas transport, storage, and regasification capabilities, as well as constructing power stations and associated infrastructure.

With world-class LNG developments on the horizon, including bp's Greater Tortue Ahmeyim LNG in Senegal and Mauritania, Perenco's Cap Lopez LNG Terminal in Gabon, Eni's Congo LNG in the Republic of Congo, and UTM Offshore's first indigenous FLNG in Nigeria, the US must solidify its market leadership in Africa's on and offshore gas industry.

Termed the "fuel of the future," LNG is poised to play a significant role in both African and global energy mixes for the foreseeable future.

IAE 2024, organized by Energy Capital & Power, is an exclusive forum tailored to facilitate investment between African energy markets and global investors.

Taking place on May 14-15, 2024, in Paris, the event offers delegates two days of intensive engagement with industry experts, project developers, investors, and policymakers.

Foreigners sell TBL shares half priced in a pre-arranged deal

By Mnaku Mbani

FOREIGN investors appeared again on Thursday this week, by selling 100,000 Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) at 50 percent discounted price of 5,500/- per share, through block trade pre-arranged market board.

The DSE market report shows the deal accounted for 72.79 percent of total value of shares sold, and all were bought by local investor. The current market price for TBL is 10,900/-, second highest to TCC.

Brokers commented that this is normal for TBL, which the largest listed company, to trade its share at a discount due to "stagnation" of the price for a long time.

"TBL shares have remained on the same price for a long time, probably more than three years. So what is happening is that, in order the rule of the market to work, the counter need to trade at a certain percentage, for the price to change," said Raphael Masumbuko, Chief Executive Officer, Zan Securities Limited, brokers and members of DSE.

Speaking to the Guardian yesterday, Msumbuko explained that for investors with large volume of shares, there is a pre-arranged window, whereby a buyer is willing to buy shares at certain price, and a seller is willing to sell at certain price.

"This is not normal to the volume of trade and pre-arranged is always sell or not to sell," he said.

"In this case, they can't be posted on the normal market, because there are some investors who would like to buy 100, 500 or 1000 shares. But in this case, a seller wants an investor who will absorb all shares intended to sell. This means that they have agreed each other to trade at a negotiated



price."

When asked to comment on continuing foreign investors exit from DSE, Masumbuko noted; "Foreigners are coming in another way, you may see that they are exiting from TBL, but they may enter through CRDB, and sometimes they exit from TCC, which their prices have remained the same for quite a long time and they then enter through another company".

Masumbuko is in the view that sometime foreigners are changing positions.

"You may note that they may not sell here and buy there at the same moment; but what I am learning is that foreigners move from stagnated stocks and venture into active stocks," he said.

The market report shows since the start of this quarter to Thursday this week, foreign investors have bought shares valued 1.2bn/- against selloff of 17.7bn/-.

"Foreign investors prefer stocks which they can exit any-

time. What they do now is trying to equalize their portfolio, so that they can position on where to enter and where to exit," he asserted. "Sometime when they exit, they will not immediately come back to invest, but what they do is to study the market, because they want flexible stocks."

Masumbuko believe that since it is the start of the year, there are possibilities that many companies will perform better come April, May, June and July.

"They are trying to watch the market, while they rebalance the previous portfolio," he concluded.

Iman Muhingo, Head, Research & Financial Analytics, Alpha Capital, also said that TBL counter has been trading stocks at a discounted price since 2019.

"The TBL share price has been trading at 7,000/-, 6,000/-, and sometime 5,500/- and there was a time it traded at 5,000. It has been normal; there was a time when locals exchanged hands

shares through pre-arranged market board at 5,500/-," he said. On foreign investors exit, Muhingo admitted that Tanzania is not alone where foreign investors are exiting the market.

"We have seen those who invested in TBL are exiting and others are still holding their shares. There are few who are coming to invest; but many have been exiting as what they are doing in other markets in developing economies," he said.

However, Muhingo believes that the continued exit will depend on how the US will move on their economic policies.

"There are speculations that the Fed Reserve is expected to cut rate, because inflation has been declining, which has little effect on the performance of the US economy. If the Fed Reserve will cut rates, then this will reduce outflows, but if the rates will continue increasing, then we should expect more foreign investors exists," he concluded.

Defence deal concluded before Sweden's Nato Accession vote

BUDAPEST

The prime ministers of Hungary and Sweden concluded a defense industry agreement on Friday that will expand Budapest's fleet of Swedish-built fighter jets, paving the way for Hungary's likely ratification of Sweden's long-delayed NATO bid.

The meeting in Budapest between Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and his Swedish counterpart, Ulf Kristersson, came after months of heightened tensions between the two countries over Hungary's refusal to give its backing for Sweden to join NATO.

Kristersson made the trip to Hungary after repeated invitations to do so by the Hungarian government, something Orbán had hinted would be a precondition for his government endorsing Sweden's NATO bid.

Friday's defense agreement appeared to be a decisive point of reconciliation between the two governments, and Orbán has indicated that his party is ready to approve Sweden's bid on Monday.

In a news conference following their bilateral meeting, Kristersson said Sweden would sell four Swedish-made JAS 39 Gripen jets to Hungary, expanding its current fleet of 14 jets. Sweden will also extend support systems and service provision for the jets.

"I strongly welcome this deepened cooperation on advanced fighting capabilities," Kristersson said, adding that the Gripen jets are "a pride of Sweden."

Orbán said the additional fighters "will significantly increase our military capabilities and further strengthen our role abroad," and will grow Hungary's ability to participate in joint NATO operations.

The agreement paved the way for Hungary's likely ratification of Sweden's NATO bid on Mon-



The Director General of the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration, Goran Martensson (L) exchanges greetings with Hungarian Defense minister, Kristof Szalay-Bobrovniczky after signing a defence industry agreement at the Carmelite Monastery in Budapest, Hungary, Friday, Feb 23, 2024. Photo: AP/Denes Erdos

day, when a vote on the matter is scheduled in parliament. Unanimous support among all NATO members is required to admit new countries, and Hungary is the last of the alliance's 31 members that has still not given its backing.

During Hungary's more than 18 months of delays in scheduling a vote, Orbán had said his government was in favor of bringing Sweden into NATO, but that lawmakers in his governing Fidesz party were unconvinced, offended by "blatant lies" from some Swedish politicians that he said had cast doubt on Hungary's democratic credentials.

Hungary's allies in NATO and the European Union had put in-

creasing pressure on Budapest to drop its opposition to Sweden's membership. Last weekend, a bipartisan group of US senators visited Hungary and announced they would submit a joint resolution to Congress condemning alleged democratic backsliding, and urging Orbán's government to immediately lift its block on Sweden's trans-Atlantic integration.

Orbán's critics in the EU have alleged that he has stalled on Sweden's NATO bid to extract concessions from the bloc, which has frozen billions in funding to Hungary over alleged breaches of rule-of-law and democracy standards. The EU has demanded that Budapest take steps to safeguard

judicial independence and human rights and tackle corruption. Hungary's government has railed against Swedish officials that supported freezing the funds, and blamed them for a breakdown in trust between the two countries.

On Friday, Orbán said that while Hungary and Sweden don't agree on all issues, building trust was essential to his country supporting Sweden's joining of the alliance.

"To be a member of NATO together with another country means we are ready to die for each other," he said. "A deal on defense and military capacities helps to reconstruct the trust between the two countries."



This increase in capacity is projected to generate an associated engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract value of \$13 billion

How strategic leadership makes the difference in times of change

By Lomnyaki Saitabau

OVER 70 per cent of change initiatives within Organisations today fail to achieve their goals.

A recent study by technological research and consulting firm Gartner reveals that 73 per cent of change-affected employees tend to experience moderate to high stress levels, and those suffering from change-related stress perform 5 per cent worse than the average employee.

Change can create immense impact in an organisation, casting a shadow of doubt and uncertainty amongst employees, partners, communities, and the entire stakeholder ecosystem - impacting investments, partnerships, and the very fabric of trust. This is where responsible leadership takes centre stage, transforming a potential storm into a navigated tide.

The essence of successful change management lies in humanizing the process. It's about recognizing that effective change isn't just about a transaction; it's a story unfolding in countless homes, offices, and dreams. Open communication, clear pathways for navigating anxieties and a genuine commitment to supporting employees through

the transition are not just courtesies, but cornerstones of responsible leadership.

Changes in organisations are like sailing through a hurricane. If the captain just hides in the cabin and doesn't tell anyone what's going on, everyone panics. But if the captain comes out, explains the situation, and shows everyone how they're going to get through it, things are different. People feel calmer, they trust the captain, and they're more likely to work together to get the ship through the storm.

Last year, Standard Chartered entered into sale agreement of its Consumer, Private & Business Banking ("CPBB") business in Tanzania with Access Bank Plc. This transaction remains subject to the approval of the local regulators and the banking regulator in Nigeria. Despite some degree of the uncertainty of this change, the Bank built trust and confidence amongst its key stakeholders through strategic leadership and transparency.

The question is how did the Bank navigate through the announcement of the sale of CPBB?

Transparency breeds trust, and trust is the currency that sustains relationships during times of change. When employees and stakeholders understand

the rationale behind the change, they are more likely to align their efforts with the organisation's goals and objectives.

Strategic leadership is also about charting a clear course, a vision that inspires and unites - the Bank did just that. We provided clear and transparent communications on the change, addressing key concerns from both internal and external stakeholders throughout the process.

During this period of immense change, CPBB achieved a remarkable 9 per cent year-on-year profit growth - a testament to the power of strategic leadership. We defied the odds, proving that even in the most turbulent waters, a well-charted course and a united team can create immense impact.

Organisations that prioritize the well-being of their employees during times of transition not only foster resilience but also enhance overall productivity and morale.

As corporations continue to grapple with the complexities of an ever-evolving business landscape, the ability to lead effectively through change is a defining characteristic of resilient and forward-thinking enterprises.

Lomnyaki Saitabau is the Head of Consumer, Private & Business Banking at Standard Chartered Bank.



Lomnyaki Saitabau

EPZA to evaluate all its industries, seeking to improve database accuracy

By Guardian Reporter

THE Export and Processing Zone Authority (EPZA), has initiated a process to evaluate all industries it licenses across the country, in a move to enhance and update the accuracy of its database, ensuring optimal efficiency and effectiveness in operations.

This was said in Kibaha, Coast Region yesterday by the EPZA Head of Communication and Public Relations Department Panduka Yonazi during their visits to some of the industries under EPZA.

"The aim of this visit is to conduct evaluation of over 200 industries in the country which are licensed by EPZA for updating its data base," he said.

He said one of the EPZA objectives is to realise the dream of making Tanzania an industrial economy, create more jobs, increase processing of locally produced raw materials and thus contributing to the national income and foreign currency.

"It is a bare truth that industrial sector can contribute immensely and swiftly in the country's development and also enhance value addition of local raw materials, create more jobs as well as in technology transfer," he noted.

He emphasized that producing high-quality goods is a fundamental prerequisite for the country's efforts to access regional markets, including the East African Community and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

For instance, the production of goods through the Export and Processing Zones (EPZ) window, licensed by EPZA, allows for the exportation of 80% of all manufactured goods, with only 20% designated for domestic markets.

Furthermore, he highlighted that EPZA is mandated to issue licenses to investors in both Export Processing Zones and Special Economic Zones.

He also underscored that priority sectors currently receiving attention include agriculture, hides and skins, forestry, mining technology, and iron products.

He explained that to boost the productivity of its industries, EPZA has implemented a system containing investor information and details on the raw materials used in their operations. This system aims to connect them with local producers' value chains, thereby fostering economic development.



The aim of this visit is to conduct evaluation of over 200 industries in the country which are licenced by EPZA for updating its data base

Mufindi launches small businesses' registration drive

By Beatrice Philemon

NEXT week, the Mufindi District Council in the Iringa Region will initiate a registration process for small entrepreneurs across various localities. This proactive step aims to collect comprehensive data to streamline access to soft loans for the aforementioned traders.

Robert Sungura, a community development officer at the Mufindi District Council, stated this yesterday in an exclusive interview with The Guardian saying the process will utilize a digital system meant for small businesses.

This system, he explained, was developed through a collaboration between the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), and the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups.

Sungura urged small entrepreneurs to register through the Mufindi business office, community development officer, and other experts.

He emphasized that this registration saying: "Will enable the district to create a more conducive environment for their operations, facilitate access to business identity cards, and ensure recognition for their endeavors."

Additionally, it was noted that the registration will also allow them to secure designated areas for conducting business activities.

Furthermore, Sungura highlighted that the data obtained through registration will enable the district and other financial institutions to develop innovative approaches for delivering financial services tailored to the needs of

these entrepreneurs.

"Additionally, it will allow them to secure designated areas for conducting business activities. We are glad for this new system because it will help us to obtain proper and current data about them and it will be easy to provide trainings for them," he said.

Sungura elaborated that this process would not only facilitate the district in acquiring accurate data concerning small businesses' access to financial services but also pinpoint those lacking such services. This comprehensive approach aims to devise an inclusive plan ensuring equitable access for all.

"The registration exercise will specifically target 'mama and baba lishie' (food vendors), motorcycle and bajaji riders, as well as other small-scale entrepreneurs," he emphasized.

Therefore, he urged small-scale entrepreneurs across all regions to actively participate to ensure a seamless and effective mass registration process.

For Sungura, the system would enhance the accuracy of small-scale entrepreneur statistics in Iringa, ensuring proper data management, fostering transparency, and facilitating entrepreneur monitoring, thus encouraging more entrepreneurs to join.

"This transparency will also mitigate risks associated with the business environment.

Moreover, the system will provide insights into areas facing challenges, enabling prompt action to address them." He noted.

Expounding on the Determined, Resilient, Empowered AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) program, funded by the U.S. President's Emer-



Street vendors. File Photo

gency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Sungura commended their initiative in introducing the project to Mufindi district.

According to him, the district pledges to register all adolescent girls and young women benefiting from the program in a new system, acknowledging their contributions and subsequently assisting them in securing designated areas to conduct their businesses.

"We are immensely pleased with the progress achieved thus far in our district, as the program has empowered adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 years, resulting in the establishment of two Economic Strengthening hubs," he expressed.

The district remains committed to collaborating with FHI-360 Tanzania, USAID, and PEPFAR to expand the program's reach, ensuring more adolescent girls and young women can access its benefits.

Bernard Ogwang, Director of the Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) project, emphasized EpiC's dedication to achieving and sustaining HIV epidemic control in Tanzania.

He highlighted their

strategic technical assistance and direct service delivery aimed at overcoming barriers to the 95-

95-95 goals and promoting self-reliant management of the national HIV program. This includes enhancing

HIV case-finding, prevention, and treatment programming.



Tourists from Norway, Switzerland and New Zealand pose for a photo with the Executive Director of Moshi-based tourism firm-Proceeding Adventures Limited Freddy Mkonzi (C) at Lake Natron, a mineral-rich soda lake and breeding ground for hundreds of thousands of lesser flamingos and the highly alkaline state of the striking red waters recently. The lake is located near Ol Doinyo Lengai, a soaring active volcano in the Rift Valley. Photo by Correspondent James Lanka

Plastic industry's decades-long deception on recycling exposed

By Joseph Winters

FOR 40 years, plastic and petrochemical companies have tried to convince the public that plastics can be recycled. But they've known for just as long that plastics recycling would never work.

A report released last week by the nonprofit Center for Climate Integrity, or CCI, chronicles a "decades-long campaign of fraud and deception" from Big Oil and the plastics industry to promote recycling as a solution to the plastic pollution crisis.

New documents show that industry executives pushed plastics recycling despite knowing since the 1980s that it "cannot be considered a permanent solid waste solution," and that recycled plastics would never be able to compete economically with virgin material.

Today, the US recycling rate for plastics sits at about 5 or 6 percent. It has never risen above 10 percent.

The report's authors liken the plastics industry's recycling campaign to Big Oil's tactics to convince the public that its products don't cause climate change. Many companies have been involved in both efforts, since plastics are made from fossil fuels. "The oil industry's lies are at the heart of the two most catastrophic pollution crises in human history," Richard Wiles, CCI's president, said in a statement.

CCI traces industry support for plastics recycling back to the 1980s, when it was proposed as a response to widespread public concern over the material's proliferation – especially as litter. With the threat of regulation looming large, industry representatives felt they had little choice but "to recycle or be banned."

Even then, the industry acknowledged major and potentially insurmountable hurdles to plastics recycling. Most significantly, there was no market for recycled plastic – it was too expensive and low quality to compete with virgin material. One document uncovered by CCI – a 1986 report from the plastics industry trade group the Vinyl Institute – noted that "purity and quality demands set for many applications preclude the use of recycled material." In the end, the report concluded that recycling "merely prolongs the time until an item is disposed of."

Plastics and petrochemical company representatives repeatedly shared similar concerns at industry conferences, in meeting notes, and elsewhere: that plastics recycling consumed too much energy, that it would only work for a small fraction of plastic waste, and that a quickly growing supply of virgin materials would "kick the s-t out of" recycled plastic prices, as one official of the now-defunct American Plastics Council wrote in meeting notes obtained by CCI.

Davis Allen, an investigative researcher for CCI and the lead author of the new report, said many of the new

documents came from a former American Plastics Council staffer.

Others came from industry document databases maintained by Columbia University, New York University, and the University of California, San Francisco.

The documents, Allen said, strongly suggest that the plastics and petrochemical industries saw recycling as little more than a way to tame public outrage and ward off anti-plastic legislation.

One 1994 document quotes a representative of Eastman Chemical saying that, while plastics recycling might one day become a reality, "it is more likely that we will wake up and realize that we are not going to recycle our way out of the solid waste issue."

Another document – handwritten notes from a meeting between Exxon Chemical and the American Plastics Council – quotes Exxon Chemical's then-vice president saying that, when it came to recycling plastics, "we are committed to the activities, but not committed to the results."

Still, trade groups and large petrochemical companies invested heavily in public relations to improve plastics recycling's image.

They touted ambitious goals to increase the recycling rate, and then remained quiet when they failed to meet them, or changed the way they measured their progress.

Advertisements "simply repeated the same lies about the viability of plastics recycling," according to CCI. For example, one 1991 ad in Ladies' Home Journal claimed that "a bottle can come back as a bottle, over and over again." Meanwhile, educational materials created for use in schools implied that recycling could assuage students' guilt over using disposable plastic foodware.

By the mid-1990s, the results seemed to have paid off. Industry polling showed that public opinion on plastics had greatly improved and state-level efforts to ban or restrict plastic production had waned considerably – even though the dismal state of plastics recycling had not significantly improved.

Today, the US recycling rate for plastics sits at about 5 or 6 percent. It has never risen above 10 percent.

Today, most plastic waste gets incinerated or sent to landfills, where it creates hazardous air and water pollution that disproportionately affects low-income communities and communities of color.

Meanwhile, environmental advocates say the "myth" of plastics recycling has facilitated the industry's unmitigated expansion – plastic production has grown by nearly 230 times since 1950. Plastics are expected to drive nearly half of the growth in global oil demand between 2017 and 2050.

CCI isn't the first group to document the plastics industry's deceptive communication practices around recycling.

A 2020 investigation from NPR and Frontline



found ample evidence that the plastics industry and its trade groups promoted plastics recycling despite knowing it was "costly" and "infeasible." Two former industry executives told the outlets that recycling was used to "advertise our way out of" negative PR.

Since the mid-2010s, a second wave of anti-plastic outrage has spurred the plastics industry and its lobbying groups to again promote

the promise of plastics recycling – only this time, they're pushing so-called "chemical recycling," which can supposedly melt plastic into its constituent polymers so it can be turned back into new products.

Although chemical recycling technologies have existed for decades, most existing facilities – and there are only a few – are still unable to create new plastic products; they mostly turn plastic into chemicals or

fossil fuels to be burned.

Lew Freeman, the Society of the Plastics Industry's former vice president of government affairs, told Grist in an interview last year that there are "serious questions" about the degree to which chemical recycling can ever work.

"The industry seems to be doing the same thing it did 30-some-odd years ago," Freeman said.

Ross Eisenberg, president of

America's Plastic Makers – a subgroup of the petrochemical industry trade organization the American Chemistry Council, which absorbed the American Plastics Council in 2002 – criticized the CCI report as "flawed."

In a statement, he said it "works against our goals to be more sustainable by mischaracterizing the industry and the state of today's recycling technologies." Eisenberg did not specifically refute any of the claims made by CCI.

The oil industry's lies are at the heart of the two most catastrophic pollution crises in human history.

In response to Grist's request for comment, the Vinyl Institute did not address any of the report's claims but said it was "committed to increasing" the amount of polyvinyl chloride – a kind of plastic – that gets recycled each year. Eastman Chemical and Exxon Mobil did not respond to Grist's requests for comment in time for publication.

CCI hopes that its report "lays the foundation" for more ambitious legal challenges against the plastics and petrochemical industries. According to Alyssa Johl, CCI's vice president of legal and general coun-

sel, most lawsuits so far have targeted the makers of specific products – for instance, Keurig, which misleadingly placed the "chasing arrows" recycling symbol on coffee pods that couldn't actually be recycled.

These lawsuits "don't go far enough," Johl said. In her view, future cases should target the whole industry – including the fossil fuel producers themselves and their trade organizations, highlighting the integral role they played in promoting recycling as a solution to the plastic pollution crisis.

Such lawsuits are mostly likely to be brought by cities or state attorneys general, Johl said, and they may invoke public nuisance, consumer fraud, racketeering, or conspiracy laws – similar to successful legal challenges that have been brought against the tobacco and opioid industries.

The most promising push so far has come from California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who in 2022 began investigating fossil fuel and chemical companies for their role in what he called an "aggressive campaign to deceive the public" about the viability of plastics recycling. That investigation is ongoing.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE table with columns for day, time, and program name. Includes sections for Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar poses for a group picture with Tanzanian Foreign Minister January Makamba, Netherlands Foreign Minister Hanke Bruins Slot and other dignitaries during the Raisina Dialogue Panel discussion, in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

World trading rules have been gamed, says EAM Jaishankar

NEW DELHI

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday that the failure of the United Nations to find multilateral solutions to issues such as the gaming of trading rules, which many countries have taken advantage of at the expense of the international system, demonstrated the case for a comprehensive reform of the global organisation.

"When the UN was invented, it had approximately 50 members. We have four times the members. So it's a common sense proposition that you can't continue the same way when you have four times the members. If you look at the last five years, for all the big issues, we have not been able to find a multilateral solution. So the lack of results demonstrates the case for reform," Jaishankar said.

The minister was participating at a session, 'A Tapestry of Truths: Can the two hemispheres agree?' during the ongoing Raisina Dialogue 2024 in the national capital.

"In many cases, the rules have been gamed. We speak about globalization. The fact is that the world trading rules have been gamed. ... a lot of our challenges today also emanate from how countries have used that for their benefit at the expense of the international system," Jaishankar said.

When asked about various complex geopolitical challenges and diverse positions on them by different key countries, such as the US support of Israel in its ongoing war with Hamas and India's strong relationship with Russia in view of the Ukraine conflict, Jaishankar said the endeavour has to be to find middle ground.

"The reality in many cases is we won't find a middle ground. In addition to the old issues, there are also the new issues. The big debates of the day, connectivity, debt, trade, and how these are leveraged today, are not necessarily all com-

ing out of the West. So the West, as the dominant force earlier, is largely responsible for where we are today. The new players haven't helped," Jaishankar said.

At the Raisina Dialogue discussion today, Jaishankar also took a veiled jab at China, one of the five permanent members of the 15-member UN Security Council for being the "biggest" opponent of its reforms.

India, a founding members of the UN in 1945, played an active role in the drafting of the UN Charter and has been a vocal proponent of reforming the UNSC.

"If you take UN Security Council reform, the biggest opposer is not a Western country. So let's get the totality of the problem right. We have to battle bit by bit to create groups for change. On many issues, you will get different combinations of countries, and we'll have to live with a long period of incremental progress before we get to some kind of landing point," Jaishankar said.

Last week, India's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj highlighted that India supports a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council across all five clusters, including an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories.

Kamboj was speaking at the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council Reform in New York.

Meanwhile, the panel discussion at the Raisina Dialogue was centered around whether trust in the international system could be rebuilt, even in the absence of effective multilateral institutions and are emerging powers that are more acceptable to a wider array of international actors obliged to stitch together coalitions that work, or is a patchwork of plurilateral agreements a fait accompli? The discussion also touched on how the "Global South" could be made aspirational.

Hanke Bruins Slot, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands, January Yusuf Makamba, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Tanzania, Jorge Quiroga, former President, Bolivia, and Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the President, United Arab Emirates were the other participants in the interaction. ANI



India, a founding members of the UN in 1945, played an active role in the drafting of the UN Charter and has been a vocal proponent of reforming the UNSC

THE US Securities and Exchange Commission has removed some of its most ambitious greenhouse gas emission disclosure requirements from corporate climate risk rules it is preparing to adopt, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

The SEC has dropped a requirement for US-listed companies to disclose so-called Scope 3 emissions, which was included in its original draft of the rules published in March 2022, the sources said.

US SEC 'drops some emissions disclosure requirements'

Scaling back these rules would be a blow for President Joe Biden's agenda to address climate change threats through federal agencies. Biden, a Democrat, has been under pressure from many lawmakers in his party to do more and move at a faster pace.

Scope 3 emissions account for greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, released in the atmosphere from a company's supply chain and the consumption of its prod-

ucts by customers. For most businesses, Scope 3 emissions represent more than 70 percent of their carbon footprint, according to consulting firm Deloitte.

If adopted, the new draft would represent a win for many corporations and their trade groups that lobbied to water down the rules. But it would also deviate from European Union rules which make Scope 3 disclosures mandatory for large companies starting this year and

potentially complicate compliance for some global corporations.

The SEC's original draft proposed mandatory disclosure of emissions for which companies are more directly responsible, dubbed Scope 1 and Scope 2. Some lobbyists pushed the SEC to require such disclosures only if they are material to a company's business. Reuters could not ascertain whether the latest draft changed the Scope 1 and 2 requirement thresh-

old. Once the SEC settles on a final draft, it must be put to a vote among its five commissioners. The timing of the vote is not clear, and it is possible that the draft is revised before then.

The sources requested anonymity because the matter is confidential. An SEC spokesperson said the agency considered adjustments to its draft rules based on public feedback, but declined to comment on the contents of the latest draft of

the climate risk rules.

"The Commission moves to adopt rules only when the staff and the Commission think they are ready to be considered," the SEC spokesperson said.

The SEC's March 2022 proposal would require publicly listed companies to disclose a range of climate-related risks that could affect their business. It argued that greenhouse gas emission disclosures are important for investors' due diligence.

Companies have pushed back, arguing the data is hard to produce and legally contentious.

Reuters reported in November that the SEC told lobbyists and corporate executives it was considering watering down the rules.

Some SEC officials worry that mandating disclosures across the board could make the rule more vulnerable to legal challenges which, if successful, could tie the agency's hands when writing other rules, Reuters reported at the time. **Agencies**

Share of modern weapons in the Russian nuclear forces has reached 95% - Putin

MOSCOW

THE share of modern weapons in the strategic nuclear forces of the Russian Federation has reached 95%, in the naval component of the nuclear triad it is almost 100%, while trials of new offensive systems is being completed, President Vladimir Putin stated in a video address on the occasion of Defender of the Fatherland Day.

"Today, the share of modern weapons and equipment in the strategic nuclear forces has already reached 95%, while the naval component of the "nuclear triad" is at almost 100%. We have begun serial production of new Zircon hypersonic missiles. Trials of other offensive systems are nearing completion," the head of state said.



Putin noted that last December, new strategic submarines were added to the navy. "Just the other day in Kazan, four Tu-160M missile carriers were transferred to the Armed Forces," he added.

A day earlier, the Russian President personally inspected these bombers, and even took a flight on one of them.

"In the general-purpose forces, we will also strive to keep the share of modern weapons and vehicles as high as possible. To repeat, this work is being carried out systematically and consistently," he said.

G20 says two-state solution only answer to Israel-Palestinian crisis

RIO DE JANEIRO

FOREIGN ministers at the G20 group of nations meeting in Brazil were nearly unanimous in their support for a two-state solution as the only path to peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Brazilian minister hosting the event said on Thursday.

"There was virtual unanimity in the two-state solution as the only solution to the conflict," Brazil's foreign minister, Mauro Vieira, said at the close of the two-day meeting.

Vieira said all members of the group of the world's largest economies highlighted concerns about the war in Gaza and the risk of the conflict spreading in the Middle East.

There were calls for a ceasefire and access to Gaza for humanitarian aid, while "many" countries criticized Israel's military offensive in Rafah, he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his right-wing coalition government largely reject the establishment of a Palestinian state. Still, Washington, Israel's main ally, maintains that the two-state solution is the only feasible way to bring lasting peace to the region, but has rebuffed calls by some countries, including Brazil, for an im-



A man walks past a G20 logo during the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Feb 21, 2024. XINHUA

mediate ceasefire.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he found "commonality" with G20 members on Gaza, despite the US vetoing a UN Security Council resolution on the conflict this week for the third time, reflecting growing international frustration with US support for Israel.

At a news conference after the G20 meeting, Blinken said ending the conflict was a common goal and the way to achieve that was through an agreement the US is helping to broker between Israel and Hamas on the release of hostages.

"There may be differences over tactics, and there may be differences over this Security Council resolution, but we're trying to focus on actually getting results," Blinken said.

The meeting, which set the agenda for the G20 group presided over by Brazil this year, discussed current tensions in the world, mainly focused on the fighting in Gaza.

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said earlier that there was consensus on the need for a two-state solution in Israel, supported by every speaker who addressed the conflict.

"Everybody here, everybody, I haven't heard anyone against it. There was a strong request for a two-state solution," Borrell told reporters. "It is consensus among us."

"There is not going to be peace ... not going to be sustainable security for Israel unless the Palestinians have a clear political prospect to build their own state," he said.

Borrell, EU minister for foreign affairs, said the crisis in Gaza extends to the West Bank, which is "absolutely boiling" as Israeli settlers are "attacking Palestinian civilians."

Agencies

Philippines urged to respect China's sovereignty

THE China Coast Guard urged the Philippines on Friday to stop infringing on China's sovereignty, saying it will continue to carry out necessary measures in waters under China's jurisdiction.

In a statement, coast guard spokesman Gan Yu said that its ships had expelled a vessel from the Philippines' Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for illegally intruding into waters near Huangyan Island in the South China Sea on Thursday and Friday.

He said that the Philippine ship kept intruding waters near the Huangyan Island against repeated dissuasion and warnings from Chinese vessels. Seeing their warnings to no avail, the Chinese vessels used necessary measures to drive away the Philippine ship in a professional, lawful and restrained manner, the spokesman said.

"What the Philippines did has infringed on China's sovereignty and seriously violated international law and basic norms governing international relations. We urge the Philippines to immediately stop the infringement and reserve the right to take further control



The crewed submersible Shenhai Yongshi (Deep Sea Warrior) prepares to submerge into the sea before conducting underwater investigation in the South China Sea, May 27, 2023. XINHUA

actions," Gan noted.

China has indisputable sovereignty over Huangyan Island and its adjacent waters, and the China Coast Guard will, as always, conduct rights protection and law enforcement activities in the waters under Chinese jurisdiction, firmly safeguarding national sovereignty and maritime interests, he added.

WHO calls to enhance field epidemiology workforce in South-East Asia Region

NEW DELHI

THE World Health Organization and member countries in South-East Asia Region yesterday called for enhancing field epidemiology workforce as part of strengthening capacities to respond to health emergencies, WHO said in a news release.

"One of the lessons from COVID-19 pandemic is that field epidemiology workforce is a critical component of national health security systems. Continued efforts are needed to invest in field epidemiology capacity strengthening," said Saima Wazed, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia, in her message to the three-day 'Regional Consultation: Advancing field epidemiology capacities in the WHO South-East Asia Region' held here this week.

During COVID-19 pandemic field epidemiologists were engaged in various roles such as coordination, planning, monitoring, surveillance, contact tracing, case investigations etc.

According to the release, "Whether in disease outbreaks such as dengue, influenza, Nipah, measles, foodborne diseases etc or in the aftermath of natural calamities like earthquakes, cyclones and floods, field epidemiologists have been playing an important role in surveillance, risk assessment and response. Having a health workforce prepared and qualified with field epidemiology training programmes (FETP) strengthens a country's ability to surge and respond to future events."

The landscape surrounding FETP is evolving with emerging demands in areas of zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, genomics and non-communicable diseases.

Additionally, there are emerging new technologies which requires new scope of competencies such as data science, advanced analytics, and environmental and waste-water surveillance.

The three-day consultation from 20 to 22 February was attended by ministries of health, technical agencies and partners, reviewed the progress, lessons and challenges in strengthening field epidemiology capacities in the Region.

"We have to address the basic questions that emerge from these challenges to ensure adequate field epidemiology capacities at the subnational and local levels, to facilitate effective and locally appropriate learning so that the trainees gain practical capacities to conduct effective surveillance, field investigations and risk assessments," the Regional Director said.

"Importantly, we need institutionalization and sustainability of the FETPs so that these capacities can contribute to essential public health functions, including primary health care" he added.

The Regional Director emphasized on collaboration and partnerships across countries in the Region, as well as strengthening engagement of multisectoral stakeholders, including among 'One Health' stakeholders, to advance health security and health system resilience.

"Let us remember that our collective efforts are key to building a healthier, safer and more resilient South-East Asia. Together, let's shape a future where our Region is better prepared, more resilient, and more competent to face any public health challenges," the Regional Director said.

ANI

'Old friends' in US hail Xi's call for partnership

TRAVELING from the American Midwest to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping in California in November provided an opportunity to discuss how the United States and China can successfully work together, said Bob Holden, chairman and president of the US Heartland China Association.

Holden, along with the association's strategic adviser, Kenneth Quinn, and its executive director, Min Fan, were among a group of "old friends" invited to meet with Xi. They shared their thoughts on the meeting in an online discussion on Tuesday.

Holden said he had pleasant interactions with several people from China during the event.

"I read his (Xi's) speech on the way back to Missouri. (It was) very thoughtful, very insightful, and I think it very much focused on how we build a bridge that works for everybody going forward," Holden said.

He encouraged people to get a copy of the speech that Xi gave in California "so that they can hear his words and his thought process". Holden said, "I think we can build this foundation by looking at it from a win-win situation, not a win-versus-loss situation."

Quinn, who is also president emeritus of The World Food Prize Foundation, said Xi's experiences have played a significant role in shaping China's approach to the US. Xi first visited the state of Iowa in 1985 as a county-level official from Hebei province.

"There is not going to be any future leader who will have had the kind of dramatic impact that President Xi had ... as a young man to Iowa," Quinn said.

Xi gave his old friends - many of



Xi Jinping (left) talks with farmer Rick Kimberley as they sit in the cab of a tractor in Des Moines, Iowa, the United States, Feb 16, 2012. XINHUA

whom are from Iowa - extra attention in California by having a private reception with them before a dinner banquet, where more than 200 other people from the US business community joined them, Quinn said.

Quinn said that Sarah Lande, who hosted Xi in 1985 in the Iowa city of Muscatine, sat at the head table with the president, along with a veteran member of the Flying Tigers, the group of US volunteer pilots who stood shoulder to shoulder with the Chinese in fighting Japanese aggression during World War II.

Through the seating arrangement, Xi "made the point that US-China relations were

built upon these person-to-person and people-to-people relationships", Quinn said.

Fan said, "I think he truly enjoyed meeting his old friends."

Quinn and Fan said they were particularly struck by the fact that Xi talked about his own experiences in China's countryside when he was 15, and how that shaped his views toward eliminating rural poverty.

"When he talked about spending seven years in the countryside, he went off script. He talked about how much he really cared about people. I could feel that genuine emotion coming through," Fan said.

The three online panelists said that, in his

speech, Xi asked, "Are we adversaries or partners?", and he said he wanted the two sides to be partners.

Quinn, who visited China twice in 2023, said China had initiated a series of programs in the past year to improve relations. He said that the US should have a discussion about how to answer the question that Xi asked.

"I believe that China is worried that the US and China are on a course to be adversaries, and that will lead potentially to some significant conflict, and they want the record to be clear if that happens, that they said, we can be partners, we can be friends," Quinn said. "So I thought the speech deserved a lot more attention than the American press gave it and that it was very significant for that reason."

Susan Thornton, the US Heartland China Association's vice-chair and moderator of the discussion, said the US needs to find ways to partner with China on a lot of things, because the two countries are the biggest global actors by far in areas such as economy, military, science and technology.

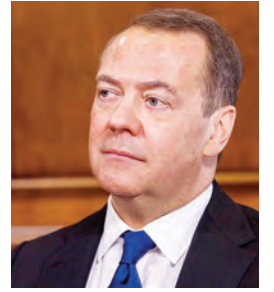
"I don't know if people are very aware of really how intertwined we are, how co-dependent we are in many, many areas, and how we're going to need to work together to solve a lot of the big challenges that the world faces," Thornton said.

Citing the concerns generated in the US by the economic rise of Japan in the 1980s, Thornton said national confidence could play a role in the current dynamic of US-China relations.

"I just hope that Americans can get confident enough to see that, basically, China is not a threat to our status, and our competitiveness, and our idea of ourselves," Thornton said. "We can both find a place in the world that satisfies our idea of ourselves, find that common ground and win-win place."

Europe has 'dim, lackluster technocrats' instead of strong leaders, Medvedev believes

MOSCOW



THE current leaders of European countries are mostly "dim, lackluster technocrats" who are engaged in pursuing "Euro-Atlantic ideals" instead of resolving national problems, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said in an interview with Russian media, including TASS.

"In Europe, as I have said many times, all the true leaders are gone. A generation of dim, lackluster technocrats has arrived, who endorse only Euro-Atlantic ideals. Instead of dealing with their national problems, they follow instructions from Washington," he said.

Medvedev (pictured) explained that there are exceptions among European leaders, such as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, or Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, "but this only confirms the rule." "And all the rest are people who do not have their own position," the politician stated.

In his opinion, the previous generation of European figures had the inner strength to raise objections when issues were important to their countries. But this does not mean that they took Russia's side or abandoned any European ideals, the politician noted.

"No, but they could object. To the extent that during the period when de Gaulle was the French president, France suspended its participation in the military component of NATO, and considered it the right thing to do. Can you imagine anyone even mentioning that now?"

"They would tear him to pieces and say: 'We will be attacked instantly, Cossacks will be galloping around Paris again, and the world will simply collapse!'" Medvedev surmised.

Cape Town cattle highlight awful conditions on livestock ships

By Wedaeli Chibelushi

RESIDENTS of Cape Town woke up to a pungent, sewage-like smell engulfing their neighbourhoods on Monday morning.

The source? A ship from Brazil carrying 19,000 cattle had anchored in the South African port city the night before, in order to reload on animal feed.

After performing an assessment on board the Al Kuwait, staff from a leading animal welfare organisation, the National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA), said the cattle had been on board for two-and-a-half weeks and were living in a "build-up of faeces and ammonia [a gas released from urine]".

Conditions were "awful" and the stench was "unimaginable", the NSPCA said in its statement.

The ship has now left for Iraq but there will still be a funk in the air, campaign groups say.

The cattle are just a fraction of the millions of farm animals that endure lengthy journeys in order to be slaughtered and eaten in another country.

Animal rights organisations have long complained that conditions on board these ships can be hazardous.

They say that, in some cases, creatures have been trampled to death because of overcrowding,

while dehydration, disease and hunger are also risks.

Defenders of exporting livestock argue that the practice brings food security to importing nations and also financially benefits farming communities in countries that export.

A handful of casualties have made headlines in recent years, like when more than 40 crew members and almost 6,000 cattle died after a ship sank of the Japanese coast, or when earlier this month a vessel carrying 16,000 sheep and cattle became stranded off the coast of Australia in extreme heat.

Although disasters like these are horrific, "the really bad thing is just the day-to-day suffering" of exported livestock, Peter Stevenson from global animal welfare group Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) told the BBC.

The 19,000 cattle that docked in South Africa are part of a much larger herd of Brazilian exports - in 2022 the South American country sent 150,000 live cattle abroad, CIWF estimates.

Last year, a Brazilian judge outlawed live cattle exports from the country, citing poor welfare practices, but the ban is yet to be imposed.

Australia and the European Union (EU) are also major exporters of livestock, with the lat-



Millions of farm animals endure long ocean voyages every year

ter selling around 4.5 million live farm animals to foreign countries, according to the South African chapter of animal welfare charity Four Paws.

In Africa, Somalia and Sudan export the most. Sudan's authorities said the country exported more than 2.7 million cattle in 2023, despite a raging civil war, according to local media.

But why do countries want to import live animals, rather than chilled or frozen meat?

"There is a traditional belief in many countries... that fresh meat is in some way tastier, healthier than boxed, chilled or frozen meat," Mr Stevenson said.

Some of these nations would struggle to rear animals from birth as they experience arid conditions that have only worsened with global warming.

Australia's LiveCorp, an organisation serving Australia's livestock exporters, and AgForce, which represents Queensland's rural producers, argue that shipping animals contributes to food security in water-stressed regions such as the Middle East.

They also say the export of livestock benefits the Australian economy and farming communities, which can sell their animals for a higher price abroad than they can domestically.

Nonetheless, Australia committed to "phasing out" live sheep exports in 2023. It has not set a deadline, however. Its neighbour New Zealand enforced a ban the same year.

In Europe, Luxembourg has outlawed the trade and the UK is on its way to doing the same - a bill passed through its lower chamber of parliament, the House of Commons, last month. On Wednesday it will be considered by the upper chamber, the House of Lords.

Four Paws notes that as well as hosting a ship full of livestock in its Cape Town port, South Africa exports farm animals itself.

"There is insufficient regulation in place and raising animals in the country simply to be transported to be killed in another means that South Africa bears the harmful impacts associated with animal agriculture while the importing country does not," Fiona Miles, the charity's South Africa director, said.

Not only did the cattle docked in Cape Town cause a nasty stink, they also reminded the world of the risks animals face on the long journeys to our plates.

"Animals are sentient beings and feel pain and stress just like we do," Ms Miles said.

Agencies

Chinese market boosting growth in Brazilian coffee exports

BRAZIL exported more than 39.24 million 60-kg bags of coffee last year, on par with those in 2022, according to the Brazilian Coffee Exporters Council.

Of these, 1.48 million bags were exported to China, a significant 278.6 percent increase over 2022, making China the 6th largest export destination for Brazilian coffee.

"In 2017, Brazil's coffee exports to China were less than 83,000 bags. In recent years, coffee consumption in the Chinese market has achieved continuous growth, and Brazilian coffee is gaining more popularity," said Marcos Antonio Matos, director general of the Brazilian Coffee Exporters Council.

He said that with its large population, China still has great room for growth in coffee consumption. Brazil values the Chinese coffee market and hopes more Chinese merchants will purchase Brazilian coffee beans.

Minas Gerais is one of Brazil's main coffee producing states. It said on its news website that the Chinese market provides important opportunities for the Brazilian coffee industry.

Specialty coffee is one of the key growth areas for Brazilian coffee exports to China. The Mantiqueira region, located at the junction of Minas Gerais, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro states, has high altitudes and large diurnal temperature variation, making it a sound place for growing coffee.

Helcio Junior, Executive Director of Unique Cafes located in Mantiqueira, said that his company has cooperated with its Chinese partners for eight years and long been engaged in the promotion and sales of specialty coffee in China.

Unique Cafes has also participated in the China International Import Expo in Shanghai multiple times through the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promo-



Photo shows coffee trees of different varieties outside the office of Unique Cafes in Brazil. (People's Daily/Shi Yuanhao)

tion Agency.

"The Chinese market is boosting growth in Brazilian coffee exports," said Junior.

The Cerrado Coffee Growers Federation in Minas Gerais recently said that China is one of the most promising countries for importing high-quality Bra-

zilian coffee in the future, and expanding the coffee business in the Chinese market will be an important effort going forward.

Brazil's Carmo Coffees, mainly engaged in coffee bean exports, often sends its commercial trader for the Chinese market, Bryan Cunha Souza, to participate

in relevant exhibitions held in Chinese cities.

"In many Chinese cities, you can see more and more coffee shops popping up on streets and alleys. Demand in the Chinese market for Brazilian coffee, especially specialty coffee, continues to grow," Souza said.

Brazilian coffee brands attach great importance to the Chinese market and will continue to strengthen cooperation with Chinese partners, he added.

"There are certain differences among Brazil's coffee-producing regions, so we can provide coffees with diverse flavors," said Eduardo Heron Santos, technical director of the Brazilian Coffee Exporters Council.

He added that the Brazilian Coffee Exporters Council is committed to investing in research on coffee varieties and tastes to further meet the diversified demands of the Chinese coffee market.

People's Daily

China breathes digital life into historical heritage like Great Wall

LANZHOU

EMBARKING on a mesmerizing journey, visitors wear virtual reality (VR) glasses that transport them back to a bustling military fortress along the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) Great Wall, with vivid scenes of streets, military camps, and farmhouses.

In northwest China's Gansu Province, a team of tech experts is harnessing digital technology to reconstruct segments of the Great Wall dating back over 400 years, showcasing and unraveling the cultural value of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Great Wall, a symbol of China, comprises many interconnected walls, some dating back 2,000 years. The existing sections have a total length of over 21,000 km, with Gansu contributing nearly one-fifth to the overall length of this iconic structure.

Utilizing ancient texts, on-site investigations, and digital technology, the technical team from Silk Road Infoport Co., Ltd. successfully restored three crucial military strongholds along the Gansu section of the Great Wall, said Wang Yuou, manager of the company's intelligent digital reconstruction project.

State-of-the-art technologies, including high-precision BeiDou satellite positioning and drones, were employed during field investigations to authentically recreate historical relics, according to Wang. Expanding beyond the Great Wall, the team applied their digital expertise to restore the Nanzuo ruins, a pivotal archaeological site shedding light on early Chinese civilization. The Nanzuo site's main palace, covering an indoor area of 630 square meters and dating back approximately 5,000 years, is considered by the archaeological community as the largest single indoor structure of its time in China.

Experts compiled, analyzed, and encoded information, such as documents, images, and videos related to the Nanzuo ruins.

A multi-dimensional parameter information database helps achieve a panoramic presentation of the cultural heritage restoration. "Digital technology can help us build models for the ancient palace and make it a reality," he said.

In recent years, China has increasingly employed digital technology to breathe life into historical relics. Leveraging technologies such as 5G, augmented reality, VR, and artificial intelligence, cultural institutions and technology companies like Tencent and Baidu have introduced a plethora of digital cultural products and projects.

A team from Tianjin University used centimeter-resolution continuous shooting to identify the ruins of more than 130 hidden doors at the Great Wall. About 900,000 items and sets of cultural relics at the Palace Museum have undergone digitalization, constituting 48 percent of its total collections.

Xinhua

Inclusive sports for primary schools launched in Dodoma

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology officially launched inclusive sports for primary schools in Dodoma on Thursday.

Assistant Director in charge of Special Education, Enerest Inju, graced the launch and called on the schools to efficiently manage the games so they can benefit the community.

Inju said sports form a healthy lifestyle, so such sports are important for people with special needs and Special Olympics athletes because they improve them physically and mentally.

He thanked Abu Dhabi King Mohamed Bin Zayed for funding the one-year MBZ project that will facilitate the hosting of the sports as well as the participants' training.

"This is a very good gesture, so people entrusted to it should manage it properly so that it can achieve progress," Inju stressed.

There will also be training for sports officers and special sports teachers from various regions in the country to inform the community about inclusive sports.

Inju asked the teachers who will go for training to be disciplined and use the training to groom primary school pupils.

Special Olympics Tanzania's Direc-

tor, Charles Rays, noted they believe inclusive sports will be a success story in the schools that will take part in the games.

He said Special Olympics is found in Mainland Tanzania and the Isles and they were organizing various championships to bring the teams together.

He said that the training for teachers from various regions in the country will further expand the scope of Special Olympics games in the country.

Rays, further, pointed out he is grateful to the government for providing great support in the games while stressing that his institution will continue to develop various aspects to ensure that it scales great heights in developing inclusive games for children.

He said they need to ensure that every region has a Special Olympics team because sports are for everyone, irrespective of his/her physical condition.

The official moreover said that they are doing all they can to make more progress in the games, including facilitating domestic youngsters' participation in various competitions.

Kisasa and Mlezi primary schools' pupils entertained the inclusive sports launch's attendants.

Lions A cricketers now sail through to TCA Dar 50 Overs Cup Div A last four

By Guardian Correspondent

THE battle for the silverware in this season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Dar 50 Overs Cup's Division A has gathered pace as Lions A cricketers made it to the last-four phase following their five-wicket victory over Aces A recently.

Having won the toss and chose to field, Lions A opted for disciplined bowling to have Aces A ending their innings with 141/10 in 32.2 overs of the scheduled 50-over encounter played at Annadil Burhani Club venue.

The noteworthy showing in the innings was a stellar showing put to show by newly-signed cricketer, Arun Yadav, who made his way back with an impressive 87-ball 95.

The experienced cricketer - who formed an opening batting pair with equally experienced Nasibu Kelvin - played a pivotal role in his squad's acquisition of the total, cracking 10 boundaries and four sixes during his batting stint.

His fellow opener Kelvin was not quite solid, having experienced a brief stint and being

four runs short of two digits.

The batting team suffered a setback given reliable cricketer, Ankit Baghel, was dismissed for a duck - having been caught by Umar Shaikh from medium pacer Goodluck Andrew's bowling.

Zimbabwean professional, Jeremiah Makanya, slotted in as one of the top-order cricketers, chipped in with 10 runs - another effort which was to some extent worth noting.

The remainder of the batting squad's line-up was surprisingly found wanting, failing to repel an attack which was led by Umar Shaikh and Mohamad Jawad.

The up-and-coming cricketer Shaikh had an impressive stint when Lions A fielded - ending with 3-34. He was ably assisted by Jawad and Andrew that took two wickets apiece to prevent Aces A from amassing an imposing score.

Chasing the modest target of 142 runs, the cricketers came out with an unwavering determination and went on to garner 144/5 in 29.2 overs.

Aces A sought to frustrate the batting squad's chase with an early dismissal of Karim Kisetu that made his way back with two runs.

Gulraiz Hydari, who opened the innings with Kisetu, managed to withstand Aces A's challenge to end with 16 runs whilst clearing the boundary on three occasions.

Shaikh solidly catapulted his outfit to the impressive win-blasting -38 runs- and, in the end, walked away with the best Player of the Match prize.

There were also meaningful batting performances that Jawad and skipper Mohamed Salim put to show - posting 25 runs and 29 runs not out respectively.

Senior cricketers Jatin Prajapati and Ally Mpeka recorded two wickets apiece in Aces A's unsuccessful endeavour to contain Lions A's surge.

Lions Cricket Club's Chairman Atif Salim pointed out: "It has been a great start of the season for our boys, who have truly played to their potential in the last three matches, defeating seasoned clubs in 50-over showdowns to seal a place in the semi-final."

The official noted: "Last year, we were also touted as the weakest link in Division A, but we proved many wrong as we got important wins along the way that helped us stay in the

division. We also caused upsets and gave good fights to the top clubs."

Salim stressed: "This year, we are going in with the experience of playing Division A, and that has really helped in being in the right frame of mind during matches and making better decisions during crucial situations during games."

"We saw last year that we lost winnable games due to a lack of experience, and this year we don't want to make the same mistakes."

Lions A skipper Mohamed Salim noted: "We are happy to have a good start, but we want to be grounded, as we don't want the wins to go into our heads."

The experienced player stated: "We want to take the wins to give us confidence moving forward and do the same things we have been doing. I have good support from my players, and I think the support of our die-hard fans is a big plus to the club's success."

Salim noted: "We didn't expect to be where we are when we started this club. It's all due to the Almighty's blessings and love from our well-wishers."

Dar hoops league boasts increase in women's clubs

By Guardian Correspondent

THIS season's Basketball Dar es Salaam (BD) League, slated to get underway on March 2, has surprisingly seen an increase in women's teams.

Last year, eight clubs took part in the showdown's women's category but, this season, eight other sides are joining the fray, making it 16 as is the case with the men's category.

Vijana Queens, which lifted the top honour, JKT Stars, UDSM Queens, Jeshi Stars, Mchenga Queens, Polisi Stars, Ukonga Queens, and DB Lions took part in the last season's showdown.

This season's additions include City Queens, Kurasini Divas, Kigamboni Queens, Tausi Royals, Twalipo Queens, Mgulani Stars, Pazi Queens, and DB TRoncarti.

Fatma Yassoda, BD Women's Commissioner, said they are happy that there is a great response among girls

to play basketball, thus, increasing the number of teams in the league.

Fatma said: "We hoped there would be more women's teams in the league and we are grateful that, this year, it is going to be successful."

"The presence of many teams in the league will increase competition and will also increase opportunities for girls to be seen - some may even secure professional spell abroad," the BD official stated.

Dar City is the defending champion in the men's category and has confirmed its participation this season.

Other men's outfits that will participate in the league are Pazi, JKT, ABC, Savio, UDSM Outsiders, Ukonga Kings, Don Bosco Oratory, and Vijana 'City Bulls'.

Chui, Mchenga Stars, Jogoo, Mgulani JKT, Kampala International University in Tanzania (KIUT), Crowns, and Srelilo will also take part in the league.



Cricketers making Lions A in a group picture when they came up against Aces A in this year's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Dar 50 Overs Cup's Division A encounter which took place recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

City giants fan base muted ahead of CAF Champions League encounters

By Correspondent John Kimbute

AS the Simba SC contingent flew out for their return encounter with Ivorian giants ASEC Mimosas, and Algerian top club CR Belouizdad flew into Dar es Salaam for their own return match (in a sense) with Young Africans SC at the Benjamin Mkapa, fans on both sides of the divide were muted in their attitude.

The pundits were baffled at the low ticket take-up ahead of the Saturday clash, making an effort not to cross the tees and dot the eyes, since they see little hope for the two sides in their weekend efforts. There was no triumphant sentiment in either camp.

Looking at the situation one does not see an exceptional situation in what the two sides have done so far, but the difficulties that our football culture encounters when faced with reality. We have a culture where the fans are united around the notion of victory, an outright win, or at best a draw, while the fans often boo players if they don't play to their

expectations.

After the Msimbazi Street side was held to a draw by the Ivorian side, the red and white fans didn't expect the side can change things in their away match; they hoped for it but were incapable of shouting it aloud.

The situation is largely the same at the other camp, where the hearts of the Jangwani Street fans were emptied out in the earlier clash in Algeria, where the side was trailing by a lone goal for most of the regular 90 minutes.

They were craving for a draw with all their energy and hope, perhaps even prayers, and during injury time the side conceded the second goal, that killed off, so to speak, the spirit of competition among the fans.

It means they were only proud of their side in the Premier League and Azam Federation Cup, and unless win is registered they have no more spirit for the continental tournament, having little hope of second place.

That leads to a number of issues at the commercial level in particu-



Young Africans midfielder Augustine Okrah (L) and goalkeeper Djigui Diarra during a training session at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Thursday. Young Africans will host CR Belouizdad from Algeria today in their CAF Champions League Group D match. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YOUNG AFRICANS SC

lar, that the two sides have invested not just in view of the Premier League but more specifically the continental tourney. This is still crucial for the reinforcement of club loyalties even in the remaining group stage encounters, for the two sides have added players and released some, while only in the case of Jean Baleke during the short window after Fiston Mayele

at the end of last season, were recruited by powerful clubs, or ended a loan period for Baleke.

The two sides feel they lack players who can make a difference, not in the Premier League definitely but in the continental competition, thus they are keen on the local tourneys but are nearly invisible in CAF turnout.

That is the steep psychological

chasm that the fan base of the city giants and arch-rival neighbours find themselves, totally discouraged after the first two rounds of play, getting substantial uplift with one match each, and disappointed in the second.

The sides they earlier considered were weaker are now in a better position to go ahead, especially for Msimbazi Street who gave little thought to encountering ASEC Mimosas until the Ivorian side was altogether qualified for the quarter-finals, which the local side had taken it more or less as a right.

While soccer goes in cyclic curves and graphic ups and downs, the fans and even pundits want an upward curve; we kept hearing that reaching the quarter-finals 'is no longer news.'

This is precisely the sort of attitude that will now have to change, as the manner in which a few clubs can rule a league system similar to the city giants at the local level is not repeatable at the continental level. This isn't just true of the CAF Champions League but indeed

anywhere, in which case there is news that either of the city giants have reached, yes, even the group stage, as anything can happen even at that point.

There was a time Yanga was stopped by Al Hilal of the Sudan, and this season they encountered a depleted El Mirreikh, which had lost most of its international players except a South Sudanese and a Colombian, as pundits noted.

In that case, the current set of derbies on Friday and Saturday has two or three circles of implication, one being the extent to which the two sides have improved their squads during the short registration window to improve performance at the continental championship.

This is one sphere where the outcome of the derbies actually hinges, but the others have also been improving their sides so the contest remains more or less where it was, potentially. In that sense, neither club appears to be assured of a second slot in the groups of four sides, seemingly a third slot at best.



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang

Milan, Benfica and Marseille reach Europa League last 16

LONDON

AC Milan overcame a spirited Rennes 5-3 on aggregate despite a 3-2 loss in Thursday's play-off round second leg to reach the Europa League last 16, where they will be joined by fellow former European champions Benfica and Marseille.

Benjamin Bourigeaud scored a hat-trick for Rennes, including a pair of penalties, but goals from Luka Jovic and Rafael Leao ensured Milan were never really in danger of blowing a 3-0 lead from the first leg.

Benfica also saw off French opposition as a 0-0 draw away to Toulouse was enough to send the Portuguese side through following their 2-1 victory in last week's first leg in Lisbon.

Lens, who dropped down from the Champions League into the knockout play-off round, became the third French club to go out after Freiburg fought back from two goals down to win 3-2 after extra time.

David Pereira da Costa and Elye Wahi put Lens in control of the tie following a goalless opening leg, but Roland Sallai struck twice to force extra time in Germany.

Michael Gregoritsch grabbed the winner in the 99th minute for Freiburg.

Marseille kept French interest in the competition alive as they came from behind to beat Shakhtar Donetsk 5-3 on aggregate after a 3-1 victory at the Velodrome.

Georgiy Sudakov stroked home a penalty early in Marseille before the hosts replied via Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's record-setting 31st Europa League goal.

Ismaila Sarr fired Marseille ahead on 74 minutes and Geoffrey Kondogbia added a late third on Jean-Louis Gasset's debut as coach after the departure of Gennaro Gattuso.

Last season's runners-up Roma edged Feyenoord 4-2 on penalties in the Italian capital after 1-1 draws in both legs.

- Thriller in Azerbaijan -

Qarabag, 4-2 winners last week away to Braga, blew a two-goal advantage after being reduced to 10 men as their Portuguese opponents took the tie to extra time in Baku.

The Azerbaijani team went back in front through Matheus Silva but it looked destined for penalties when Simon Banza's penalty made it 3-1 on the night to Braga.

Nariman Akhundzade sent Qarabag into the next round though with a goal in the 122nd minute.

Sporting progressed 4-2 on aggregate despite a 1-1 draw at home to Swiss champions Young Boys.

Sparta Prague overturned a 3-2 first-leg deficit by scoring three times after Galatasaray's Kaan Aghan saw red to win the return fixture 4-1 at home.

Ajax scraped past Norwegian champions Bodo/Glimt after extra time to reach the Europa Conference League last 16.

After a 2-2 draw in Amsterdam, the Dutch giants went ahead when Steven Berghuis struck in the first half of the second leg.

But they had centre-back Josip Sutalo sent off early in the second half and Patrick Berg's equaliser took it into extra time, with Kenneth Taylor's 114th-minute effort putting Ajax through 4-3 on aggregate.

Dinamo Zagreb knocked out Real Betis 2-1 on aggregate and Union Saint-Gilloise of Belgium took down 2022 Europa League winners Eintracht Frankfurt 4-3 over two legs.

Olympiakos also moved on along with Swiss side Servette, Norwegians Molde and Austria's Sturm Graz.

Maccabi Haifa were the first team through after defeating Gent 2-1 on aggregate, with the second leg in Belgium on Wednesday played behind closed doors because of fears of riots linked to the Israel-Hamas war.

The draws for the last 16 of both competitions were to be made at UEFA headquarters in Nyon later yesterday.

AFP

Man City, Arsenal look to close title gap, Man United start Ratcliffe era

LONDON

WITH Liverpool in League Cup final action against Chelsea tomorrow, the chasing pack have a chance to close the gap on the Premier League leaders.

Manchester City can move within one point of Jurgen Klopp's team if they win their game in hand at Bournemouth, while Arsenal must beat Newcastle to stay in touch with the title pace-setters.

AFP Sport looks at three talking points ahead of this weekend's action:

*Arsenal cannot afford hangover

Declan Rice has urged Arsenal to use the frustration from their surprise Champions League last-16 first-leg loss at Porto to fuel their bid for Premier League glory.

The Gunners returned from Portugal empty-handed after Galeno's stoppage-time strike gave the hosts a 1-0 victory on Wednesday.

While the disappointment will linger until the second leg on March 12, England midfielder Rice knows Arsenal cannot afford a Champions League hangover.

Mikel Arteta's third-placed side will be just two points behind Liverpool if they beat Newcastle at the Emirates Stadium today, but a defeat



Manchester City striker Erling Haaland. Agencies

would be a major blow to their bid for a first title since 2004.

"Look, we have lost games this year and drawn games, and I have seen the changing room after and it's been really bad," said Rice, whose side have won their past five league games.

"We have just lost (to Porto) but there is a real positivity around the group at the minute.

"We have had such a good start to 2024, I think we take the positives from this game, but also see where we can improve."

*'No worries' for Man City over Haaland

Manchester City have no concerns over Erling Haaland's form, according to the Norway striker's close friend and team-mate Oscar Bobb.

After scoring in just one of his previous seven matches -- two goals against Everton -- Haaland silenced his critics with a priceless winner against Brentford on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old broke Brentford's stubborn resistance in the second half at the Etihad Stadium with his 22nd goal in all competitions this season.

That kept City hot on Liverpool's heels in their

chase for an unprecedented fourth successive Premier League crown.

To make history, City boss Pep Guardiola will need Haaland at his sparkling best, but he fell below his own stellar standards when he missed several clear-cut chances in last weekend's 1-1 draw against Chelsea.

However, Norwegian winger Bobb said there had never been any angst in the camp regarding Haaland, who has been mourning the death of his grandmother.

"There's no real worries. When you have

the quality he has, it is just about getting to the right spots," Bobb said ahead of Saturday's trip to Bournemouth.

"As long as he gets in those situations, if he misses a few one game it's not like he's going to start missing all his chances."

*Man Utd start Ratcliffe era

After Jim Ratcliffe finally completed his purchase of a 25 percent stake in Manchester United this week, the British billionaire boldly declared his desire to knock Liverpool and Manchester City off their perch.

Having spent the past decade in the shadow of their two bitter rivals, Ratcliffe, who will take control of football operations from majority owners the Glazer family, knows that repackaging an old line from United's former boss Alex Ferguson will play well with a disgruntled fanbase.

But even Ratcliffe, 71, acknowledged it will take time to put United in position for a first title since 2013.

For now, Erik ten Hag's side have the more modest goal of trying to salvage a troubled campaign by qualifying for next season's Champions League via a top-four finish.

United, currently five points behind fourth-placed Aston Villa, have little margin for error as Fulham visit Old Trafford on Saturday to officially kick off the Ratcliffe era.

Fixtures (1500 GMT unless stated)

Today
Aston Villa v Nottingham Forest, Brighton v Everton, Crystal Palace v Burnley, Manchester United v Fulham, Bournemouth v Manchester City (1730), Arsenal v Newcastle (2000)

Tomorrow
Wolves v Sheffield United (1330)

Monday
West Ham v Brentford (2000)

AFP

Ex-Brazil star Dani Alves sentenced to 4.5 years in jail for rape

BARCELONA

A SPANISH court on Thursday sentenced former Brazil international Dani Alves to four and a half years in prison after finding him guilty of raping a young woman at a Barcelona nightclub in December 2022.

It also ordered the three-time Champions League winner to five years' probation after he serves his jail term, and demanded he pay 150,000 euros (\$162,000) in compensation to the victim.

"The victim did not consent and there is evidence that, beyond the complainant's testimony, permits the rape to be considered proven," the Barcelona court wrote in a statement.

"The court considers as proven the fact that the defendant abruptly grabbed the complainant, threw her to the ground and penetrated her vaginally, preventing her from moving, while the complainant said no and wanted to leave."

Prosecutors had called for a nine-year jail sentence for the 40-year-old followed by 10 years of probation.

Alves, who maintains the sex with the woman was consensual, will appeal the ruling, his lawyer told reporters outside the court.

One of the world's most decorated footballers who played for Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain during a storied career, Alves went on trial earlier this

month on charges of raping a woman at the Sutton nightclub in the early hours of December 31, 2022.

His accuser -- who testified behind a screen to protect her identity -- said Alves had violently forced her to have sex in a private bathroom of the nightclub despite her begging him to let her go, causing her "anguish and terror", according to prosecutors.

Police officers who attended the woman told the court about the victim's state of agitation and "shock" when they arrived at the nightclub, as well as her anxiety that "nobody would believe her" if she filed a complaint.

- 'She could have left' -
During the trial, his defence focused on trying to show that Alves was drunk when he met the woman.

Alves, who was present in court throughout his three-day trial, testified that his sexual encounter with the woman was consensual and denied hitting her and grabbing her hair.

"I am not that type of man, I am not violent," he told the court after his defence lawyer asked if he had forced her to have sex.

"If she wanted to leave, she could have left, she was not obligated to be there," he added.

But the court ruled that the injuries found on the victim's knees were "the result of the violence used by Mr. Alves", and said her tes-



Dani Alves

timony had been "consistent" throughout the proceedings.

Spain's leftist government in 2022 passed new legislation -- dubbed the "only yes means yes" law -- that strengthens the country's penal code against rape by requiring explicit consent for sex acts, a move long demanded by assault survivors and women's rights groups.

- No 'carte blanche' -
The player's defence had argued that the young woman had danced "glued" to him at the nightclub, and there was "sexual tension" between the two.

But the court ruled that "these attitudes... do not mean giving 'carte blanche' to... a subsequent aggression".

Alves initially denied knowing the woman in a TV interview but later acknowledged having sex with her, saying it was consensual.

He told La Vanguardia newspaper in June that he had lied because he was afraid his wife would leave him.

The player has been in detention since he was arrested in Barcelona in January 2023. His requests to be released on bail have been repeatedly denied by the courts which considered him a flight risk.

Brazil does not extradite its own citizens when they are sentenced in other countries.

Alves is widely considered one of the greatest defenders of all time, winning 42 trophies during a highly successful career.

The peak of his career was with Barcelona between 2008 and 2016 when he won 23 trophies. At the time of his arrest, he was contracted to Mexican club Pumas UNAM. He was sacked soon after being detained.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man City, Arsenal look to close title gap, Manchester United start Rattcliffe era

PAGE 19

Must win game for Yanga as they host CR Belouizdad in Champions League



Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday about their CAF Champions League Group D match against CR Belouizdad. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YOUNG AFRICANS SC

Bottom of the table Mtibwa Sugar face tough test at Coastal Union

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TOP-FOUR hopefuls Coastal Union will endeavour to claim maximum points when they play host to Mtibwa Sugar at Mkwakwani Stadium this afternoon.

The hosts begin the weekend fourth in the table on 23 points while the visitors are bottom of NBC Premier League on eight points.

The two teams will meet for the first time since August 20 when Kassim Haruna scored in the 84th minute to help Mtibwa Sugar salvage a 1-1 draw at Manungu.

Although Coastal Union's target at the start of season was survival, top-four aspirations have grown in recent weeks following an impressive five-game unbeaten streak.

They are knocking on the door of CAF Confederation qualification.

David Ouma's men have enjoyed plenty of success in the NBC Premier League of late, winning four of their last five matches to ascend into top four.

Victories over Geita Gold, Kagera Sugar and JKT Tanzania were followed by last weekend's 1-0 win against Dodoma Jiji.

Monday's 1-0 win over Mbeya Kwanza in the Federation Cup means Wagosi wa Kaya are undefeated in seven of their most recent fixtures in all competitions.

The victory also extended a strong recent defensive run of Ouma's team, as they have now kept clean sheets in all their five previous games.

As a result, goalkeeper Ley Matampi leads the clean sheets race with eight so far in his name, two more than his closest challengers.

Home form shows Wagosi wa Kaya have won all their previous five games at Mkwakwani.

They have lost only two of their last 15 games at Mkwakwani, defeats coming against the big sides, Young Africans and Azam.

Mtibwa Sugar, on the other hand, are once again fighting relegation. They already made one coaching change this term. Habib Kondo was replaced by Zuberi Katwila but results have not improved.

In a rare moment of hope, they make the trip to Tanga having beat Stand United 3-2 at home in the Federation Cup on Thursday.

However, Mtibwa Sugar's miserable winless away run is a cause for concern, and although they held their own in the reverse fixture, it is difficult to back them against a resurgent Wagosi wa Kaya side in front of an upbeat Mkwakwani crowd.

Trends show Mtibwa Sugar have failed to win in their last 18 away matches in the league.

They are currently on a six-game losing streak on the road.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans can take a massive step toward qualification to the last eight of the CAF Champions League with a win over CR Belouizdad this evening.

Wananchi will welcome the Algerian club to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, with one point separating the two sides in Group D.

These teams met on matchday No. 1 in November when CR Belouizdad cruised to a 3-0 home victory.

Young Africans started their group stage campaign in awful form but picked a vital home win over Medeama in their last outing.

Still, the Tanzanian club is third in Group B, just one point behind CR Belouizdad ahead of matchday No. 5 in the CAF Champions League.

The race for the two top spots is still open to all four teams in the group.

Egyptian champions Al Ahly are first in the group with six points, while Medeama are fourth in Group D after taking four points from four games.

Young Africans come into

the game having recorded a comfortable 5-0 win over Polisi Tanzania in the Round of 32 match of the Federation Cup played on Tuesday.

Head coach Miguel Gamondi knows they must win to keep their hopes of qualifying for the knockout stage alive.

"For us, it is a crucial game. It is a must-win game. We are in the toughest

group in the CAF Champions League. We are facing a very good and experienced team but we know we are a good team as well.

"We play at home. The preparation was not ideal, we had a game on Tuesday so we had short time to prepare for this one but we are ready to give all the best for our fans, wananchi, and try to win in the best way possible," he said.

CR Belouizdad come into the game on the back of a goalless draw at home against Al Ahly last weekend. Head coach Marcos Paqueta's men said after playing all the teams in the group they know what to expect but the situation is different now as it is all about qualification.

"Happy to be in Tanzania, I hope it will be a nice game between the two teams,

and that everyone enjoys the performance of the players during the meeting. Young Africans are a good team with a good coach.

"We have faced all the teams in the group, we have to play smart and adapt to the weather conditions. We compete in a strong group. The situation is different now because we are seeking qualifications," he said.

...Referees from Mali, Burkina Faso to oversee CAF Champions League tie

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TODAY marks a pivotal moment for Young Africans Sports Club as they host CR Belouizdad in the 5th round tie of the CAF Champions League Group D.

The stage is set at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, where fans eagerly await the kickoff at 7:00 PM, anticipating a thrilling showdown between the two formidable teams.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has designated referees from Mali and Burkina Faso to oversee the upcoming Champions League showdown between Young Africans (Yanga) and CR Belouizdad of Algeria.

According to CAF, the highly experienced Malian referee, Boubou Traore will take charge of the crucial Group D fixture.

Traore's officiating credentials include his recent involvement in the Africa Cup of Na-

tions (Afcon) finals held in Ivory Coast.

Notably, he also presided over the Group D clash of the CAF Champions League between Al Ahly of Egypt and Medeama SC of Ghana, where the reigning champions secured a convincing 3-0 victory.

Assisting Traore on the field will be Sydou Tiama from Burkina Faso and Nodibo Samake from Mali, with Ousmane Diakate from Mali serving as the reserve referee (fourth official).

The officiating team further includes Haruna Mawanda from Uganda, Tengetile Ndinda from Swaziland, Brou Parfait from Ivory Coast, and Michael Beray.

The impending match holds immense significance for both teams as they vie for progression to the knockout stages of the competition.

Currently, positioned third in the group, Young Africans have

amassed five points from four matches. A triumph against CR Belouizdad would elevate their tally to eight points, leaving them requiring just one point to secure qualification for the knockout phase.

After their encounter with CR Belouizdad, Young Africans will embark on a pivotal journey to Egypt to face group leaders Al Ahly, who currently sit atop the standings.

The crucial fixture is scheduled to take place on March 2 at the Cairo International Stadium.

Strategically, Young Africans must secure victory against CR Belouizdad and aim for a positive outcome against Al Ahly in their final match to enhance their chances of progressing further in the competition.

Significantly, Al Ahly also harbors aspirations of advancing to the knockout stage, underscoring the competitive intensity

and stakes involved in the Group D dynamics of the CAF Champions League.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

- 11:00 DADAZ
- 12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
- 13:00 Zote Kuntu
- 13:30 Kali Za Wana
- 13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
- 14:00 SKONGA (r)
- 14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
- 15:00 Funguka
- 15:30 Akili & Me
- 15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
- 16:00 Zote Kuntu
- 16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
- 17:00 SSELEKT
- 17:55 Kurasa
- 18:00 Kali Za Wana
- 18:30 #HASHTAG
- 19:00 EATV SAA 1
- 20:00 DADAZ (r)
- 21:00 5SPORTS
- 22:00 Zote Kuntu
- 23:00 Kurasa
- 23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

5Sports

The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



eastafrika RADIO

- 05:00 Supa Breakfast
- 09:00 MAMAMIA
- 12:00 Kipenga Xtra
- 13:00 Planet Bongo
- 16:00 EA Drive
- 19:00 Kipenga
- 21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM

DAR ES SALAAM