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## Tap tourism market potential, Dr Mwinyi tells Z'bar producers

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has called upon entrepreneurs to enhance production of goods to fully tap the market potential in the tourism sector.

Opening a festival to mark the first year of setting up the Zanzibar Economic Empowerment Agency (ZEEA) in Unguja yesterday, he expressed concern that Zanzibar has vast market potential owing to the presence of tourist hotels and foreign visitors, but not well tapped as yet.

"Our economic empowerment programmes should focus on the search for markets within and outside the country. Responsible institutions should strive to ensure entrepreneurs benefit from the tourism industry," he said.

Empowering local entrepreneurs would reduce imports and strengthen current market outlets, he said, noting that the government recognises the contribution of entrepreneurs in the economy.

It is also keen about the support that financial institutions provide to entrepreneurs to facilitate businesses start up and consolidation, he said.

The government is working to implement the CCM election manifesto for 2020/2025, involving the creation of

TURN TO PAGE 2

# NSSF enrols 547,882 members in 2 years

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Social Security Fund (NSSF) has increased its membership by 26 percent in the past two years, registering 547,882 active members since Samia Suluhu Hassan assumed power.

Masha Mshomba, the NSSF director general, told senior media personnel from various outlets of the rise in membership since March 2021, thanks to an improved business environment, occasioning a sharp rise in investments and jobs.

The NSSF membership base had reached 1,189,222 by June 2023 from 874,082 in March 2021, he said, similarly outlining the National Informal Social Security (NISS) scheme, set for launching mid next year.

NSSF, the largest social security fund for membership base and assets, seeks to register up to 20 million members from the informal sector, with NSSF having reviewed its NISS scheme.

It has increased incentives and membership benefits likely to be attractive in the informal sector where social security membership isn't statutory, a non-compulsory scheme.

Within the NSSF seventh strategic plan up to June 2026, the fund expects to widen its membership base and expand investments, boosting the value of the fund to 11trn/- during fiscal 2025/2026, he said, noting that membership will be sought from all sectors of



National Social Security Fund director general Masha Mshomba pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday making a presentation to media editors on the fund's March 2021-June 2023 performance. This was at a working meeting organised by the Treasury Registrar's Office in collaboration with fund. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'New geological studies likely to simplify mining by year 2030'

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEOLOGICAL research will by 2030 be having a vision for the entire country in identifying what minerals are found in which areas, to remove the practice of trail mining, the government has declared.

Mineral minister Anthony Mavunde made this observation yesterday at a one-day seminar for the mining community in Geita Region, bringing together small-scale miners and large mining companies.

The plan involves the purchase of 15 deep drilling plants whose work will start with Geita Region, he said of the strategy, titled "Vision 2030: Minerals is Life and Wealth."

The government is deploying the means to conduct minerals research countrywide to obtain information that building links between the mining sector with and other land use projections, he said.

So far mining research has been accomplished at 16 per cent where the results are being utilised, he said, pointing at the importance of increasing

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Minister touts renewable energy metals' potentials

By Guardian Correspondent, Stockholm

FINANCE minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has highlighted Tanzania's potentials in the minerals sector as a whole and in renewable energy metals

like nickel, lithium and graphite.

The minister made this presentation in a meeting with a section of the Swedish business community in the capital, convened by Ambassador Grace Olotu, as part embassy efforts

to implement the thrust into economic diplomacy espoused by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Some company executives in the

TURN TO PAGE 2



Fatou Harerimana, newly arrived Rwanda's Ambassador to Tanzania, prepares for the presentation of her letters of credence to President Samia Suluhu Hassan at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

**NSSF is finalising the sale agreement of its 302-acre Dege eco-village project n Kigamboni to a new developer for nearly 500bn/-**

the economy.

The wider membership has enabled NSSF to boost contributions to 1.7trn/- in the year to the end of June, from 1.2trn/- for the year ended June 2021, he stated.

On a monthly basis, NSSF is currently collecting upwards of 143bn/- as member contributions, from 97.67bn/- collected in June 2021, he said, noting that annual pension payment increased to 743bn/- June 2023 from 594bn/- paid during the year ending March 2021.

NSSF has also increased the value of investments to 7.1trn/- as of June 2023 from 4.6trn/- late March 2021, with generated annual income from investments nearly doubling to 864bn/- from 448bn/- at the start of the sixth phase, the DG elaborated.

The fund recorded an annual surplus income standing at 1trn/-, he said, with net assets of the fund standing at 76trn/- by late June 2023 from 5.06trn/- at the end of March 2021.

Actuarial evaluation projections conducted during fiscal 2020/2021 showed NSSF sustainability as likely to persist for 75 years on its current growth tendencies, he said.

The NSSF has investments in different portfolios like government securities, stock trading equities and real estate, while examining how to venture into alternative investments, he stated.

High-yield long-term Treasury bonds and

TURN TO PAGE 2



## Minister touts renewable energy metals' potentials

FROM PAGE 1

meeting represented firms operating in the country, placing capital and technology in various projects, where they commended the big steps taken by the government to improve the business environment.

These steps have made it easier for many investors continue to invest in Tanzania, they affirmed to the minister and his delegation in a working visit to Sweden, meant to boost existing ties between the two countries.

He explained executives from various Scandinavian companies that Tanzania's economy was in good shape despite current global challenges, notably in relation to supply chain and foreign exchange supply constraints at present.

Renewable energy metals are in high demand around the world as countries seek to build infrastructure for alternative sources of energy, as traditional fossil fuels power the deepening threat of unpredictable weather due to climate change.

Ambassador Olotu said the meeting was geared at boosting ties between the two countries which go back to the 1930s, emphasizing that the key issue

at present is strengthening economic ties and attracting investors.

The minister explained at length how the government has improved the investment climate including the review of investment and tax issues to make it easier for investors to initiate activities.

He said that Tanzania is part of a wider trade strategic area proximate to all member states of the East African Community sub-region, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) extending to most of the Great Lakes countries.

The government has in place a conducive investment environment for investors and seeks that operating firms urge other investors including the Scandinavian countries to take up new opportunities in Tanzania.

He appealed for investments in areas that holds the best potential for enhancing employment and exports, including farming, livestock and fishing value chains. The government has placed preliminary investments in those areas but operators need capital and technology inputs that can add value to crops and other products especially for export markets, he added.

## NSSF enrolls 547,882 members in 2 years

FROM PAGE 1

other government securities account for a half of the fund's investments, he stated, noting that new investments guidelines for social security funds issued by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) had contributed to the portfolio structure.

NSSF is also looking at investing in the capital and securities markets of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) zones, he specified.

The fund is taking up its stalled projects, while conducting research on new areas of investment to boost income and enhance the funding ratio,

standing at 80 percent at present, he said.

The projects include housing projects at Dung, Tuangoma and Mtoni Kijichi, Mzizima Towers and five start hotel in Mwanza, he affirmed.

He also cited the once disputed 344bn/- 12,000 acre Mkulazi sugarcane plantation and processing factory, where NSSF owns 94 percent of shareholding. The factory is expected to start production in the coming month, producing 50,000 tonnes of sugar annually, he said.

NSSF is finalizing the sale agreement of its 302-acre Dege eco-village project in Kigamboni to a new developer for nearly 500bn/-, he added.

## 'Geological studies will likely simplify mining by year 2030'

FROM PAGE 1

the quantity of available research information, with the work set to be conducted by the Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST).

Minerals along with fossil fuels contribute 56 per cent in foreign exchange earnings, which makes it 9.1 per cent of total gross domestic product (GDP), he said.

Many miners waste their efforts conducting unprofitable prospecting, he stated, emphasizing that the

new plan will enable mineral sector investors to identify where they can drill for minerals with certainty.

He said that Tanzania is 945,000 square kms in size or 233m hectares, with intense minerals surveys conducted over 16 per cent of that area.

Minerals earned 56 per cent of total export earnings last financial year at 3.3bn, equivalent to 7trn/-, contributing 9.8 per cent and 15 per cent to internal revenues equivalent to 2trn/-, he added.

## Mali postpones February presidential election due to 'technical issues' - govt

BAMAKO

The Malian military government has announced it will delay a presidential election scheduled for February, which was aimed at returning civilian leaders to power in the conflict-ridden West African nation.

Two rounds of voting - initially set for February 4 and 18 - "will be slightly postponed for technical reasons", government spokesman Abdoulaye Maiga said on Monday.

Those reasons include issues linked to the adoption this year of a new constitution and a review of the electoral lists, he said.

He also cited a dispute with French company Idemia, which the government said is involved in the census process.

"The new dates for the presidential election will be communicated later," Maiga said.

Mali's military leaders committed to hold the election in February following pressure from the Economic Community of West African States. That led to the regional bloc lifting a

set of trade and financial sanctions on Mali in July last year.

The sanctions were imposed in January 2022 when the military government was considering remaining in power for up to five years.

On June 18 this year, Malians voted in a referendum, also postponed by several months, that introduced a new constitution, which opponents said grants the head of state sweeping powers. But the government said it would pave the way to elections and a return to civilian rule.

### AGENCIES



**The new dates for the presidential election will be communicated later**



Arafah Hamad Bakari (R), a representative of Hai Input Company Limited Group of Kijichi in Zanzibar, briefs Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (L) at an exhibition held yesterday in marking the first anniversary of the Zanzibar Economic Empowerment Agency (ZEEA). Photo: State House

FROM PAGE 1

300,000 jobs in the Isles, he said.

He said the government is enhancing a conducive business and investment environment to ease the way for more investors to take up business activities.

Mudrick Ramadhan Soraga, the Economy and Investment state minister in the President's Office, said the ministry in collaboration with the empowerment agency offers zero-interest loans and financial literacy for entrepreneurs.

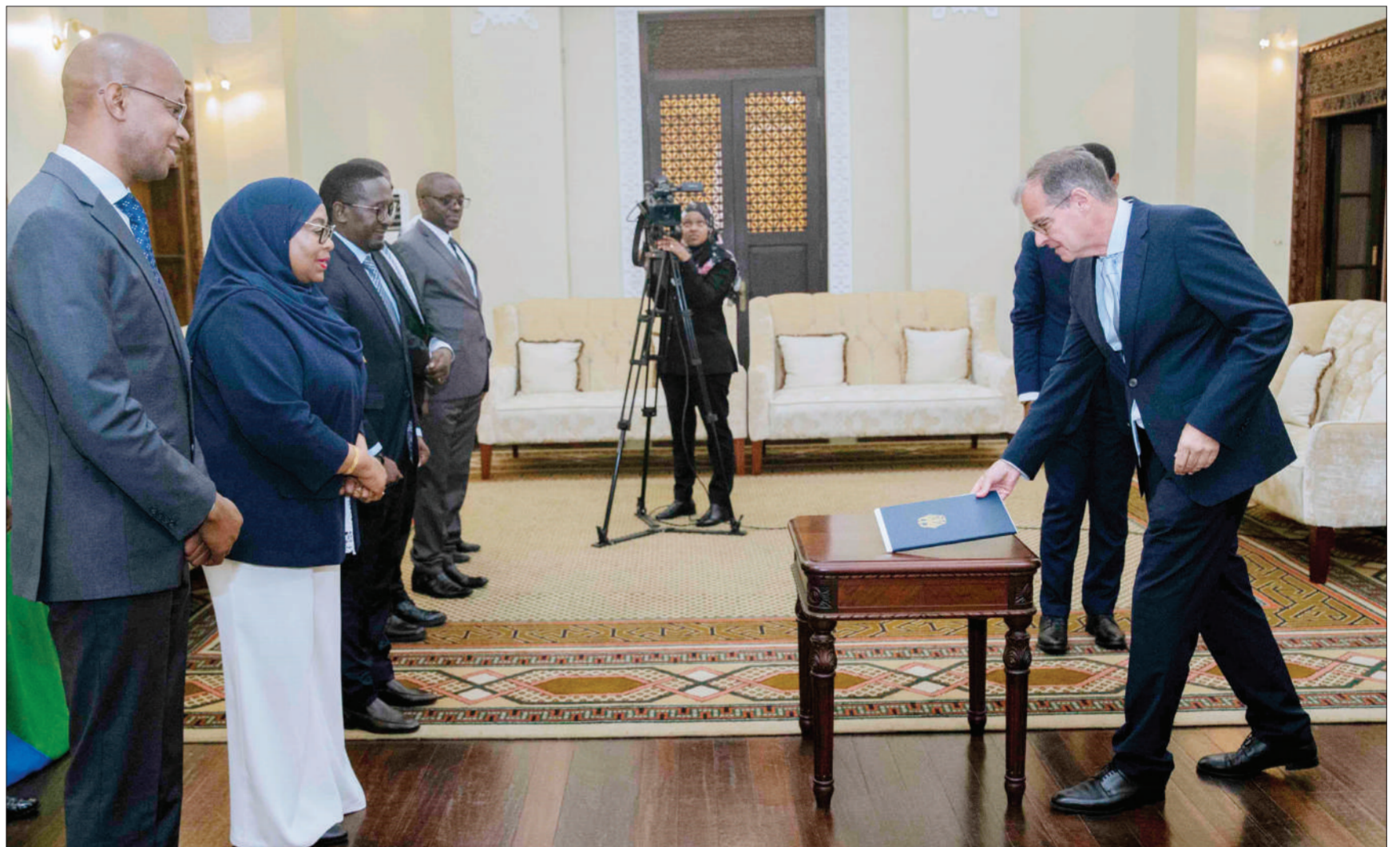
## Tap tourism market potential, Mwinyi tells Z'bar producers

Juma Burhani, the ZEEA executive director, said that apart from empowering entrepreneurs the agency is working on challenges like accessing local and foreign markets, while linking them with major producers and financial institutions.

The agency is mandated to reach 62,400 entrepreneurs in five years, implying upwards of 12,480 potential beneficiaries each year, he said, noting that to date, ZEEA has provided zero-interest loans pegged at 20.2bn/- to 19,373 beneficiaries in both parts of the

Isles, with the funds being provided in collaboration with CRDB Bank.

The agency has been able to provide training for entrepreneurs on beekeeping, crop value addition, fruit processing and online marketing, he added.



The newly arrived Germany's Ambassador to Tanzania, Thomas Terstegen, prepares to present his letters of credence to President Samia Suluhu Hassan at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister January Makamba. Photo: State House

## 'Positive parenting is a skill that can be learnt to help provide better childhood'

By Grude Mbago

PARENTS have been advised to spend quality time with their children providing all needed support for them to grow well academically and physically.

Eng Selestina Mbagu, lecturer at the Water Institute made the appeal in Dar es Salaam over the weekend at the Kilimani primary school 12th graduation ceremony.

Being a parent isn't an easy task. Positive parenting is a skill that can be learned to help provide a better childhood, reduce maltreatment.

According to her, parents should stop being too busy in other economic activities as material things cannot

substitute for their love and affection to children. "It is high time now that parents and guardians treat their children with care and give them the needed quality education for them to have a good future," she said.

She noted that results of studies showed that children who are exposed to positive parenting do better at school, have fewer behavioural problems and have stronger mental health.

According to her, if parents will take time and invest in their children's protection and development, the country will greatly fight the increasing incidents of violence and street children, among others.

She said that children are the

greatest assets and future leaders who should be nurtured well to be able to play meaningful roles in future.

Eng Selestina commended the Kilimani school board and its management for their continued investment in education and providing quality services to a number of children.

Anna Lukindo, Mbezi Juu ward councillor praised the school for its investment in teaching children life skills which is very important.

He urged the graduates to go and observe ethics in the community as they prepare for secondary education. "Commitment, ethics, hard work and patience will push you to a good destination which you are dreaming

of," she said.

Francis Njoroge, School's Head Teacher said graduation involves the send-off of a total 129 standard seven graduates and 121 pre-unit children who are joining primary education.

He urged children to wait, remain focused and focus more on their future studies than engaging in bad behaviours that may affect their dreams.

"Impacts of the ongoing bad acts in various parts which are fuelled by globalisation are big, so go and live well by observing ethics while avoiding to engage in negative groups or behaviours that may harm your life," he said.

He said that apart from normal class sessions, the school has invested heavily in nurturing children's talents which include entrepreneurship, cookery, farming to enable them have wider skills and be independent when they graduate.

# Villagers urged to employ EBARR as a measure to fight against drought

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

RESIDENTS of Kazania village in Mpwapwa District, Dodoma Region and Melele village in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region, have been required to develop the Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Rural Resilience (EBARR) project as measure against drought.

The call was given by deputy Permanent Secretary, VPO (Environment) Dr Switbert Mkama during his inspection visit to horticultural farming projects, beekeeping and digging of well in the villages implemented by EBARR through VPO.

He called on the villagers to join hands and avoid idle talk and especially at this time when they have begun getting income from their activities.

"My brothers, I beseech you not to allow such a situation to reign in and if this happens, complaints regarding funds embezzlement should be investigated and not merely making decisions without concrete evidence," he said.

Dr Mkama also urged the villagers to make use of the infrastructure being built including the deep wells, the step that will rescue two rivers in Mvomero District from drying up.

Speaking at different times, some

of the villagers in Mvomero District, including Fatuma Hamisi, said the EBARR project had been of great relief to them because it has been the solution on their many challenges.

They said in the past they used to cultivate far away from their homes while their farms were subjected to destruction by elephants.

"In the past, vegetable farming was hard as we used to depend on rivers for water but after the EBARR project, we now have a deep well from which we get adequate water for our farming activities," said Malegesi Chilongo, resident of Lubungo Ward in Mvomero District.

They also thanked the government for providing them with 10 acres of land for vegetable farming for income earning.

Apart from Mvomero and Mpwapwa District, the EBARR project is also being implemented in Simanjiro (Manyara Region), Kishapu (Shinyanga) and Unguja North A District.

*"My brothers, I beseech you not to allow such a situation to reign in and if this happens, complaints regarding funds embezzlement should be investigated and not merely making decisions without concrete evidence"*



Dr Switbert Zacharia Mkama (in all-blue), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office (Environment), is briefed yesterday on progress in the implementation of a dam project at Melele village in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region. He was on inspection tour of Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Rural Resilience in Tanzania (EBARR), a project funded by the Global Environmental Facility and meant to boost resilience to climate change in rural communities of Tanzania by strengthening ecosystem-based adaptation and diversifying livelihoods. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Three people die during construction of pit latrine

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

THREE builders have died and one survived at the construction site of a pit latrine at Katoma village, Bukoba District in Kagera Region.

Confirmed reports said that the builders died due to lack of air as they suffocated when they went down in the pit to remove some of pieces of

wood that were left in the pit during construction.

Explaining on the incident, village executive officer (VEO) Emmanuel Katalaiya said the builders entered the pit so as to help each other out of the hole but unfortunately they didn't make it leading to their death.

Sergeant Shabani Mussa, communication officer of the Kagera

Regional Fire and Rescue Force who also was present at the scene said the incident which occurred yesterday left three people dead and one survived.

He named the deceased as Denis Philibert (40), Ayoub Benjamin (35) and Fabius Babiligi (30) citing lack of fresh air as the major cause of the deaths.

"After taking them out of the pit, we

rushed them to the Kagera regional referral hospital, where after medical examination, three of them were pronounced dead," Sergeant Mussa explained.

Dr Mseleta Nyakiroto, chief medical officer at the Kagera regional referral hospital confirmed having received three bodies and they have preserved in the mortuary.

# PM: Hire govt official to oversee revenue collections at Magarini

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on the Muleba District Executive Director to make sure he puts in place a good procedure for operating the international market for fish products at Magarini including employing a government official to oversee revenue collections.

"Bring a revenue officer here instead of hiring casual workers, this area will help you to earn big income that will help to run the market including installing road lights.

"Your fishermen should be served and assisted to enable to work without inconveniences," he said while giving instructions to Muleba DED, Peter Nyanja.

Majaliwa issued the instructions in Muleba on Sunday when addressing Magarini residents and traders soon after inspecting the Magarini port and international fish market at Katembe-Magarini in Nyakabango Ward, Muleba District, Kagera Region.

The PM said the government has put in place a procedure through the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to conduct their activities profitably.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has stressed to boost fishermen's activities, including the purchase of 1,200 boats for fishing groups to enable them operate in deep waters.

In 2022/23 FY, the fish market operated by Tanzania Ports Authority (PTA), the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Muleba District Council produced 25.96 million tonnes of sardines and fish from Bumbire, Maziga, Ikuza, Karebe and Goziba islands

Meanwhile, Majaliwa directed ports manager for Lake Victoria ports, Erasto Lugege to make improvements at Magarini port, specifically to its berth and passengers waiting room.

In his report, Lake Victoria ports manager, Erasto Lugege said in the 2023/24 FY budget they expect to improve the berth that had been flooded with water since 2020 due to heavy rains.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (2nd-L) pictured in Stockholm on Sunday listening to the views of Swedish investors after he had addressed them on investment opportunities in Tanzania. From-L: Japhet Justine, Debt Management commissioner with the Tanzanian government; Grace Olotu, Tanzania's Ambassador to the Scandinavian countries; and Dr Pontus Engstrom, the leader of investors doubling as CEO of MTI Company - which has investments in Tanzania. Photo: Finance ministry

# Tanga farmers warned over sale of all their food stocks

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

FARMERS in Tanga Region have been cautioned not to be attracted by good prices in the market to sell all their food stocks but rather should store enough for future use.

Mussa Omari, a retired agriculture officer and tutor in various agriculture colleges in the country threw the challenge here, saying that weather wasn't predictable, thus needing farmers to store enough food to be used during scarcity.

The caution came following maize prices sharply hiking to over 120 percent within two months now since the harvesting season just ended early August this year.

The spot survey made by this paper shows that now one sack of maize is being sold between 60,000/- to 70,000/- and one sack of paddy is sold between 120,000/- to 150,000/-.

But in July one sack of maize was sold 30,000/- while one sack of paddy was sold between 60,000/- to 80,000/-

The price's inflation was caused by grain millers and foreign businessmen from neighbouring Kenya who are

flowing in the region taking maize and other food grains.

"Kenya have been hit by climate change, farmers did not harvest enough and also only few parts of Tanzania like Tanga, Kiteto, some parts of Dodoma and Singida and Southern parts of Tanzania had bumper harvests a situation that lead to high demand of maize and paddy into other parts of the country and neighbouring countries," said Moses Mwakalinga business man from Iringa who camping at Maramba in Mkinga district purchasing maize and transporting to Mombasa, Kenya.

"This is why business people and grain millers have camped in villages to purchase produce from farmers in some parts of Handeni, Muheza, Kilindi which are agricultural districts and compete themselves by inflating prices."

Hassan Kamau, a prominent grain miller and maize flour businessman, said that they were purchasing maize from the farmers and processing them into flour before transporting them.

This, according to him, has been giving them more profit than selling raw maize or other grains.

# ATARE to invest in scientific and technological research

By Getrude Mbago

THE Association of Tanzania Researchers (ATARE) has expressed determination to invest heavily in scientific and technological research that will produce innovative solutions on various challenges facing the society.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during the official launch of ATARE, the president of the association Prof. Joseph Ndunguru said that due to the rapid science and technological changes, having solution-based studies was important.

He said that ATARE has been formed and it comprises researchers of various professional disciplines in different parts of the country for professional advancement and promotion of multidisciplinary research for sustainable development

of communities in Tanzania and beyond.

The association will also establish a special database to collect all researchers which have been conducted in the country for policy makers and stakeholders to access them thus helping bring solutions to various challenges.

"Members of the association will be registered and listed in the website for stakeholders to know what they are doing in their areas of field to further establish collaborations," he said.

He further said that the association will be the best home of nurturing and supporting emerging researchers enabling them to grow their innovative ideas and practice well.

According to him, there is no country which will experience rapid development without investing in quality research especially in the areas

of production.

"We want to focus on training ourselves, reminding us of the importance of conducting quality studies, considering that the country is working to achieve the industrialization drive, and having more solutions to solve challenges in the industrial sector is important," Prof Ndunguru observed.

Geoffrey Kirenga, chairman of the association acknowledged that despite various improvements done by the government in various institutions, investment in research is still low, something which calls for more funding to ensure that researchers come up with innovative solutions to address challenges facing communities.

According to him, if researchers would focus mostly on solution-based studies, it would enable governments to plan better for their people.

He said that the association will also come up with a special Fund specifically to finance strategic research to further promote development in various sectors. "We need to come with technological solutions that will help bolster produce and reduce post-harvest loss, as per current situation, Tanzanian farmers are losing up to half of their produce due to lack of technologies to process, package or harvest the produce," he said.

Dr Elizabeth Maeda, one of the researchers, said the launch of the association was a big step and will greatly help bring together experts from various fields to push for the country's development.

"This will be a good platform for researchers to share and exchange expertise, work in synergy towards bringing transformation in various sectors," she said.

# TRA urges traders to respect tax laws

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Revenue Authority (TRA) in Mbeya Region has launched a special campaign to mobilise traders to respect tax laws including issuing of cash sale receipts for goods sold to avoid legal measures against them.

The Authority also called on the general public to demand receipts whenever they purchase goods from shops in order to assist the government receive its rightful revenue.

Speaking at the launching of the campaign, Mbeya Region TRA manager, Msibu Shaban said the campaign aims to mobilise taxpayers to respect tax laws without coercion.

He said as for now they are providing the education before they start taking legal steps, saying this is not a priority at the moment.

He called on traders to make sure they register their businesses, have TIN numbers and pay in time the tax as assessed.

"Our officers will visit various areas to educate traders and the general public to make sure both understand, we want the people to know that the receipts are for their development.

He said that if all Tanzanians understand this it will even reduce smuggling especially in border areas.

For his part, TRA Assistant Manager (Investigations Unit) Mygloria Saria said if a trader is found to sell goods without issuing a receipt he faces a fine equivalent to 20 per cent of the value of the goods he sold

She further said a buyer who has bought goods without demanding a receipt thereon he also faces a fine equivalent to 20 per cent of the tax lost for not demanding receipts.

She appealed to the people to make sure they also abide by what the laws provide to avoid the fines

which sometimes can impact on their businesses.

"Therefore at the moment we have decided to invest in providing education to first enable the public understand, and legal steps will come at the end," she added.

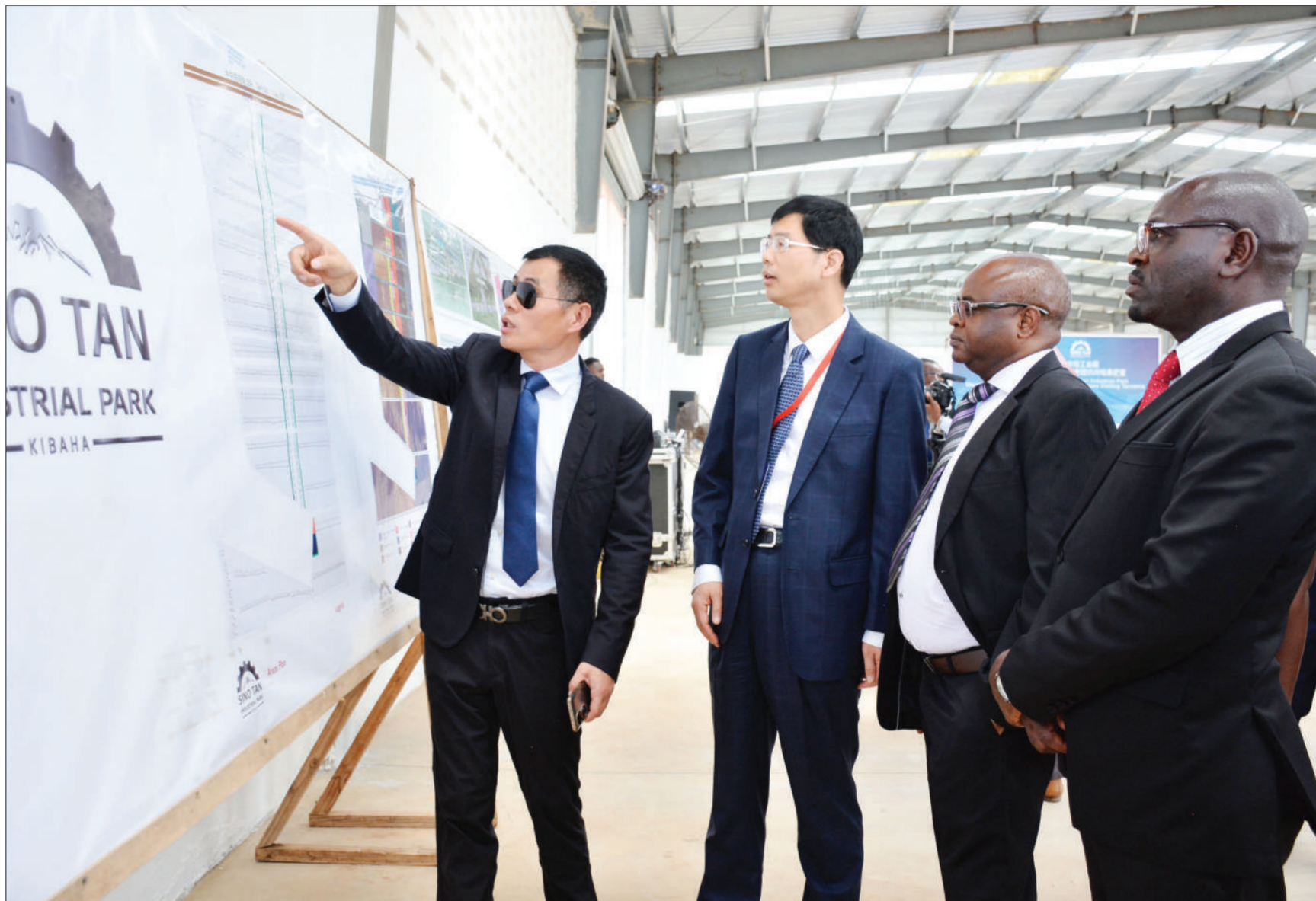
Launching the campaign, Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera called on TRA officials to visit all business areas to assist traders solve their complaints.

He also told them to stress upon traders to pay tax in time, saying the country's development depend on taxes paid by the people themselves.

Homera also called on the people not to be afraid TRA officials when they visit their premises as their visits aim to educate them.



**Our officers will visit various areas to educate traders and the general public to make sure both understand, we want the people to know that the receipts are for their development**



Johnson Huang (L), chairman of Group Six International's Sinotan Industrial Park, briefs Prof Kitila Mkumbo (2nd-R), Minister of State for Planning and Investment in the President's Office, and Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigaha (R), on the firm's investments at Kwala in Kibaha District, Coast Region, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Govt readies to implement L. Victoria water project

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is set to implement water project from Lake Victoria to six wards of Muleba District in Kagera Region, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said.

Speaking over the weekend when addressing residents during a public rally at Fatuma grounds, Muleba District, the PM said the government has set aside 800m/- for the project.

"The government intends to pull

the water from the lake to a tank where it will be processed before being to the public for use," he said.

The PM said the government has already done so in Tarime, Musoma Rural and has started implementing in Bunda, Magu and Geita.

He named the wards as Kikuku, Bureza, Kagoma, Muleba, Magata, Kikuku and Gwanseli adding that the project will also let the government understand how many villages need water services.

PM Majaliwa said the water sector alone has received a tune of 42bn/- with 5.73bn/- being sent to Muleba for the same projects.

"The Bulamula water project received 681m/-, Rutenge 600m/-, Ilemela 599m/-, Katara 2.96bn/- and Kyamiyorwa 3.2bn/-," he said.

On the same development, Majaliwa called upon residents to calm as the government was coordinating the availability of National Identity cards to people

who reside in border areas.

"The national ID is a national security issue, so it is only a Tanzanian who is entitled to have it, therefore we should be vigilant," he said.

He said he has received opinions from Members of Parliament that the government should send immigration and NIDA officers to oversee the issuance of IDs. The PM ended his three days official tour in the Kagera Region.

## Libyan volunteers in Tripoli to deliver outfits to flood-hit Derna

DERNA, Libya

A DOZEN women are bent over their machines to sew, in a hurry, clothes and shrouds bound for Derna, in eastern Libya, a city devastated by deadly floods some two weeks ago.

"1,300 school uniforms, 850 abayas and 650 shrouds" have already been transported to the city of 100,000 inhabitants, where almost 3,800 people perished. And these women, in their apprenticeship phase, are working on a second shipment, cutting and sewing pieces of fabric at breakneck speed, in a workshop in the western capital Tripoli, over 1,300 km from Derna.

The director of the training center, Mohamed Kamour, told AFP that he had suspended classes to devote himself to providing aid to the population of Derna, where thousands of survivors have lost everything in the floods. Whole buildings and neighborhoods have been wiped off the map.

"We have stopped all types of training," he says.

The apprentice seamstresses "who themselves need to work to support their families" wanted to take part in the aid sent to the East to support their compatriots. "A priority today", he adds.

According to him, requests from disaster-stricken residents are forwarded to him by charities based in the east, despite the political divisions between the eastern and western regions of the country.

"The center's vocation is already to help needy families, so you can imagine our mobilization when it comes to a disaster of this magnitude", he explains.

Around a work surface, surrounded by shelves filled with rolls of fabric, the women sort and fold the day's production: grey or green abayas, white aprons for the medical staff, but also mortuary sheets for the bodies that rescue workers are still pulling out of the rubble.

Next door, in the "sewing room" amid the crackle of machines, trainer Karima Wanis expresses "the feeling of having lost family members". It's "normal to help our brothers in Derna", she says.

For this 39-year-old woman, it's a

question of "helping relatives (...) as we're all part of the same family (...), West or East. In the end, Libya brings us together".

"In need of housing"

The deadly floods have sparked a surge of solidarity among the population that transcends the political and tribal divisions between East and West that have plagued the North African country since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi's regime in 2011.

"We saw people from all parts of Libya, even from Sebha in the south. People who came (to Derna) on their own initiative, tribes too", noted Yann Fridez, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Libya, on Thursday, on his return from a three-day visit to the country.

With the means at hand, restaurateurs, shopkeepers and craftsmen are mobilizing in the west and south of the country.

Aid is multiplying, particularly for survivors, as more than 43,000 people have had to leave the affected areas, often without shelter or resources.

Appeals to host displaced people are numerous on social networks.

"A family has just arrived in Tripoli from Derna. They need to be housed quickly", says a Facebook post, commented on by volunteers offering their help by posting their phone numbers. A campaign was also launched on social networks under the hashtag: "I am Dernaoui and I need housing".

The divided Libyan authorities say they are having difficulty meeting the urgent needs of the survivors, and have repeatedly admitted that "the scale of the disaster is beyond their capacity".

Nevertheless, international aid continues unabated. Air bridges have been set up by several countries and international humanitarian organizations.

The Qatari embassy in Libya announced the arrival on Saturday in Benghazi (east) of two aircraft loaded with 60 tonnes of aid, bringing to eight the number of planes sent by Doha since the disaster. A plane carrying humanitarian aid sent by the United States also landed on Thursday in Benghazi, the largest city in the east, located 300 km from Derna.



North Unguja regional commissioner Ayoub Muhammed Mahmoud addresses a meeting at Matemwe yesterday, chiefly on the challenges commonly faced in the village. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## NBS to continue working with media to publish correct 2022 census results

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Commisar of the 2022 population and Housing Census Anna Makinda says the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) will continue to work together with the country's media in making sure they receive correct reports for processing and the publishing of news to the public.

Makinda made the remarks here at the weekend at the opening of a training seminar for reporters from Mwanza Kagera, Mara and Simiyu regions on the publication and

utilisation of Census results.

She said in making sure officials at various levels are held accountable in regard to the implementation of development projects, reporters are also required to use well the Bureau for reports.

She also called on the reporters to make sure they convey statistics details to the people with the aim of helping them to query higher officials on the implementation of various development activities.

Meanwhile Makinda explained that before December this year, NBS

will have published more than 400 reports on various issues from the 2022 Census. "Through these reports, reporters and the general public can hold their officials accountable regarding the implementation of various development projects in their areas," she said.

For his part, Mwanza Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla who was represented by Nyamagana District Commissioner Amina Makilagi reminded the journalists to fully participate in publicizing correct reports on census results.

She also said the government has simplified the the implementation of responsibilities and its accountability through the statistics so far obtained from the Census. "As for now we provide various social services through census results as before that we only used to listen to officials in the areas concerned," said DC Makilagi.

Some reporters called on the government and its officials to stop the habit of harassing them whenever they publish statistics obtained from various areas.

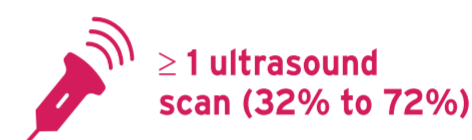
"At times we publish statistics that the government do not like to be published, for example those regarding students at some schools sitting on the floor, without classroom, pit latrines," said Iddi Mumba, a Mwanza based reporter.



Policy brief

## TRANSFORMING MATERNAL CARE IN TANZANIA THROUGH A DIGITALLY-ENABLED DEMAND-SIDE FINANCING MODEL

Data from 3-year maternal care program shows improvements in key maternal health indicators:



These results indicate that existing funding for maternal care could yield better results if switched from 'supply-side' to a 'demand-side' financing model

### THE CHALLENGE: FINANCING QUALITY MATERNAL CARE FOR ALL IN TANZANIA

Tanzania has made huge progress in recent decades in improving maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) care, with programs such as routine immunization and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Yet, Tanzania's Maternal Mortality Ratio remains stubbornly high at 524 per 100,000 live births<sup>1</sup> - far above the UN Sustainable Development Goal target (70 deaths).

The government has implemented several policies to advance Universal Health Coverage (UHC). In 1992, cost sharing was introduced, with several health reforms adopted since then, including health insurance for the formal sector (National Health Insurance Fund - NHIF) and informal sector (Improved Community Health Fund - iCHF). These schemes have ensured financial protection for millions, however, iCHF's package does not cover antenatal care (ANC) and while the NHIF's package does, it only covers 8% of the population<sup>2</sup>. In total, only 15%<sup>3</sup> of Tanzanians have health insurance and Out-of-Pocket (OOP) health expenditure has recently increased<sup>4</sup> to 25%.

Along with care for the elderly and children under 5, maternal services are free in Tanzania, funded through taxes and donors through the basket fund. However, the current 'supply-side' financing model comes with leakage, inefficiencies and poor tracking of resources. For many low-income mothers, this means that services and funds are not available when they need them. Staff and commodities are often unavailable, equipment may be dysfunctional, and women therefore turn to private facilities where they are often required to pay to access parts of the services. This combination increases women's distrust towards service quality, while costs make them delay or forego seeking services, contributing to poor outcomes for mother and child.

For government, healthcare providers and partners, there is also limited reliable data on the financing and delivery of maternal care services: Data which is urgently needed to prevent health complications and ensure that scarce funds are maximized and channeled efficiently to those that need them most.

1 Tanzania Demographic Health Survey (TDHS) from 2015-16  
 2 National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) Tanzania Annual Report (2021)  
 3 The Citizen, NHIF estimates that only 15% of the population have health insurance (2023)  
 4 Tanzania National Health Account (Preliminary) Report 2023

### APPROACH

To improve MNCH indicators, mothers need access to quality, affordable and regular ANC visits, skilled-birth delivery and post-natal care (PNC) in a way that is transparent to all actors in the health ecosystem. In 2019, the development organization PharmAccess launched 'MomCare' in Northern Tanzania to achieve precisely this. The alternative financing model was implemented together with local government in the Manyara and Kilimanjaro Regions, at 40 healthcare facilities (public and faith-based). The following sections highlight the results and the key lessons learned for healthcare policy.

### INTRODUCING THE MOMCARE MODEL

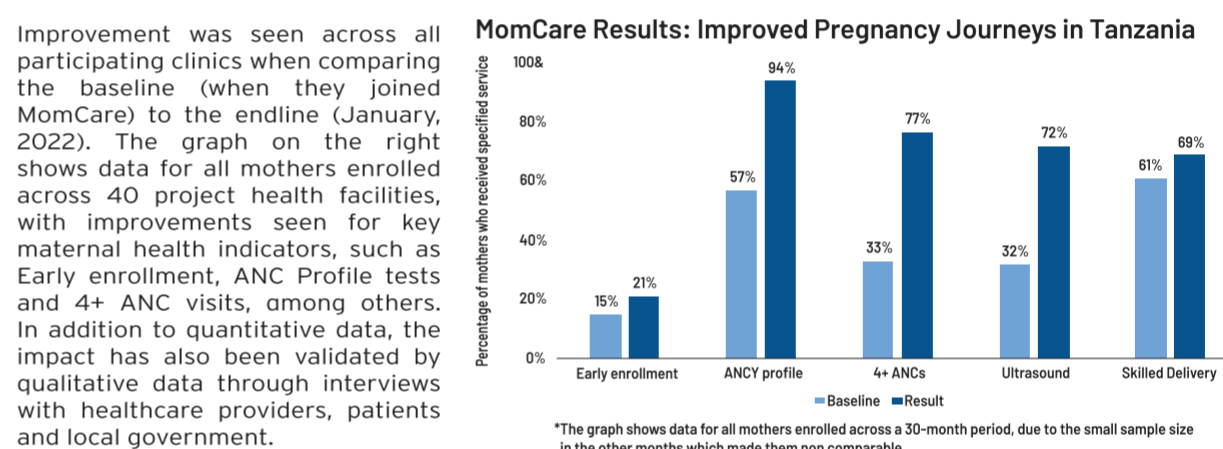
MomCare is digitally-enabled 'care bundle' that expectant mothers can sign up for. Once enrolled in the program, women received a MomCare card which is linked to a prepaid virtual money account. With this card, pregnant women could access quality maternal care services throughout their entire pregnancy, including facility-based delivery and postnatal care. In essence, MomCare is a 'smart-contract' between expected mothers, contracted clinics, and health service funders at predetermined cost and quality. Adherence to contract conditions is made transparent to all stakeholders using digital tools, and generated data triggers actions to providers and patients to improve the care process.

Mothers know up front which services they are entitled to and are empowered to choose where they want to access care. Healthcare providers use the MomCare card to charge for the services they have provided, with all services captured in a digital application. After submitting digital claims to the administrator, facilities are paid based on pre-agreed prices and services. All data submitted for payment were also analyzed and used to monitor the services provided to ensure it adhered to clinical guidelines, while helping medical staff uncover health disparities and manage high-risk patients. Since healthcare facilities were precontracted, they could use payments to purchase medical supplies and commodities for maternal care from MSD or a prime vendor, knowing they will attract more women to their facility for providing quality care.

### RESULTS

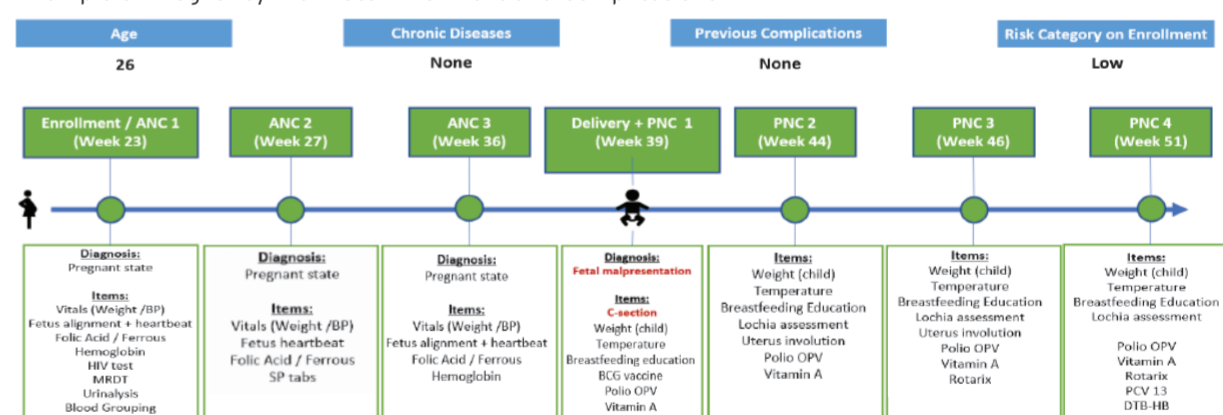
Overall, the data showed that women enrolled in the MomCare program have safer pregnancy journeys due to the continuity of (quality) care, by following maternal guidelines and ensuring that clinics are continuously working and investing in quality improvement. MomCare thus contributed to better and safer antenatal and postnatal care, as well as an increased and improvement of referrals and skilled deliveries, reducing the risks of harm for both mothers and babies.

### MomCare Results: Improved Pregnancy Journeys in Tanzania



*"Previously, some mothers were afraid of coming to deliver at the hospital because of the costs they thought they could incur. However, with MomCare, mothers can now pay for all of the required tests and supplies with their MomCare card. As such, we have seen that women are more motivated to continue attending appointments and coming to deliver at health facilities, leading to better health outcomes."*  
 -Hilda Mrema, Nurse at Siha District Hospital and District Coordinator Community Based Health Services - Siha District Council, Kilimanjaro

### Example of Pregnancy with Late Enrollment and Complications



The figure above shows an example of the available disaggregated data per patient, to guide healthcare providers. This example shows a 26 year old high-risk patient at Charlotte Hospital in the Kilimanjaro Region (June - Oct 2020).

### CONCLUSION AND LESSONS LEARNED

The MomCare model has shown a proof of concept for how a digitally-enabled demand-side financed model can provide an efficient and transparent way of financing maternal care while empowering tens of thousands of women and improving key maternal health outcomes.

Crucially, the model provided accurate data, which can be used to track individual pregnant women (see Figure.1 above) or provide aggregated data for pregnant women accessing services at a facility or administrative area. The availability of these data is important to track quality of services provided to women and cost of care at individual level.

By paying facilities directly based on services they provide, we also found that healthcare providers are empowered to purchase required supplies as per their needs and minimize supply chain challenges, hence ensure availability of stock at all times. Furthermore, the direct payment has allowed facilities to make long lasting investments to their infrastructure and equipment, to ultimately strengthen the entire healthcare system. And, as services improved, patients' trust towards these services increased, making them more likely to access services in the future and increasing their willingness to contribute towards health insurance.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Since independence, the government has implemented several strategies to reduce maternal deaths in the country. Although there is recorded improvement, the number of maternal deaths is still disturbingly high. So far, the maternal care financing in the country has been using supply-side model since independence. The results from MomCare suggest that perhaps it is time to think about changing the current model to a (digital-enabled) demand-side financing model. With the digital developments, it is now possible to target women and make sure the funds reach their digital wallet at almost zero costs.

The model also shows how mobile and digital technology can serve as an enabler to accelerate UHC and build trust and transparency in the healthcare system for healthcare providers, payers and patients. If scaled further, digital models such as MomCare should be integrated with government's digital systems (including electronic medical records) for interoperability, while government will also need to invest further in digital infrastructure in line with the National Digital Health Strategy 2021-2024.



For more information about MomCare, please email Dr. Heri Marwa (Country Director, PharmAccess Tanzania) on: h.marwa@pharmaccess.ortz

## TMDA warns over illegal selling of emergency birth control pills

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has warned pharmacy owners, pharmacists and other health professionals over illegal sale of emergency contraceptive pills (ECP) to rescue users from side effects including infertility.

The authority continuously monitors the quality, safety and effectiveness of medicines, medical devices and reagents through vigilance and post-marketing surveillance activities whereby vigilance centres have been established and effectively used throughout the country.

Speaking to journalists over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, TMDA Director for Clinical Trials Control and Pharmacovigilance, Kissa Mwamwitwa said there has been an arbitrary use of emergency contraception pills among women and girls.

"Incorrect use of emergency contraception method might affect a woman's menstruation period, thus leading to challenges in getting pregnant," said Mwamwitwa.

She said the authority continues to prevent its use as well as educating people that the drugs should not be

used arbitrarily. She said the authority advises women not to use the drugs without a doctor's prescription.

Mwamwitwa urged health workers and pharmacists to advise people on proper use of the medicine and its side effects.

TMDA Director General, Adam Fimbo called upon the community to use mobile and patient reporting systems for the adverse event or incident quick detections made and reported through the established Safety and Quality Reporting tool (SQRT) for prompt remedial regulatory action.

"We are encouraging people to use medication, so the adverse events shouldn't jeopardize the users and make them stop taking medication. We continue to control the use of some medicines and ask the medical providers to educate people on its side effects," said Fimbo.

TMDA was the first national regulatory authority (NRA) in Africa to attain Maturity Level Three for setting up a robust medicines regulatory system in 2018.

The status made Tanzania the first country among members of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Africa to reach the advanced medicines regulatory system.



Workers with the College of African Wildlife Management located at Mweka in Kilimanjaro Region take part in an environmental hygiene operation in marking the college's 60th anniversary. Deputy principal Prof Wahabu Kimaro led the initiative. Photo by Correspondent Cheji Bakari

## TBS launches inspection of expired goods in Handeni

By Guardian Correspondent, Handeni

TANZANIA Bureau of Standards (TBS) at the weekend made an inspection of expired goods as well as educating traders and the public in general at Msomera village, Handeni District, Tanga Region on the importance of adhering shelf life of goods in shops, especially foodstuffs.

TBS officials identifies such goods and removed them from shelves, especially drinks and stressed upon traders to abide shelf life of goods as well as selling high quality goods.

Speaking at Msomera Auction area after inspection and provision of education to traders and members of public, TBS Food Safety Officer for the Northern Zone, Mariam Maarufu said the Bureau is well mobilised to ensure all sub-standard products are removed from the market including those whose shelf life had expired in order to protect the health of

consumers.

"Today we are here at Msomera Village and have inspected various shops in which we identified and removed from shelves all expired products and educated the people to make sure they inspect the expiry dates on the products they buy as a measure to protect their own health."

Simon Kipondo, one of the traders, a Msomera resident, advised TBS to continue with what it is doing.

For his part, Martine Paraketi, Msomera Village Chairman commended TBS for remembering them by coming inspecting shops in their area as well as for the education given as it has opened up their eyes in regard to various issues they had no knowledge of.

He also called on TBS to enhance the provision of education to enable many people to understand TBS activities and what is required on the part of consumers when buying goods from shops.

## Jafo urges mining firms to protect environment

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

MINING companies have been tasked to comply with environmental procedures and laws to help Tanzania and the world deal with the climate change crisis.

Dr Selemani Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice President Office responsible for Union and Environment Affairs made the call here yesterday when speaking to journalists after planting trees and visiting the stalls of the ongoing 6th Geita Mining and technology exhibition.

The minister instructed the companies to learn how Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) implements the environmental policy as it is the exemplary mining company that complies with the Environmental Protection Act.

He said in his capacity as Minister of State Office, Vice President Union and Environment, he carefully monitors the activities of mining companies to protect the environment, especially considering that gold production also causes the presence of metals dangerous to the environment.

"But of all the companies that are committed to preserving the environment, GGML is the one, so I want to encourage you to continue with the same spirit to ensure that the environment is taken care of."

"As a consequence of developing the economy through minerals (extraction), but if we don't take care of the environment, we will have serious consequences...remember that climate change is a global phenomenon," Jafo

said, adding: "Let's continue to grow the economy but protect the environment. GGML remains a key stakeholder and we the government need stakeholders like you to work together to ensure that the country moves forward."

Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde said he would monitor the sector to ensure that all mining activities comply with the Geita's environmental protection policies.

Nyang'hwale District Commissioner, Grace Kingalame, who was welcomed by the Geita District Commissioner, Martin Shigella, said the region had planned to plant 1500 trees this year.

He said that since the tree planting campaign started, the region has been leading the way and has managed to plant more than one million trees.

GGML's environmental manager, Mhando Yusuph, said that the mine has an environmental policy that covers three main areas to prevent of pollution, compliance with environmental legislation and sustainable improvement of the environment.

"Therefore, everything that is done at the mine is based on environmental protection. We consider environmental management within the mine for all mining activities and ensure that we do not pollute water sources such as rivers and ponds within the mine."

"To ensure that this policy is followed, we regularly test the water outside and inside the mine (footprint). But remember that mining involves the removal of tree resources, so when an area is no longer used, we plant trees," says Yusuph.

## Zanzibar to provide IDs to 25,000 elderly pensioners

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government is set to provide 25,000 identity cards to all the elderly who receive pensions to enable them to various services including when they receive their community pensions.

Riziki Pemba Juma, Zanzibar Minister for Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children made the remarks here at the weekend when submitting his report

regarding views, recommendations of the House Community Development Committee for FY 2022/23 at Chukwani, Unguja.

He said a total of 25,000 IDs are expected to be issued during FY 2023/24 to all elders who receive community pensions.

He added that his ministry, in collaboration with the President Office, Regional Administration and Local Government and the Zanzibar Special Departments continue with

procedures to print the IDs.

However, Juma said a total of 3,668 IDs have already been issued out of 28,776 elders targeted by June this year.

He further said the ministry has also provided training on Community Pension services to 31 new shehas in Unguja North "B" District as well as to 30 shehas of Wete and Micheweni districts in Pemba.

He added that the ministry is using various ways to educate the

community in regard to the issue of pension including Facebook, twitter (X), Instagram and Youtube as well as participating in various festivals and exhibitions.

He explained that the ministry has also finalised verification with the aim of satisfying itself on the existence of a total of 11,850 elders as beneficiaries of the community pension scheme, adding that the verification was done from house to house in all districts of Unguja and Pemba.

For her part, the Chairman of the House Community Development Committee Sabina Filfil Thani said the panel commends the ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children for being able to finalise the verification exercise of elders and the preparation of the IDs.



Russian Cultural Centre director Aleey Bondaruk speaks at a capacity building workshop for Tanzanian youths held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He gave feedback on a recent symposium held in Russia which brought together young Africans. Left is Russia's Ambassador to Tanzania, Andrey Avetisyan. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Public urged to protect, develop open spaces

By Guardian Reporter

JERRY Silaa, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, has urged the general public to protect and develop open spaces so that the intended purposes of hoarding them are achieved.

He made the sentiments over the weekend when he toured open space

areas in Mbweni in Dar es Salaam, saying the ministry was aiming to administer proper city planning.

"Let me call upon all Tanzanians who are residing in open areas to protect them, there open spaces in Mwananyamala which have been turned into garage others into latrines, this cannot be a city," he said.

Silaa said: "This was the time for

land management offices and those responsible for urban planning to take their responsibility to develop open spaces. I have a list of open space areas which have turned into something different."

He called upon Tanzanians to be the leading protectors of open space adding that there has been a tendency in recent days where people invade and

construct residential and commercial buildings in open space areas.

He directed all local government authorities to administer and educate the general public on best practices to use open spaces.

Minister Silaa's tour to inspect open spaces in Mbweni Dar es Salaam was part of his strategies to ensure that all open spaces remain open.

# Polish surgery specialist commends government

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PROF Tomasz Mroczek, pediatric heart surgery specialist from Jagiellonian University in Poland, has commended the government for training its cardiologists and purchase of modern medical equipment.

Prof Mroczek gave the compliments recently when addressing journalists at the closing of a five-day camp for treatment of children with cardiac complications at the Jakaya Kikwete Heart Institute (JKCI).

Prof Mroczek said his visit to Tanzania aimed at witnessing how doctors at JKCI perform heart surgery and possibilities of cooperating in performing complicated surgeries.

"I have seen doctors performing complicated surgeries to repair blood vessels of the heart. JKCI has experienced professionals and medical equipment that uses modern technologies as those in developed countries," he added.

He said: "I have met experts with whom we have performed heart surgeries together. It's my belief that this partnership will be sustainable."

JKCI Executive Director, Dr Peter Kisenge thanked the specialists from Poland saying their presence has helped to train local doctors. He said during the five days doctors were able to perform complicated heart surgeries.

"We have signed an agreement with our colleagues from Jagiellonian University in Poland to collaborate in training, research and treatment," said

Dr Kisenge, noting the five children who underwent major heart surgery during the camp have cost 200m/-, thus saving more than 100m/-, if they were to be treated abroad.

Prof Bartconie Guzik from Jagiellonian University in Poland who performed heart surgery using a Cathlab machine said Tanzanian doctors are ready to learn to help people with heart problems.

Director of Surgery at JKCI, Dr Angela Muhozya, said the presence of the doctors have given hope to children and provide an opportunity for local experts to learn more on heart surgery.

JKCI children's heart surgeon, Godwin Sharau, said the presence of expert doctors from Poland has helped them learn more because they managed to perform major surgery on five children within three days.



**I have met experts with whom we have performed heart surgeries together. It's my belief that this partnership will be sustainable**

## Young women entrepreneurs advised to invest in producing quality products

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

YOUNG women entrepreneurs have been advised to invest in producing quality products while branding themselves so as to grab more opportunities in the competitive business market.

Speaking yesterday during the Top 50 Young Women Entrepreneurs (YWE) Awards ceremony, Dr Jesca Nkwabi, chairperson and founder of YWE said that in today's competitive world branding has become an indispensable tool for entrepreneurs' success.

She said that by developing a distinct personal brand women entrepreneurs can make a lasting impression and establish themselves as trusted authority in their respective fields.

The event was organized by YWE in collaboration with KBB attorneys at law, Reverse and Brad realty.

"Female entrepreneurs should know that the business world is flooded with companies that offer similar products or services making it challenging for consumers to distinguish them and in such an environment a well-crafted personal brand can serve as a beacon guiding a special customer toward a particular entrepreneur's offering," she noted.

Personal branding enables women entrepreneurs to leverage their unique perspective and experiences because women often bring fresh insights and approaches to business challenges which can be a significant asset in a competitive market, she said.

"By branding themselves they can showcase their distinctive viewpoints and connect with the audiences who appreciate diversity and innovation, a move that not only helps in attracting a broader customers' base but also fosters creativity within the business community," Nkwabi noted.

She further added that personal branding empowers women entrepreneurs to build a network of support and collaboration because in many industries women are still underrepresented and breaking into a male dominated network can be challenging however a strong personal brand can open doors to valuable connections and partnership.

By positioning themselves as industry leaders women entrepreneurs can gain the respect and recognition needed to collaborate with key players in their field ultimately enhancing their business opportunities," she said.

Tanzania's young women entrepreneurs are driving economic growth and societal change and this event underscores the significance of acknowledging and supporting their

contributions as they inspire future generations of women leaders, she added.

Irene Ivambi, Founder of Mrembo Naturals said that personal branding allow women entrepreneurs to build confidence and self-assurance because the process of defining and promoting one's personal brand involving self-reflection and self-promotion can be a transformative journey that help women entrepreneurs recognise their strengths and capabilities and as they become more confident in their abilities they are better equipped to tackle the challenges of the competitive business world.

"By investing in their personal brands women entrepreneurs can not only thrive in the business world but also contribute to the great gender equality and diversity in entrepreneurship," noted Ivambi

Beatrice Kimaro, Chief Executive Officer at Brad Realty said that personal branding can help women entrepreneurs overcome gender bias and stereotype in various industries by highlighting competence, professionalism and expertise.

"Personal branding is essential for women entrepreneurs in today's competitive business market because it sets them apart by leveraging their unique perspective, facilitates networking, building confidence, counter bias, and inspires other women out there," she pointed.

The Top 50 Young Women Entrepreneurs awards ceremony is a tribute to innovation, tenacity, and visionary leadership which aims to honour the accomplishments of these exceptional women who have not only carved a niche for themselves but have also contributed significantly to their communities and the nation's economic prosperity. These women are from different sectors such as services, real estate, manufacturing, beauty, Mining and cosmetics



**By investing in their personal brands women entrepreneurs can not only thrive in the business world but also contribute to the great gender equality and diversity in entrepreneurship**



Smart Deus (R), a sales and communications officer with GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd, briefs Deputy Prime Minister Dr Doto Biteko (L), who doubles as Energy minister, when the latter visited the firm's pavilion during the ongoing Geita Mining Exhibition yesterday. Next to Dr Biteko is Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Temeke Referral Hospital sets health camp at Yombo Vituka

By Guardian Reporter

TEMEKE Regional Referral Hospital, in collaboration with Temeke Municipal Council has set up a medical treatment camp at Yombo Vituka health centre in order to provide better medical specialist services for the residents of the Municipality and beyond.

The camp has involved medical

specialists and specialist doctors in various fields including diabetes, kidney, heart, urinary dental and eye diseases.

Other services provided include gynecology, nutrition, respiratory and ear, nose and throat (ENT) problems and has so far provided health services to 636 people.

Closing the camp, the Director of Temeke Regional Referral Hospital,

Dr Joseph Kimaro said the Hospital continues to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts in bringing medical and specialist services closer to the people, and added that so far 636 people have received medical examination and treatment at the camp.

For his part, Dr Daniel Ringo, Temeke District Medical Officer stressed on the importance of the treatment camp

closer to the people and commended all doctors and other health staff for their participation.

"We have witnessed your wonderful commitment, in truth specialist doctors from Temeke and Yombo Vituka have done a great job." He added.

For his part a Yombo Vituka resident, Urassa James praised President Samia's efforts in bringing health services to the people.



Tourism stakeholders attending a tourism exhibition now in progress at Kihesa in Kilolo District, Iringa Region, surround the Mkongoma Kalenga spring for water to drink and wash their hands with in the ages-old belief that doing so has exorcising powers. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

## NGO inaugurates campaign to fight FGM

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

VOICE of Maasai, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has launched an initiative that focuses on fighting female circumcision, educating the Maasai community on the importance of taking their children to school and mobilising in the protection of the land owned by the Maasai pastoralist community. The initiative has been established

by the Maasai pastoralist community in villages in Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions.

Addressing reporters at the weekend, Voice of Maasai official, Jeremy Evans said the NGO is engaged in reaching the Maasai communities to promote various talents they hold.

He added that they have also been educating the Maasai community in regard to issues affecting them, including challenges they face.

He said the aim for establishing the NGO is to endeavour to change the Maasai's concept through various communications that benefit them instead of them toiling without any benefit.

Evans added that they have been providing education on the issue of female circumcision, to protect their land and urging them to take their children to school.

He explained that in promoting their

talents including music, the NGO has been able to record various artists in their own language that carry various messages to the community.

He said the institution has marked 10 years since its establishment by visiting various tourist attractions including Serengeti, NCAA and were wooed by the Maasai traditions.

He said after being so attracted they resolved to develop talents of the Maasai clan as part in preserving their cultural history as well as assisting them to solve various challenges they face.

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## Bank CEO's ingenuity points to need for financial sector liaisons

**T**AKING Tanzania to the mainstream of regional and international financial market activity has taken three decades and as the records show, the results are fairly limited if one proceeds from the stock exchange as the point of departure. It has grown up but there is still just a tiny portion of the multitude of 'big tax payers' as yet listed on the stock exchange. A number of commercial banks are listed there, chiefly the local privatised banks and some next door major commercial banks.

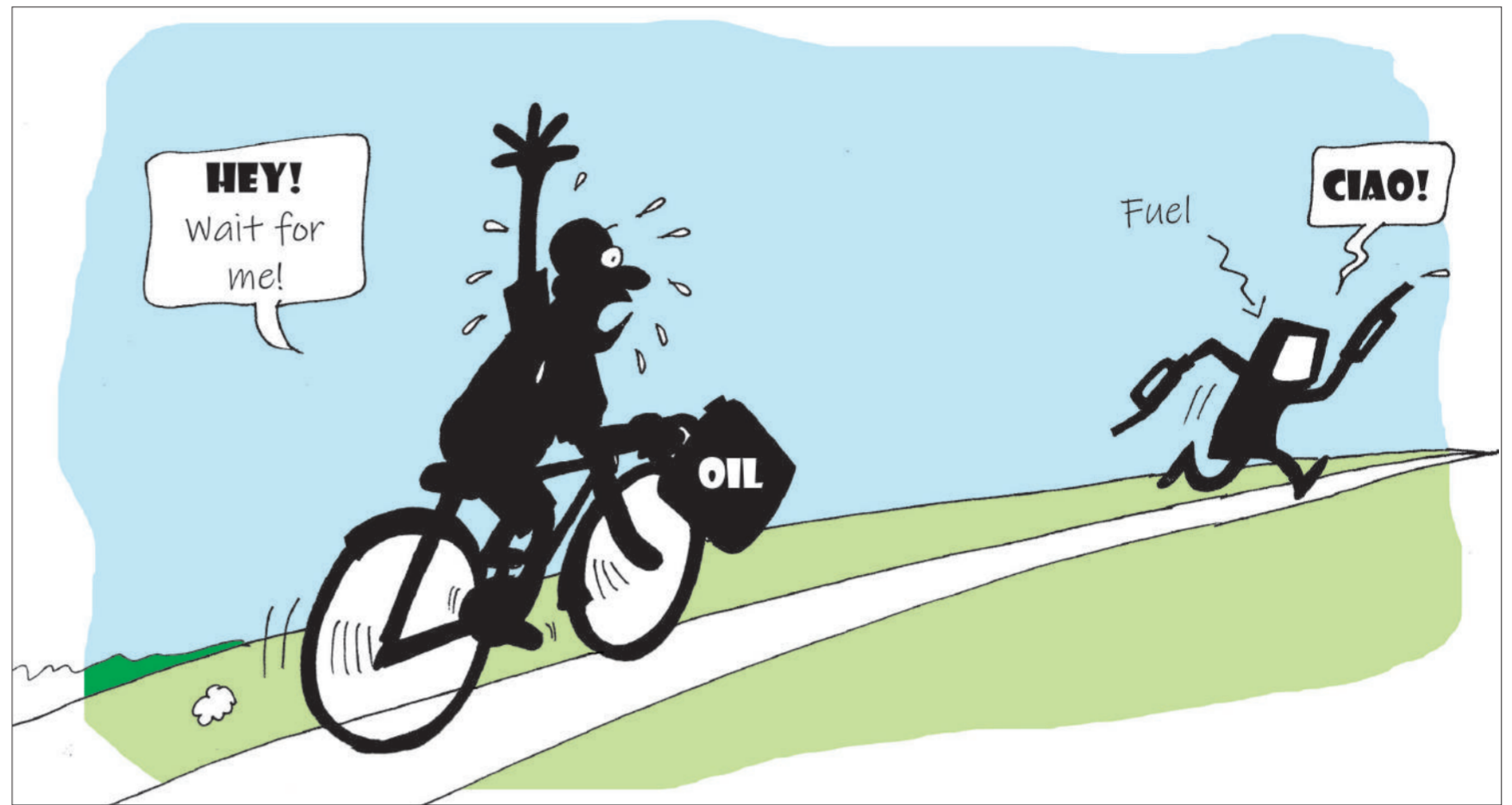
On the other hand there is an effort at market penetration by banks that is now taking a digital form, while this effort is belied by the structural weaknesses of the physical production of goods and services. Inviting banks and other foreign investors to stock exchange activity is a still dormant pillar as companies seek to raise fresh money by savings or bank loans, offering land as collateral, to start firms. There is no direct take up of products or services by financial markets as investment markets are poorly defined. We have individual investors, not a market.

This situation can be rather stressful for bank executives seeking to go beyond the usual limits of what banks offer or can expect to receive from depositors, investors, etc and take up roles that are relevant to well-developed financial markets. In addition, there are social roles that big enterprises are these days expected to take up, and where the market has a considerable mix of actors, much of this can be arranged locally in the way in which various financial institutions take up bond offers. As this is still rather limited, individual efforts come up to fill in the gap.

That is partially what can be comprehended in efforts by the CRDB Bank CEO to reach out to a number of leading banks outside, seeking the sort of partnerships that is potentially available here but actors aren't polished as yet for the task. A number of global lenders the CEO visited have local operations and their local branches are at times the biggest lenders to the government. They are part of Treasury operations while having few roles in stock markets, and even less, in corporate outreach to communities. That is how a gap is created that some top executives wish it is filled, to improve financial sector standing as a whole.

Reports said that the CEO held meetings with asset managers, commercial bank executives and development finance institutions in the United States, Britain, the European Union, the Middle East and Africa. Among them was Standard Bank, a UK group whose South African arm trades here as Stanbic Bank. It is among the leading lenders to the government but not so active in stock, community issues.

It is unclear how far discussions on investments are advanced, beyond the time it takes to licence a project, after large amounts are deposited in a commercial bank and license is sought. There are individual asset managers from nearby countries purchasing and selling shares at DSE. After the government took the decision to allow foreigners to purchase houses here, it could go a step further and allow market based mergers and acquisitions, to dynamise industry, services and real estate. Impeding these operations limits the flow of investments, thus industries, jobs.



## North Africa: Tales of sorrow, tears and blood

By Olusegun Adeniyi

**I**T says so much about our country that the government as well as our citizens appear oblivious to the monumental human misery in Morocco and Libya. Given the magnitude of the catastrophe in the two North African countries, the federal government should have offered relief measures aside coordinating efforts at the level of individual citizens and corporate bodies to render support to the beleaguered people. Unfortunately, I would not be surprised if Nigerians are too consumed by their own existential challenges to be aware of what happened in Morocco and Libya. For such people, I will attempt to break it down.

It all started the evening of 8th September when a powerful earthquake struck a densely populated area near the Moroccan Atlas Mountains. The earthquake struck at 11 PM local time, which explains why in some cases, entire families were wiped out. With communities in the foothills completely flattened by massive boulders loosened from the mountains, no fewer than 2,946 people have reportedly died while the number of injured has been put at 5,674. Since when it rains on the continent, it pours, less than 48 hours after the tragedy in Morocco, 'Storm Daniel'—regarded as the deadliest and costliest Mediterranean tropical-like cyclone ever recorded in history—landed in Libya after wreaking enormous damage in Greece, Bulgaria, and Turkey.

Two dams in the Libyan coastal city of Derna were destroyed, turning streets into rivers, as thousands of desperate people were swept away with their houses and other possessions into the Mediterranean Sea. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) last weekend put the figures of death at 11,300 with 10,100 people declared missing.

I have read numerous heartrending stories describing these two African tragedies, some of which are almost of apocalyptic proportions. In the Morocco earthquake, for instance, Tayeb ait Ighenbaz was faced with the kind of choice nobody should pray to make: With his parents and his 11-year-old son trapped in the rubble, he had a few seconds to decide who needed his attention first. At the end, he saved his son but lost his parents. "It all happened so quickly. When the earthquake happened, we all ran to the door. My dad was sleeping, and I shouted at my mum to come, but she stayed behind to wait for him," he lamented while recalling how he had to dig quickly to pull his son out of the rubble. "I couldn't help my parents because the wall fell over half of their bodies. I saw my parents dying," Tayeb reportedly said with tears.

Meanwhile, the situation in Libya has been described as "disastrous beyond comprehension" by an official of the

World Health Organization (WHO). When the two dams collapsed in Derna, according to him, "the water was released like an atomic bomb." In a note of anguish, the Libyan Minister of Civil Aviation, Hichem Chkiouat, lamented on Monday that many of the corpses have remained where the water left them. "Bodies are lying everywhere - in the sea, in the valleys, under the buildings. I am not exaggerating when I say that 25% of the city has disappeared," Chkiouat told Reuters. A female local blogger, Sondos Shuwaib, recounted her horrifying experience. "There were corpses next to me, and corpses above me, and corpses beneath me...I am not able to comprehend what happened," she wrote. "Sometimes I thank God for my survival - but when I remember my family...I wish I had died with them."

The account of Husam Abdelgawi, a 31-year-old accountant, who spoke to the BBC, is equally gripping. Woken up by a barking dog, he was confronted with what he described as a "ghastly, unimaginable scene, worse than death itself to witness". When water flooded his house, Husam and his younger brother were lucky to float on power cables still tethered to their poles which helped to ferry them towards a nearby building they entered through a third-floor window. It was from there they made it to a fifth-floor rooftop. "The bodies of women and children were floating past us. Cars and entire houses were caught up in the current. Some of the bodies were swept by the water into our house," Husam recalled.

With heavy rainfall accompanied by storms increasingly becoming a problem in a desert country, we need to learn the lessons of Climate Change we are yet to imbibe in Nigeria. But those are issues for another day. Video reports of what happened in Morocco and Libya resemble scenes from horror movies. But while people all over the world are showing solidarity to the traumatised survivors in both countries, Nigerians are moving on as if nothing happened. It is true we have our own challenges, but I have also heard that the worst kind of poverty is when you believe you have nothing to give, especially to others in distress. As it is with individuals, so it is for nations.

With almost a million people affected by the tragedy in a country of 6.88 million people, where there are already more than 300,000 displaced people because of war, Libya faces a very difficult future. Morocco is also challenged but it has enough capacity to pull through. Climate change, according to President Bola Tinubu in his maiden address at the United Nations General Assembly, "severely impacts Nigeria and Africa. Northern Nigeria is hounded by desert encroachment on once arable land. Our south is pounded by the rising tide of coastal flooding and erosion. In the middle, the rainy season brings floods that kill and displace multitudes." But he also did not forget to highlight the tragedies in Morocco and Libya,

with a pledge: "The Nigerian people are with you."

The president must match his word with action. The federal government, corporate bodies, and our citizens must rise for the people of Morocco and Libya in the spirit of African brotherhood and human solidarity.

Endorsing The 'Dave Umahi Protocol' Concrete roads require significant technical expertise, whereas laying bitumen roads is simple. This has resulted in all manner of people with political connections, including certified crooks, being in the business of road construction in Nigeria. It is therefore little wonder that many of the expensive asphalt roads across the country hardly survive beyond two rainy seasons before they collapse. Apparently determined to change that narrative, the Minister of Works, Mr Dave Umahi has decided to go for concrete roads. And not surprisingly, the contractors are fighting back.

I have never met Umahi, but it is difficult to fault his argument that concrete roads are better suited for our environment. "We'll redesign our roads in reinforced concrete pavement...I know that there are a lot of fights from contractors, but I am David, I am known for fight, and I will fight this because I have reported myself to Mr President" said Umahi last weekend at the State House. The former Governor of Ebonyi may be a David but if he imagines the only Goliath before him are the contractors then, he needs to be schooled in Abujapolitics. The real fightback will come from the National Assembly where budgets are usually cannibalized to take care of 'constituency projects', including perishable roads without designs—the kind of thing that Umahi wants to fight.

Arguments for concrete roads are quite compelling and I will rehash some that I once highlighted on this page. One, concrete roads have a long lifespan of between 25 and 50 years and do not require frequent repair or patching, unlike asphalt roads. Two, concrete roads can support trucks and articulated vehicles carrying heavy loads with less impact than asphalt roads.

Three, concrete roads do not get damaged by such things as leaking oil from vehicles or by weather conditions like excess rain or extreme heat. Four, it is now empirically proven that a vehicle, when run over a concrete road, consumes between 15 to 20 percent less fuel than when on asphalt roads. Five, concrete roads are more environmentally friendly since asphalt (bitumen) produces highly polluting gases at the time of melting. Six, asphalt (bitumen which we import) is produced from petroleum, a wasting asset, whereas concrete (cement) is produced from limestone that is available in abundance, especially in Nigeria.

However, a major concern about concrete roads is that of safety. In rainy seasons, vehicles tend to slide

on concrete roads, making them easily susceptible to accidents. In our kind of environment where motorists hardly obey traffic rules, that is a serious issue that we should not gloss over. There is also the challenge of maintenance. Since repairing concrete roads means replacing damaged slabs, that may also make its maintenance cost higher than that of asphalt. Notwithstanding, my vote is for concrete roads.

We can learn from India, which has the second largest network of the roads in the world (6,331,791 kilometres as of December 2022) after the United States. In India, the first concrete road was built in 1914 and because it remained pot-hole free for about 60 years, that has continued to encourage the trend in the country. If insanity means doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting different outcomes, there is no reason we should continue to build asphalt roads that are often washed away after heavy rainfall when we have the option to build concrete roads that are more durable.

On Monday, I received a mail from a reader who wrote "with a sense of despair on how far things have degenerated in our dear country", as he related his experience last Sunday on the road from Lagos to Auchi, Edo State. He left Lagos at 9am but 'was fortunate' to have arrived his destination by 8.30pm (11 and a half hour for a journey that ordinarily should take no more than four hours) whereas many other travellers spent the night on the road. Around Sabongida-Ora, according to him, two trailers got stuck and blocked the road. "Communities along the road had erected barriers, but the tragedy of Nigeria was such that it became an avenue for youths to collect money from truck drivers before opening the barriers. Now this was where my luck came. I saw people going and coming to take me to Afuze, a distance of about five kilometres". He eventually continued his journey from Afuze to Auchi on another stretch of terrible road. "Next day I left for Abuja and that road is another sad story of where we are as a country."

Why must we continue to waste money on building seasonal roads? Yes, I am following the debate. The contractors are protesting because they consider what I now describe as "The Umahi Protocol" abrupt. I believe the Minister should dialogue with them on a transition plan. I also believe there should be a national policy on this issue. Unlike concrete roads that require specifications, asphalt roads, especially the kind being built by most contractors in Nigeria, are easily washed away after a heavy downpour. That explains why as many as five contracts can be awarded on the same road within a decade. According to Umahi, the president has already bought into his idea to change from asphalt to concrete for road construction in Nigeria. He can also count on my support.

## With current forex trends, we can beat the odds to hold gold reserves

**U**PWARDS of three decades have elapsed from the time that the Bank of Tanzania ended purchasing gold especially from artisan miners to restoring that procedure. Part of what leads to that situation is clear, that it is harder to assure international currency reserves as the dollar is scarcer, which means banks avoid as far as they can to borrow dollars for daily needs, and people reduce their volumes of business. Tourism grows less rapidly, imports are slightly more expensive and people buy less of various brands, without causing any inflation.

The central bank governor did not rush to reclaim the need for more foreign exchange reserves but went on a sector-specific explanation that BoT has begun implementing a plan to buy gold from small-scale miners and larger firms to simplify the country's gold trade. In a tour of horizon at a mining technology exhibition at the mining town of Geita, the governor affirmed that BoT seeks to boost internal reserves and increase the country's access to foreign currency. He all the same noted the sector specific issue of the government taking up a long time appeal from small miners to provide a channel for a reliable gold market.

The governor also signaled greater readiness to play the global market game by pegging prices paid to local gold miners at the world market level. Some of those listening to the speech would have recalled a discovery in the past month of a large cache of gold which customs officials somewhere in the South Asian market for all that glitters said was gold sourced from Tanzania. People do all they can to smuggle precious stones or metals if

they are paid peanuts locally.

The datum the governor gave was encouraging, as to BoT having purchased

418 kgs at the main gold market so far, and noticeably discounted the threat of BoT incurring massive losses like various banks that went bust after purchasing large amounts of counterfeit gold.

This was the reason cited back in 1992 when the central bank ceased to purchase gold, and it now says it will buy processed gold at plants that add value at internationally accepted standards. All this is valid as precision technology, detection tools are plentiful, but worry remains.

If the central bank exercises rigorous checks along the value chain to ensure that middle level staff don't add fake gold bars at Treasury expense, chances that the foreign exchange situation will be improved this way are significant. When the demand for gold and foreign current as a whole is normal or rather low, hoarding gold and selling at one's own time, or keeping it as reserves, may not pay off handsomely. It is a different matter when people are seeking for gold or hard currency, as they are interchangeable, so there are more benefits than risks.

Deputy premier Dr Doto Biteko affirmed that the central bank has been tasked with setting up a gold reserve, which means it is a parallel foreign currency reserve. Depending on the actual availability of gold countrywide and level of dependability of the processing, keeping reserves is an excellent auxiliary to earning more from exports. Even compared to tourism, there is potentially a higher niche for increasing foreign reserves by gold, if BoT collects most of it.



# Poverty and hunger eradication feared to miss UN's 2030 deadline by wide margins

UNITED NATIONS

**W**HEN the UN's 193 member states reviewed the current status of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by 2030, the verdict was mostly failures—and with little or no successes.

The hunger/poverty nexus was best characterized by Alvaro Lario, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), who warned last week that under current trends, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030—and as many people suffering from hunger by 2030 as in 2015 (600 million people).

"Hunger remains a political issue, mostly caused by poverty, inequality, conflict, corruption and overall lack of access to food and resources. In a world of plenty, which produces enough food to feed everyone, how can there be hundreds of millions going hungry?" he asked.

According to the UN, all developing countries also suffer from severe debt problems. These countries cannot fund progress on the SDGs if they are facing exorbitant borrowing costs and paying more on debt servicing than on health or education.

"Developing countries face borrowing costs up to eight times higher than developed countries - a debt trap. And one in three countries around the world is now at high risk of a fiscal crisis. Over 40 per cent of people living in extreme poverty are in countries with severe debt challenges," warned UN Secretary-General António Guterres last week.

The high-level segment of the General Assembly attracted about 88 Heads of State, six vice presidents, 43 Heads of Government, four deputy prime ministers, 41 ministers, seven chiefs of delegations, plus three high-level speakers from UN observer states.

The high-level meetings included the SDG Summit and a forum on Financing for Development (FFD), among others. The active participants also included scores of civil society organizations (CSOs).

Mandeep S. Tiwana, Chief Officer - Evidence and Engagement at CIVICUS told IPS that a major reason the SDGs are off-track is because 85% of the world's population live in countries with severe civic space restrictions which severely impedes meaningful civil society partnerships and deprives communities of innovations in sustainable development, service delivery to the most excluded, and importantly, transparency, accountability and participation in how development policies are implemented.

The ambitious SDG Stimulus put forward by Secretary General Guterres, he pointed out, should be accompanied by guarantees for civic freedoms and effective civil society partnerships.



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres

Otherwise, funds intended for sustainable development, that leaves 'no one behind', are likely to be channeled to support networks of patronage and to shore up repressive state apparatuses, he noted.

"It's unacceptable in this 75th year of the celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that civil society activists and investigative journalists should be persecuted for uncovering high level corruption and serious human rights violations".

He said demanding transformative social and economic policies is a dangerous activity in far too many countries around the world.

"The globe is facing an acute crisis of leadership due to a toxic mix of authoritarianism and populist nationalism which is leading to unabashed promotion of perceived national interest at the expense of the rules based international order intended to create a better world for all," Tiwana declared.

Guterres gave a new political twist to the SDGs when he said the "goals" were really "promises"

"A promise to build a world of health, progress and op-

portunity for all. A promise to leave no one behind. And a promise to pay for it".

This was not a promise made to one another as diplomats from the comfort of this chamber, he argued. "It was - always - a promise to people".

People crushed under the grinding wheels of poverty. People starving in a world of plenty. Children denied a seat in a classroom. Families fleeing conflicts, seeking a better life. Parents watching helplessly as their children die of preventable disease.

People losing hope because they can't find a job - or a safety net when they need it.

Entire communities literally on devastation's doorstep because of changing climate.

So, the SDGs aren't just a list of goals, he declared.

In an interview with IPS, Amitabh Behar, interim Executive Director of Oxfam International, said: "Unfortunately, in Oxfam's programmatic, advocacy, and campaigning work, we see clearly that at this half-way point, we are very off-track to achieve the SDGs."

The UN SG's latest progress report shows that 80% of

SDG targets are either showing weak progress or regression. Much blame is cast on the pandemic, but in reality - it simply magnified an already bleak trend.

By many measures, he said, Goal 10 is the furthest off-track of all the goals. For example, inequality between countries has risen for the first time in three decades.

Oxfam, a global organization that fights inequality to end poverty and injustice, is bringing this focus on inequality (Goal 10) and how it intersects with the entire 2030 agenda, said Behar who previously served as the Chief Executive Officer of Oxfam India.

At this year's General Assembly, Oxfam pushed leaders to make bold commitments and more importantly follow-up with action to get the SDGs back on track.

"We know what works to address these challenges, and we know there are more than enough resources to do so. We must ensure that resources and capacity are in the hands of those on the frontlines tackling these complex issues."

He said the lives and futures of millions of the most vulnerable people are directly impacted by the decisions and actions taken by leaders now and "we are running out of time".

"We heard leaders reiterating their commitments to tackling issues of inequality, hunger, poverty and more. If they can work together to prioritize and finance the solutions to these issues, there is still hope to get the 2030 agenda back on track."

Asked what was really needed to accelerate the pace, Behar said: "We are not seeing the financial and policy commitments from leaders needed to tackle the major challenges of our day - economic, gender and racial inequalities, the climate crisis, and the ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crises".

Most of the trends and barriers which are contributing to the dire state of SDG implementation, he said, were in place before COVID, including the widespread unwillingness to put in place highly redistributive fiscal policy at the national level - or other measures to rein in the power of the top 1% of large corporations, and the failure of rich countries to meet their commitments or responsibilities, climate finance, official development assistance (ODA), debt relief and international finance reform.

"We support the Secretary-General's emphasis on the importance of financing the SDGs and his call for an "SDG Stimulus" including a surge in development finance, reform of multi-lateral development banks, action on debt relief, the expansion of contingency financing in invest in basic services and clean energy, and to deal with the root causes of this situation".

"We are calling on leaders to work on these areas so we can regain the momentum we've lost on the SDGs and get back on track before we're too late," he declared.

IPS UN Bureau Report

## Better data and transparency needed if we are to live up to TB rhetoric at UN

By Sihle Mahonga Ndawonde

**T**HERE is a renewed global commitment to tackle tuberculosis (TB) from global leaders who are meeting in New York today (Friday) for the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB. The meeting is the second of its kind which, this year, also had a day dedicated to discussing universal health coverage and another for pandemic preparedness.

The high-level meeting comes out of a recognition that dealing with a disease like TB - which is treatable and curable but remains a global health emergency - needs more than a functional health system. It requires actionable political commitment.

When world leaders met for the first high-level meeting on TB in 2018, there was significant optimism that TB as an epidemic could be significantly reduced by 2030.

It saw more than 100 country delegations and 300 civil society groups converge and resulted in the development of a political declaration. This declaration noted that ultimately to end TB by 2030 there should be a 80% drop in new TB cases from 2015 levels, a 90% drop in people dying of TB, and 100% of TB-affected families should be protected from catastrophic costs. These were translated into various targets that were split across countries.

For South Africa, the commitment translated into the country diagnosing and treating about 1.1 million people between 2018 and 2022 and issuing preventative therapy to another 1.1 million who were classified as vulnerable.

But just more than a year after the 2018 meeting, the world was hit with the Covid-19 pandemic, which threw economies across the globe into distress and aggravated the existing challenges in health systems.

Figures released this week show that of the 40 million target, only 26.3 million people were reported to have been provided with TB treatment - that's 66% of the target.

stalled or reversed, and global tuberculosis targets are off track.

According to the UN, there has been an 18% drop in the number of people diagnosed with TB and notified to public health reporting systems.

The number of people who died from TB around the world increased in 2020 and 2021 and the number of people who fell ill also increased in 2021.

In South Africa alone, based on statistics from the World Health Organization, there was a 41% decline in TB case notifications in 2020, compared with 2019. This was mainly due to reduced TB testing, and not due to lower TB rates.

**What is actually happening?**  
While the high-level meeting's reprioritisation of TB and the political pressure publicly placed on country governments is critical for the global fight against TB, the meeting has opened another can of worms - what is actually happening in the TB response in South Africa?

TB remains on the government's hit list of health priorities, and various plans have been put in place to tackle it.

In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, South Africa's health authorities developed a TB Recovery Plan to help the country gain momentum in its TB response and regain some of its losses. A key part of the plan was finding and testing the undiagnosed patients and getting them on treatment. A total of 18 high-burden TB districts were identified and targeted. There was also a focus on implementing targeted universal testing for TB across provinces and scaling up routine annual TB testing for people who are in close contact with people who have TB.

In addition to this plan, earlier in 2023, the Department of Health released the new National Strategic Plan on HIV, TB and STIs 2023-2028, providing its five-year trajectory for the roll-out of its TB response.

South Africa has access to some of the best technologies in TB testing and treatment. The country has a collection of data systems that collect various statistics about the TB programme.

But the challenge in the case of South Africa is that despite these policy documents being released and the access to these technologies, there are still so many unknowns.



The second UN High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis is under way in New York. (Photo: Gallo Images / The Times / Esa Alexander)

There is no definitive figure stipulating how many people were tested for TB in 2022. Nor is there any figure indicating how many people were put on treatment. How many of them have been retained? And how many people are still lost to care? How many people who are in close contact with people living with TB were actually treated?

There are no publicly accessible dashboards which make real-time TB data available from facility, dis-

trict, provincial and national level.

And in terms of the financing linked to these programmes, there are also many gaps.

It is unclear how South Africa will fund the TB programme over the next five years. The Department of Health is unclear on how much is needed and where the money will come from.

All these factors make it impossible for organisations working in the TB space to establish whether

the government is meeting national targets that it set for itself in terms of the TB programme roll-out.

So, how do we even think about how they are measuring up to these targets set in global meetings? What is needed is more transparency on the part of the government.

The only way we can hold the government to account - and make sure there is progress - is if we are armed with the facts and figures attached to our

local programmes.

The reality is that the National Strategic Plan will be implemented over the next five years. But, by 2028, when it reaches its end point, there will only be two years left to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goal of ending TB.

Unless we have consistent in-country monitoring over the next five years to ensure that we are meeting targets, we will not know whether or not we are meeting the necessary

milestones. A recovery plan in limbo only indicates an unfavourable outcome.

The biggest catastrophe, however, at the end of the day is that there are still more than 50,000 people dying from TB in South Africa every year. More than 300,000 people fall ill with TB in the country every year, and tens of thousands of them are not diagnosed. Global targets aside, their lives matter most.

# 'Good news' for rhinos as Africa defies poaching crisis to boost populations

By Tiara Walters

**R**EVERSING a decade of decline, Africa's rhino population has risen amid the poaching crisis, according to an announcement by the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group (AFRSG), which has combined rhino data from range states to produce a continent-wide tally.

Marking World Rhino Day on Friday 22 September, the group said that Africa's rhino population had grown by 5.2% by the end of 2022, reaching 23,290 animals.

White rhinos, the larger and more docile of the two African species, had achieved something of a milestone, attaining their first increase in the decade since 2012.

Now at more than 16,800, the continent's white rhino population had increased by 5.6%.

Read more in Daily Maverick: Keen to save rhinos? Focus on their rear ends - not their horns - says veteran conservationist

A boost in critically endangered black rhinos had taken their numbers to nearly 6,500, thanks to "a combination of protection and biological management initiatives", said the group. That is an encouraging 4.2% rise from the previous year.

Also in 2022, Kenya's official records indicated a decline in rhino poaching, with just one incident compared with six in the previous year.

"With this good news, we can take a sigh of relief for the first time in a decade," said Dr Michael Knight, AFRSG chair.



Regardless of ongoing challenges in South Africa to secure the national herd, which remains the stronghold of the world's rhinos, the AFRSG announcement is undoubtedly good news.

### Hope springs elsewhere

The announcement is buoyed by yet another new development that has recently helped reinvigorate hope for the entire African herd: a landmark acquisition by the Johannesburg-based African Parks conservation NGO of about 2,000 southern white rhinos in the country's North West.

Formerly owned and managed by private rhino rancher John Hume on his Platinum Rhino farm, the animals will now be rewilded into safe zones over the next decade, the group announced in early September.

"The scale of this undertaking is simply enormous, and therefore daunting. However, it is equally one of the most exciting and globally strategic conservation opportunities," said African Parks CEO Peter Fearnhead. "We will be working with multiple governments, funding partners and conservation organisations, who are committed to making this rewilding vision a reality." Potential setbacks aside, the African Parks population is expected to fan out into a contingent of up to 3,000 over the next decade.

As reported by Daily Maverick's Tony Carnie, conservation groups are planning to move 300 animals a year. Groups in at least four African states - Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Kenya - have offered rewilding zones, Carnie reports.

### Think, well, small

Knight's assessment of the overall 2022 increase in rhino numbers remained conservative: "It is imperative to further consolidate and build upon this positive development."

Yet, it is equally imperative, the AFRSG chair added, "not to drop our guard".

Dr Sam Ferreira, AFRSG scientific officer, told Daily Maverick that, "while we celebrate the trends in African rhinos, we should remain vigilant and carry concerns for some of the Asian rhino species". Populations on the Asian continent continued to be critically endangered.

Ferreira said the "successes come from hard work of rangers and authorities but also have important lessons".

Also a large mammal ecologist with South African National Parks, Ferreira

urged the need to make rhinos relevant to communities: "Let the locals lead and ensure problems and solutions are debated and decided at the local level."

He stressed the value of "trustworthy partners - including governments that help with regulatory power" and "private industry and non-government organisations that provide operational nimbleness".

Advocating the need to think small, Ferreira advised: "Don't go too big because smaller areas allow operational situational awareness, easy ways to have credible and proud staff with integrity, and detailed knowledge of rhinos at individual levels." **DM**

# China, EU share common interests, cooperative partnership in automotive industry

BERLIN

**F**OLLOWING the EU's latest announcement to launch an anti-subsidy probe into Chinese electric vehicles (EVs), experts warned against the consequences of imposing any measures and deemed cooperation the best solution.

China believes that the investigation proposed by the EU is a practice of pure "protectionism," said a spokesperson with China's Ministry of Commerce, adding that the probe is, in essence, to protect the EU's own industry in the name of "fair competition."

Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer, director of the Germany-based CAR Center Automotive Research Duisburg, told Xinhua if measures should be taken against Chinese imports in Europe, it could be an absolute certainty that China will react.

"There is a very great risk ... We need cooperation with China, not a trade war," Dudenhoeffer said. "That would be a bad scenario for Germany, since Germany would lose a great deal." German carmakers like BMW, Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz all consider China as one of their most important markets.

The announcement of the probe came at a time when some Europeans fear the competition from China might take away the market share from European suppliers, although China and the EU have a broad space for cooperation and share common interests and cooperative partnership in the automobile industry.

In recent years, notably since the beginning of 2023, China's EV exports have witnessed a dramatic surge.

According to Chinese customs data, in the first eight months of this year, a staggering 3.216 million EVs were



William Li, the CEO of Chinese EV maker Nio, at the Shanghai auto show.

exported, marking a year-on-year net increase of 1.313 million EVs.

The European Commission, for its

part, reported that China's vehicle imports had reached 530,000 in 2022 and 350,000 in the first half of 2023.

It is noteworthy that the electric vehicle industry in China enjoys a robust cooperative partnership with the European and global automotive industry networks, and the creation of each electric vehicle involves the collaborative efforts of tens of thousands of suppliers from around the world, according to China Chamber of Commerce to the EU (CCCEU).

The China-EU new energy automotive sector is progressively coalescing into an industry chain characterized by mutual interdependence, said He Weiben, a senior researcher at the Center for China and Globalization.

China's electric vehicle battery maker Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Ltd.'s battery factory in Thuringia, Germany, launched earlier this year, boasts an annual battery output of 30 million units, with BMW as a prominent recipient.

"Cooperation on the production of

quality and cheap electric cars between European and Chinese manufacturers would be the best solution," said Kresimir Macan, a Croatian political and economic analyst.

"The market is large, everyone can benefit from it economically. Healthy competition and mutual cooperation will lead to cheaper cars.

Otherwise, Europeans will not be able to buy these cars, so the whole electric car project will fail," he added. "Both China and the EU should fervently encourage mutual investments in each other's companies, enhance the China-EU new energy vehicle industry and supply chains, and actively boost production and market expansion. This will ultimately lead to a mutually beneficial outcome for both parties," said He Weiben.

"Hasty interventions that impede electric vehicle trade and investment between China and the EU run counter to the interests of the European automobile industry and contravene the principles of free trade," He said.

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

## NIT to boost joint research projects with international partners, says council chair

PROF Ulingeta Mbamba was recently appointed as the new chairman of the National Institute of Transport (NIT) governing council. Our Correspondent Prosper Makene met and interviewed him on a number of issues including meeting the institute's goals. Here are the excerpts...

**Question:** As the NIT's new governing council chairperson, what are you going to do to meet the institute's goals?

**Answer:** First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the appointment. I acknowledge the responsibility entrusted to me and promise to do my best. I look forward to the opportunity to work with council members and other stakeholders to advance the goals of the institution. I pledge to work towards the mission and vision of the Institute by promoting transparency, accountability and effective decision-making in the council.

As the new chair of the council, I am responsible for leading the board and directing it towards strategic issues, overseeing the academic and administrative operations of the Institute and ensuring high standards of governance. I will focus on the effectiveness of the board and the individual directors, both inside and outside the boardroom.

**Q:** Can you outline your strategies that will continue making NIT a strong top-line institution among higher learning institutions?

**A:** The government has invested a lot in transport. This is evident from the fact that standard gauge railways, airlines and related infrastructure such as airports, roads including bridges, waterways and pipelines have been built or upgraded. This requires the NIT to provide human resources to manage these instructions and infrastructures. In detail,

In improving the quality of education: "I will work with the Council to ensure that NITs provide world-class education to their students. This includes strengthening the curriculum, improving the quality of teaching and providing more opportunities for students to engage in research."

On promoting research: "I will work to create a more research-friendly environment at the NITs. This includes providing more funding for research, increasing the number of research collaborations and supporting the development of new research facilities."

"I will also advocate for greater internationalization of the NIT. This includes recruiting more international students and lecturers and increasing the number of joint research projects with international partners."

Greater industry involvement: I will work to strengthen the links between



Prof Ulingeta Mbamba NIT's new governing council chairperson

the NITs and industry. This includes giving more students the opportunity to do internships in companies and helping companies find solutions to their problems through research collaborations with the NITs.

**Q:** One of the NIT's moves is to transform it into a university of Transport, what is your take on this?

**A:** This will be well achieved and we are making preparations for the transformation. The council will lead the changing process by providing the necessary support, ensuring that management engages stakeholders and setting a realistic timeframe to create a more competitive, market-oriented and progressive university

**Q:** What are we expecting from your leadership on improving the number of professionals in the aviation, oil and gas, railway and marine sectors?

**A:** I expect the curriculum to be strengthened. I will work with the NIT to strengthen the curriculums in all areas related to mega transport projects. This includes ensuring that students have the necessary theoretical knowledge and practical skills to succeed in these areas.

Lecturers must provide the latest knowledge in the fields of these mega projects. Industry engagement must also be increased. I will work to strengthen links between NITs and industry in areas related to mega transport projects. This includes creating more opportunities for students to do internships in companies and helping companies find solutions to their problems through research collaborations with NIT.

**Q:** Are there any plans during your tenure to increase the number of learning facilities?

**A:** Yes, I am well prepared and I will work with the NITs to build new laboratories in key areas. This includes renovating existing facilities and expanding access to technology.

**Q:** What are the plans to increase the number of staff at the institute?

**A:** Yes, we will work to ensure that we increase the number of qualified and dynamic academic and administrative staff to cope with the increasing number of students. Staff is also being increased to keep pace with technological change in transport.

**Q:** NIT has been making a number of collaborations with other Institutions. How these partnerships are supporting the growth of the Institute?

**A:** Collaborations are very important to NIT as they help prepare students to work in a globalised world and build bridges between cultures. Collaborations provide opportunities to learn from each other and bridge challenges that might otherwise hinder the institute's success. Cooperation with industry ensures that NIT graduates are easily accepted in the industry.

## Farmers face climate change threat to their farms, incomes, says study

NAIROBI

ABOUT 76 percent of farmers are worried about the future impact of climate change, while 71 percent say it already has had an impact on their farms and incomes, a recent survey by life science company Bayer Group found.

Researchers interviewed 800 farmers in eight countries – Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, India, Kenya, Ukraine and the United States – and said that 568 of

those farmers have witnessed the impact of climate change directly on their farms.

About 80 percent of them have experienced heat effects and anticipate reduced yields in the coming years.

Rodrigo Santos, president of the Crop Science Division at Bayer, said that despite the impact of climate change on farming communities, there will be more demand for food harvested from less land in the coming years.

"We need to produce 50 per-

cent more food ... with 20 percent less land per capita than we do today," Santos said.

"Climate change for us, when we live in the cities, is one thing, but for the farmers it is impacting their yields, it's impacting their production, it's impacting their ability to produce food and feed," he said.

The report said that 73 percent of farmers interviewed in Kenya, for instance, have faced drought. Persistent droughts in the East Af-

rican nation have resulted in crop losses and livestock deaths.

The report highlights that 1 in every 6 farmers worldwide suffered a nearly 16 percent loss of income due to adverse weather conditions over the past two years.

Unpredictable weather patterns and insufficient seed varieties exacerbated food insecurity in Africa, according to experts.

The head of Africa Agribusiness International Finance Corp. at the World Bank, Yosuke Kotsuji, said the continent needs to adopt new

farm technologies faster.

"The headache is how to scale technology dissemination," he said. "The way you and I can farm – next door we can get quite different results."

According to experts, older African farmers encounter difficulties when it comes to embracing technologies, unlike their younger counterparts on the continent.

Most farmers surveyed mentioned that they either currently implement or plan to adopt methods that reduce greenhouse gas

emissions. Additionally, over 50 percent of them are striving to enhance biodiversity.

Doaa Abdel-Motaal, a senior counselor at the World Trade Organization, said there is a need to facilitate the easy movement of food in different countries to fight food insecurity.

"We also need to take into account the fact that the climate crisis is progressing and there will be more climate calamities, unfortunately, in different parts of the globe," Abdel-Motaal said. "So al-

lowing food to move from country A to country B to counter those calamities so that countries don't starve is absolutely essential.

"Where countries find themselves on the map is no more than an accident of geography. There are some countries that are completely dependent on imported food for their food security," he said.

Farmers worry about escalating fertilizer costs, energy prices and fluctuations in prices and income, the report said.

## BRI cooperation with China boosts infrastructure linkage in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

CHINA-Africa cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has boosted infrastructure connectivity and integration across Africa, a senior African Union (AU) official has said.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Initiative.

"In those ten years, when we look at the landscape of Africa, we find very concrete evidence of the BRI," said Albert Muchanga, AU commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals.

"You have got transportation networks, communication networks, logistics centers, industrial parks, among several others," he said, listing a few examples of China-Africa BRI cooperation.

He said joint infrastructure development between China and Africa under the BRI "made it very easy to connect African countries. You can move across (Africa), goods and services can also be conveyed and freighted across, and, above all, employment has been generated."

The AU commissioner underscored the BRI's role as a driver of employment for Africa's burgeoning youth population. "When we generate employment, you boost consumption in the domestic economy, and that has a win-win outcome."

"We have really been able to get a lot of benefit as Africa from the Belt and Road Initiative. We are very, very happy," Muchanga said. Muchanga said Africa greatly values its cooperation with China under the Initiative.

"We intend to proceed with what we have achieved. The next stage is to boost the productivity of African economies, and that requires investment in industrialization. The greatest source of our productivity is in manufacturing, so we foresee a lot of manufacturing enterprises," he said.

The AU commissioner emphasized the need to strengthen China-Africa cooperation in the energy sector to realize Africa's aspirations to transition to cleaner energy.

"We are going into a green transition, and we need technology, and Africa has the resources to participate in the energy transition into de-carbonization," Muchanga said.



Construction site of the Magufuli Bridge project over Lake Victoria in Mwanza Region. Some Tanzanian MPs said that projects being undertaken under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) framework are helping the East African nation to open up its economy.

# The resurgence of stratocracy in Africa: Soldiers must be motivated by their commanders-in-chief

By Special Correspondent

THE conventional narratives that coups are much fewer today compared to their heyday in the 1960s and 1970s are a myth that must be unpacked! While the obvious associate coups with violent overthrow and forceful military power seizure, the actual causes of coups in Africa remain widely unheard of. This article contends that whilst the military cannot be excluded from Africa's coup narratives, political elites are the real perpetrators of coups on the continent. These types of coups are less heard of, never publicized, and usually defended by many.

Largely military led, several literatures affirm that during the 1960s and 70s, there were power seizure attempts in Africa every 55 days. This was largely credited to undemocratic governance, ethnic tension, and institutional failures. Today, the root causes of these narratives literally remain unchanged. But usually taken for granted is "constitutional coup d'état" championed by men in "civilian garments."

This malady has not only created a dent in democratic sanity, but has bred fertile grounds for stratocracy in Africa. Mostly perpetuated by ruling political elites, the military has capitalized on this governance deficit to make their way to political power.

Attributed to what I call "overstayers' syndrome", African leaders would normally decide to keep grip on power because they insist "the people demand of them to do so". At the same time, the military sees coup d'état as a means of "saving the state" from leaders who intended to prolong their stay in power. This scramble for state control and power retention undermines democratic governance and creates political uncertainty in Africa.

Whether their peak of the 1960s and 70s, or their decline in the late 20th and 21st centuries, coup d'états have dual dimensions. One led by the military officers and another championed by political elites. Unless the conventional understanding of coups is unpacked to realize these dual faces, the myth of a decline shall continue to resonate. Coups have never been rare in recent times; the narratives were just one-sided.

### Term Limit: Curse or Power Addiction?

Whether elected officials or military heads of state, it appears like African Leaders are not accustomed to regular regime change. It might shock you to know that after a review of several literatures and studies by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, only 21 African countries have respected terms limits since 2015.

Prior to the adoption of the Lomé Declaration in July 2000, term limits were changed 47 times in 28 countries from April 2000 to July 2018. Of these, only six attempted changes did not materialize. Countries such as Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Chad, Burundi, Algeria, and even Togo, have not respected term limits. I am highlighting Togo because the Lomé Declaration, which is Africa's response to unconstitutional change of government (UCG) was adopted in Lomé, Togo. Yet, the very Togo where the declaration was adopted has failed to set an example.

On the other hand, countries like Somalia, Ethiopia, the country that hosts Africa's biggest decision-making house (the African Union), and Libya have no two-term limits. This implies that leaders in these countries have the latitude to stay in power as they wish. Similarly, commanders-in-chief in Angola, Madagascar, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Central African Republic, Mali, etc. failed to adhere to any term limits. With this, the ultimate policy prescriptions include but are not limited to: straight adherence to term limits provided for under respective constitutions, those that abolished term limits to restore it, and those that lacked term limits to adopt it.

### More Reforms Needed

Whether inconsistency in terms limits, current data affirms that depending on the country, years per term are not harmonized across Africa. For example, whilst leaders in Ghana have a maximum of eight years in power at four years per term, commanders-in-chief in Kenya have a total of ten years at five years per term. Additionally, those in Liberia enjoy a maximum of twelve years at six years per term, while Rwanda has seven years for the presidential term of office.

With these inconsistencies in the number of years required per term, it makes a strong case to argue that the number of years per term must be further unpacked and harmonized to reflect consistency. This implies that the longevity per term of office must define the term limit per office across the African region.

Delving further, a one term in Rwanda (7 years) is approximately two terms in Ghana, whilst two terms in Liberia (12 years) amounts to three terms in Ghana or Nigeria. These inconsistencies, however, suggest that Africa and its leaders are brilliant at mimicking everything from the West except consistencies in term length per office.

With these variations in the number of years per term, the continent must not be shocked to witness further constitutional amendments beyond the seven years, the maximum threshold per the AU guideline. Afterall, implementing punitive measures for contravention of regional



and continental agreements have been generally weak.

Africa is diverse, and so is its political culture and systems. Although a one-size-fits-all approach to democratic governance might sound unrealistic, critical conditions like the institutionalization and uniformity in the number of years per term would prove extremely vital. Hence, any reform must consider the two prescriptions below:

- Ensure that the number of years required per term is harmonized across the African region.
- Minimize the term limits for countries with longer years per term.

### Defiance amid Policies

Rather than coups alone, unlimited or no adherence to presidential term limits poses the biggest threat to democratic governance in Africa. Consequently, the OAU in July 2000 adopted the Lomé Declaration at the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States of Governments in Lomé, Togo. The Declaration is the continent's response to the "Unconstitutional Change of Government" (UCG) in Africa. It defines four key situations that constitute UCG. They include:

- A military coup d'état against a democratically elected government.
- An intervention by mercenaries to replace a democratically elected government.
- The replacement of a democratically elected government by armed dissident groups and rebel movements; and
- The refusal by an incumbent government to relinquish power to the winning party after free, fair, and regular elections.

You might observe that while changing term limits poses grave challenges to democratic governance in Africa, the four situations addressing UCG place more emphasis on military takeovers than constitutional reversals. As such, and whilst a military takeover might

not be the best alternative, the army is usually viewed as the lead perpetrator of coups in Africa. In a policy brief authored by then Chief of Staff to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Ambassador Said Djinni, he asserts that the Lomé Declaration initially contained a fifth situation. The fifth situation focused on amendments for retaining power as an infringement on democratic principles. He termed such inclusion as vital in lending credibility to the Lomé Declaration. Unfortunately, the fifth situation was removed by the Committee of Ambassadors at the OAU Summit in July 2000. Ambassador Djinni termed the situation as "very disappointing" because the framers were convinced that the Assembly of Heads of State would have retained it. Interestingly though, the Lomé Declaration was welcomed as a progressive policy document. To date, it is the guiding instrument of the AU with respect to unconstitutional change of government.

Looking further beyond, evidence shows that the adoption of the July 2000 Lomé Declaration brought along several contraventions in term limits in several African countries. In fact, whilst historical evidence shows that military coups faded considerably between the mid-1990s and 2000s, some African leaders were busy amending their constitutions to cling to power.

### The Dilemma of Effectiveness

So why are coup resurgences and frequent constitutional reversals still prevalent in Africa? Whilst the nature and scope of this question may not allow for a single sentence response, it is important to highlight that even with good and noble intentions, good policies can still face enormous challenges in addressing problems they intend to address. Thus, it seems difficult to gauge their measurable outcomes or preventive effects.

Despite a few regional successes in restoring constitutional orders and

preventing some coups, evidence also shows that little has been done to curtail Africa's governance woes.

For example, Article 23 of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance highlights sanction as a consequence of UCG, yet there is little evidence to demonstrate that this has been effective. From a human behavior and resilience perspective, I would rather argue that economic and political sanctions are gradually becoming a thing of the past.

The world must now realize that human agency and sanctioned states are intelligent enough to optimize the coping mechanisms most suitable to survive in difficult times. Moreover, it appears like sanctions are to military takeovers; whilst diplomatic interventions are to constitutional reversals. Did the AU impose sanctions when countries such as Cote D'Ivoire, Gabon, Chad, and Rwanda reversed their constitutions? What did the AU do when leaders in Uganda, Burundi Comoros, and Egypt, amended their constitutions to retain power? This limited will by African leaders to implement regional instruments poses a real dilemma of policy legitimacy on the continent.

It is also important to note that even sanctioned states have friends in the comity of nations. Knowing this, and endeavoring to flex global dominance, some superpowers stand ready to establish lasting ties with sanctioned states. Similarly, tyrannical and unconstitutional regimes have allies. Moreover, historical evidence demonstrates that some countries with the longest serving leaders in Africa enjoy the perennial confidence of other dominant global powers.

Take a while to ask yourself this question, why was Mugabe globally criticized than Museveni? Paul Biya is still the president of Cameroon, is he a better overstayer? By the way, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo has been president of Equatorial Guinea since 1979.


There is certainly a lot to do! Just as the repeated occurrences of crimes in a particular community do not automatically infer that law enforcement officers are not doing their jobs; these limitations do not imply that nothing is being done. Rather, they ignite an immediate call for institutional strengthening and collective enlightenment for democratic governance.

From Liberators to Tyrants  
Following the Malian coup led by Captain Amadou Haya Sanogo on 22nd March 2012, President Alassane Ouattara, the then chairperson of ECOWAS led a high-level delegation to restore political order in Mali. It might interest you to know that even Blaise Compaoré, the former president of Burkina Faso who ousted Thomas Sankara through a coup d'état in 1987 was a member of that delegation. Eight years later, and despite warnings from the opposition, the constitutional council confirmed incumbent President Ouattara, re-election bid to contest in 2020. Well, he might have learned from his Malian counterpart. Additionally, some pundits also asserted that Ouattara's third term bid was further triggered by the passing of his anointed successor, Prime Minister Amadou Gon. Although this is no justification for cleaving to power, this is a real testament that Africa's governance woes are created by its leaders.

In the case of Gabon, Dr. Omar Bongo Ondimba, one of Africa's most Francophile head of states that ever-lived dominated Gabonese politics and ruled for 42 years. Throughout is reign, he had connection with key political actors and every French president.

From Presidents Charles de Gaulle to Jacques Chirac, through Georges Pompidou, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, François Mitterrand, and Nicolas Sarkozy, he was strongly connected. He also a paramount chief with all the benefits thereof, he would tour the country dishing out millions of CFA, solving community issues, and attending wedding ceremonies. He would respond to those who coitized him this way: "There are people like François Mitterrand (France's longest serving president) and I for whom the critics cause no insomnia."

On 8 June 2009, former president Bongo breathed his last in Barcelona, Spain. His son, Ali Bongo Ondimba, the then funk singer and playboy, a man view by others as an "outsider" would then succeed his father to continue the Bongo's dynasty. Born as Alain Bernard Bongo in neighboring Congo-Brazzaville, there are also controversies about his paternity. With persistent rumors that he was adopted from South-Eastern Nigeria during the Biafran war. The French historian and author, François Gaulme, put it like this. "He wasn't born in the presidential palace, but almost. He was about eight when his father became president." Today, the Gabonese state stands at a crossroad, with allegations that the Bongo family turned the country into a kleptocratic regime, marred by controversial elections and coup d'état.



# RATIBA YA VIPINDI

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Insurance industry has come of age in TZ, proves its might

Page 14



Small traders to boost tax revenue collections

Page 14



Cost-efficient power measure trial at PSSSF Complex shows success

Page 15

## NMB floats first sustainability bond in east Africa

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc has issued another special-purpose bond whose selling started yesterday seeking to raise 75bn/- in three years for financing a mixture of environmental and social impact projects in the country.

The NMB Jamii Bond is the maiden sustainability security in East Africa, which the Bank's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna, said is the first tranche of their 10-year Multicurrency Medium Term Note (MTN) Programme worth Itrn/-.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the debut of the offer, Zaipuna said the bond for promoting development of environmentally friendly and inclusive growth offers investors an annual coupon rate of 9.5 per cent and has room for raising an additional 25bn/-.

"The Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) has also allowed us to raise US\$10million under this placement, which has a green shoe option of US\$5 million," the seasoned banker noted, adding that the minimum investment in this newest NMB debt-financing instrument starts at 500,000/-.

The offer is a one-month investment opportunity open to both individual and institutional investors who are NMB customers and non-customers, who CEO Zaipuna said their interest earnings will be payable on quarterly basis.

According to her, the withholding tax exempted fixed-income security can be bought from any of the 230 NMB branches or stockbrokers licensed by CMSA up to 27th October, 2023.

Thereafter, NMB Jamii Bond will be listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange for trading until its maturity in November 2026.

Zaipuna said the listing will enable other investors to invest in it and accord its holders the opportunity to sell it whenever they wish.

The money bondholders will lend the bank will be used to support national and global efforts to build resilience against the negative impacts of climate change, achieve sustainable infrastructure as well as advancing efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.

"Targeted sectors and projects to be financed include renewable energy, pollution prevention and control, water and waste water management, green buildings, clean transportation, climate change adaptation, women empowerment and gender equality, affordable housing, food security, essential services such as health and education, and the youth," she noted.

The event to launch the NMB Jamii Bond offer was graced by Treasury Registrar Nehemiah Mchechu who said the security is not only multi-currency but also multi-purpose due to several factors, including helping to



Treasury Registrar Nehemiah Mchechu (C), NMB CEO Ruth Zaipuna (L) and NMB Board Chairman Dr. Edwin Mhede (R) launching NMB's Jamii bond in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

stimulate the development of local capital markets and focusing on both eco-friendly issues and social matter.

He said the new development in the local fixed income market reinforces aspirations of the government to diversify investment opportunities in the economy and offer both public and private sector entities a reliable source of capital.

"I call upon Tanzanians to invest in this NMB Jamii Bond, which is not only secure but also a reliable source of income for those looking for a safe haven for their money," Mchechu noted.

The security offer event was also used by CMSA to officially hand over the new MTN approval to NMB Bank, which the regulator approved late last month. Its CEO Nicodemus Mkama said the Itrn/- mark of the note is not only historic locally but also among the biggest in sub-Saharan Africa.

NMB Bank pioneered special-purpose securities in the country with the 197 percent over-subscribed Jasiri Bond in 2022, which was the first-ever gender sensitive bond to be issued by a financier in sub-Saharan Africa to promote women finance.

The bond was the fourth tranche of the bank's first MTN, which NMB Treasurer Aziz Chacha said was a 200bn/- programme approved by CMSA in 2016 that registered good results by yielding 220bn/-.

The first bond to be issued under the arrangement was subscribed by 207 per cent to generate 41.4bn/- from 1,739 investors, Mr Chacha noted, adding that the second issued in 2017 surpassed the target by 17 per cent with 23.4bn/-.

"The third bond was issued in 2019 and generated 83.35bn/- from 2,303 investors after being over-subscribed by 333 per cent whereas proceeds from NMB Jasiri Bond amounted to 74.3bn/-," the NMB treasury guru said.

NMB Jamii Bond, which board chair Edwin Mhede said was another mark of the bank's innovation prowess, has already raised interest in external capital markets with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and British International Investment Plc deciding to co-anchor it.

## SinoTan industrial park to produce 100,000 jobs

By Carlos Banda

MINISTER of President's Office, Investment and Planning, Prof Kitila Mkumbo has said the completion of the SinoTan Industrial Park will help create 100,000 jobs, thus complementing efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in attracting investments in the country to solve the unemployment problem among youths.

Prof Mkumbo made the declaration while addressing 100 Chinese Investors from Zhejiang province in China who came to visit the Industrial Park in Kwala area, Kibaha district, coast region, where he pointed out that the Industrial park is on track to become the largest in East and Central Africa.

"Kwala will become a big industrial city. We expect the construction phase to be complete by 2025. Therefore, the problem of unemployment will be addressed for the Tanzanian youths, with the pace of the country's industrial development," he said.

Minister Mkumbo noted that the mega investment is expected to generate 1.3trn/- in sales revenue annually, where he also thanked Group Six International Company LTD (GSI) for accepting the invitation to invest in Tanzania and for engaging other potential investors from China to come invest in the country.

He also pointed out that more than 200 various hundred industries will be built including primary industries.

"For the first time, when we speak of an industrial park, this is an example of it. In this area, more than 200 industries will be built including primary industries. But I am happy that Mr Jianzhong targets industries that are listed in Tanzania's key industrial sector priorities. Here, we are speaking of the shoe and clothing industries. We have a total of 17 cotton producing regions however 80% of the produce is exported for processing outside the country," said Professor Mkumbo.

The minister said further that, with the construction of the industries, a large portion of our cotton will be sold in the country hence leading to the establishment of clothing factories and through the industrial park a shoe factory will be built to manufacture shoes



Prof Kitila Mkumbo Minister State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment), addresses a delegation of 130 investors from China Zhejiang province during a visit to the Sino-Tan Industrial Park at Kwala in Kibaha district, Coast Region. To his right is Huang Zaisheng, Chairman of Group Six International. Ltd (GSI). Photo: Carlos Banda

which will be sold inside and outside the country.

In his speech, Trade and Industry Deputy Minister, Exaud Kigaha, thanked Minister Mkumbo and his ministry for ensuring the vision of President Samia Suluhu Hassan on industrial development is possible.

"Honorable Minister, our key role as the ministry responsible for trade and industries is to oversee the success of the industries and trade as well as to how we can improve the business environment and quickly solve the existing challenges ranging from tax affairs to trade conditions environment," said Kigaha.

On his part, the Chairman of the Board of the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), Dr Binlith Mahenge, said the project was registered on 30th July 2021 and will occupy of total 2500 hectares of land whereas an initial 500 hectares are already undergoing development and will later on create direct and temporary jobs for Tanzanians.

"The developer of this project is expected to

inject \$327mn and the operator will invest \$3Bn. Honorable minister, a total 2000 direct jobs and 50,000 temporary jobs are expected to be generated by the developer, whereas the operator is expected to create 10000direct jobs and 250,000 temporary jobs," said Dr Binlith Mahenge.

Speaking on behalf of the investors, Chairman of the Group Six International LTD (GSI), Huang Zaisheng commended the government for presenting the advantages of investing in Tanzania as well as providing the necessary support citing that Tanzania is ready for industrialization.

The Sino-Tan industrial park is developed and operated by the Sino-Tan Kibaha Industrial Park Co., LTD whereas the project is being developed in 5 phases including the life supporting zone, agriculture, and food processing zone, medicine and daily chemical zone, shoes and clothing processing zone, equipment, equipment manufacturing zone, building materials processing zone and export processing zone.

## Costech invites foreign investors into smartphone manufacturing

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has called on Indian, South Korea, Japan mobile manufacturers including other foreign countries to venture into the local manufacturing sector to produce best quality but affordable Smartphone for people living in rural areas in Tanzania to communicate.

Dr. Amos Nungu, COSTECH's director general, made the call recently at the just ended one day Indian-Tanzania Business to Business (B2B) meeting on electronics and IT took place at the high Commission of India in Dar es Salaam.

"We invite mobile manufacturing countries to use this opportunity because majority of imported Smartphones entering Tanzanian market is very expensive and people living in rural areas are very poor cannot afford to purchase it," he said.

Also Tanzania needs manufacturers to produce affordable laptop for university and college students instead of imported used laptops.

"You can come and partner with Tanzanian companies to manufacture affordable laptops for students," he said.

Availability of laptops will allow students to access more information wherever they can get an internet connection in accordance with their needs, study whenever they have the time, no matter where they are and it will be easier for them to search more information relating to their subjects.

"Internet has made a revolutionary change in today's world in many sectors.



Dr. Amos Nungu, director general, COSTECH

Let us work together, share expertise you have with Tanzanians to help people obtain high quality products at affordable price and use internet service for what they need to change their lives," he said.

Elaborating on other areas that Indian company can venture, he said "As COSTECH we promote research, technology and support startups, we have seen a large number of software innovated to solve community problems in Tanzania, this is an area where you could start look into it and we are ready to support you," he said.

During the B2B meeting, Dr Nungu said was very impressed to see the Indian companies that offer training and business solutions.

"I believe if they will get a business partner in Tanzania, we will be able to move forward in terms of internet connectivity and economic growth," he said.

Elaborating on startups, he said knowledge and exchange program is still required for Tanzanian startups companies because Tanzania is now digitize its economy. Ashutosh Agarwal, Tesca Technologies Pvt Ltd. Director said they are now searching for a business partner in Tanzania who can work together to contribute towards United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals of quality education, industry, innovation and infrastructure," he said.

"Tanzanians keen to partner with us, Tesca is world's leading ISO Certified manufacturer and exporter of Test, Measuring and Technical Education training equipment, Web Apps / Software Development, workshop tools and machines," he said.

Also are member for Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, India having sales in more than 85 Countries Worldwide.

"We are ready to support Tanzanians, people willing to get our services can contact with High Commission of India," he said. Tesca's company now provides a wide range of services such as educational equipment, hand, power and drilling tools, TMI products, switchgear and automation, office and factory equipment, 3d scanners and civil surveying, Seismograph, earthquake equipment, software and UAV/drones to different customers including universities, colleges, schools and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

# Insurance industry has come of age in TZ, proves its might

By Correspondent Peter Nyanje

COMPARE and contrast: From the time when majority of insurance claims were not honoured to now where up to 95 percent of claims are settled, many of them timely. Most of the remaining five percent claims are lagging because of factors which are beyond insurance firms' control.

From time when insurance firms shunned some sectors due to their risks to now where insurance firms are ready to invest in expensive oil and gas sector.

From time when many players in the financial sector shunned agriculture because of vulnerabilities to now where, insurance firms have amassed money and are looking for agricultural projects to insure.

This proves that insurance sector in the country has come of age and it is now one of significant player in the financial sector.

And that is not the end, according to Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Agency (TIRA) Commissioner, Dr Baghayo Saqware. He told reporters in Dar es Salaam recently that there are many plans aimed at supplementing insurance sub sector contribution to the national development.

Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF) chairperson, Deodatus Balile also agrees that TIRA has done tremendous work to improve insurance sector in the country.

He said only few years ago confrontations between traffic police and drivers were rife in roads but today the situation is calmed thanks to TIRAMIS system developed by TIRA.

Under this system, car insurance is recorded digitally thus eliminating the need to have paper stickers in car windshields. Under the system one can instantly check, through a mobile phone, authenticity of insurance policy which he is buying thus also eliminating the

incidents of fake insurance covers.

Dr. Saqware notes that in addition to TIRAMIS, the authority also developed TIRA-ORS a management information system and online registration system au ORS.

"These two systems were developed between 2019/2020 and 2021/2022 by TIRA. All the two systems were developed by local public servants. These systems are working perfectly and have helped in easing service provision as well as improving insurance sector supervision and control," said Sr. Saqware. He added that it is easier to get data in insurance thanks to these two systems.

Dr. Saqware noted that currently insurance sector grows at the rate of 12 percent annually, but massive entrance of the insurance firms in agriculture will enable many Tanzanians to be reached and further the coverage.

## Agriculture consortium

Dr Saqware says after noting hesitation by financiers in assisting agriculture sector, a number of insurance firms came together and formed a consortium aimed at providing insurance cover to farmers.

"This has helped to increase trust and confidence of financiers who have now started to pour a lot of money in the agriculture sector," says the Commissioner.

Agriculture Insurance Consortium was launched by the Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe, in Tabora last July during World Cooperatives Day. The consortium was established to, among other things, to improve efficiency in the implementation of the national agriculture insurance scheme or TAIS as well as increasing capitalisation of the insurance directed to agriculture sector.

Dr Saqware says the con-

sortium is geared towards providing comprehensive insurance coverage for agricultural activities to individual farmers as well as groups.

He says the consortium will offer insurance solutions for a number of crops including tobacco, wheat, maize and paddy with plans to expand the coverage to other crops, fisheries, livestock and forestry.

Dr. Saqware notes that, players in the sector are generally looking at innovative insurance products in safeguarding millions of Tanzanians engaged in agricultural activities, either directly or indirectly, against diverse challenges such as floods, drought, pests and diseases.

"The consortium will play a valuable role of advising the government on establishing the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme," he said.

Tanzania's agricultural insurance sales reached Sh1.3 billion in 2021, which corresponds to 0.17% of the country's total insurance sales in the country in that year.

The low penetration insurance in agriculture is attributed to the farmers' inability to afford insurance premiums. The consortium is formed by 15 insurance companies together with three Re-insurance companies namely Tanzania Reinsurance Company

(TAN-RE), Africa Reinsurance Corporation (Africa Re), and PTA Reinsurance Company (ZEP-RE), which have collectively raised about Sh300 billion capital.

This is the second insurance consortium to be established in Tanzania, after the oil and gas insurance consortium established by more than 20 insurance companies.

## Oil and gas venture

Another consortium, formed by more than 20

insurance companies has also been established and managed to raise a capital of \$6million for meeting insurance demands in the oil and gas sector.

"This means that as a country, in the insurance sector, we are ready and able to meet basic insurance demands that will arise as we embark on the exploitation of oil gas in the country," said Dr Saqware.

Dr. Saqware was speaking at a meeting organised by the Treasury Registrar (TR) Office in its mission to publicise activities of public entities.

He said the consortium which was launched last year was one of important tool as the country embarks on the journey to implement the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in Lindi.

LNG project, which has been on the cards for years now is expected to cost \$40 billion and establishment of the consortium sends a message to prospective investors in the oil and gas sector that Tanzania a favourable investment destination.

"This money raised by the consortium assures investors that all threats associated with LNG and related projects will be insured thoroughly," he said.

On the other hand, Dr. Saqware notes, having local insurers will ensure that not less than 45 percent of fees emanating from oil and gas projects will remain in the country. He said the consortium will benefit a lot provided that Tanzania now eyes oil and gas as a driver of the economy.

He said through the consortium local insurance companies will get opportunity to participate in high profile economic projects in the oil and gas sector.

The consortium will be coordinated by Tanzania Reinsurance Company Limited (Tan Re) with Phoenix Tanzania being the lead agent.



## Small traders to boost tax revenue collections

By Correspondent-Emmanuel Onyango

TANZANIA government has come up with a new strategy to intensify revenue collection from small scale traders in the country trading in recognized physical locations, with the first pilot project targeted from various recognized trading locations in Dar es Salaam region.

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has issued directives to senior officials representing five Municipal Councils in the region namely, Ilala, Kinondoni, Temeke, Ubungo and Kigamboni to work out the modalities to assess traders doing business in their respective areas.

The motive behind is to find out those with an investment capital which exceeds 4mn/- (US\$ 1,593) and that should be registered according to the law and given the Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN).

The process which started earlier this year has found out that, about 9,000 have successfully been registered basing on the criteria needed and that are legible to pay tax out of the estimated 200,000 number of small traders operating within Dar es Salaam region alone.

The already registered traders have been included in the government's electronic taxation framework systems and that each one of them has started to pay an annual estimated amount of 100,000/- (US\$ 39.8) to be paid on quarterly basis with effect from 2023/24 trading period.

The government is targeting to effectively seek to collect 900m/- (US\$ 358,493) by issuing valid receipts from Dar es Salaam region as the campaign strategy aimed at assessing illegible traders is going on in upcountry regions.

The National Sensor Report issued in July 2022 revealed out that, in Tanzania there are an estimated total number of 25 million small traders in all 26 regions with Dar es Salaam taking the lead.

Out of all these traders, about 75,000 are estimated to have met the criteria by having an investment business capital which exceeds the amount recommended by the government, and therefore are legible to pay income tax.

TRA's Director of Tax Payer's Education Richard Kayombo said that, "the government has worked out modalities with a view to expand tax regime in the country starting with effect from this year's trading period".

He told the Guardian in a telephone interview that, "this is among new tax measures contained in Finance Act 2023 which effectively starts in July this year".

He further elaborated that, his department is working in collaboration with the directors of municipal councils to educate the general public especially the small traders on what is going on under the ground about the new structure introduced for government's revenue collection.

The government has decided to come up with this strategy because it has discovered that there are certain traders who meet the criteria to pay taxes, although the majority have been cheating while trading within their designated locations.

Scores of traders around the market complex are pocketing thousands of shillings from their sales without paying taxes, hence are obliged to contribute to the country's development through tax payments, this is a rule he affirmed.

The government's move is a bit different from what had earlier been planned during the fifth phase government whereby all small traders were issued with identification cards countrywide and were forced to pay the annual constant fee of 20,000/- (US\$ 8.5) as their contribution to the government coffers.

Elaborating more, issuing of identification cards is now out of bound as the exercise

going on under the ground is merely targeting those with the recommended capital trading in recognized physical locations designed by the municipal concerned, Kayombo affirmed.

According to him, the exercise will not involve those who are displaying their products along the streets, but for those who are doing so would be charged with normal levies charged by municipalities as stipulated within their by-laws.

During the fifth phase government under the late President Dr. John Magufuli, the government's motive of issuing the ID cards to small traders by then was to strengthen wider tax base steepening traders into paying revenues.

The move had thus created a conducive environment for small traders for their operations, and that it was a granted permission that allowed them to operate freely wherever they want in urban centres all over the country.

But when the sixth phase government under Dr. Samia Suluhu came into being, things changed and the government embarked on the program of planning the city's thoroughfares which was thronged by small traders and became impassable.

The President ordered both town and city municipality officials to embark on a relocation campaign which removed most of them from the streets and transferred them to designated areas set apart as directed.

Under the newly introduced system, the Federation of Tanzania Small Traders have applauded the government's plans saying that, "it would recognize their presence including registering small traders who are counted to be legible with the recommended income tax".

When contacted for comments, the Deputy Chairperson of the registered union, Steven Lusinde said in a telephone interview that, as a group, there should be a formal joint engagement between the two parties that would enable all small traders pay the needed tax.

However, he further noted that, as a group, they do not have a problem to pay the needed tax fee, but there should be a formal joint engagement between the two parties to enable all small traders do their businesses without harassments.

Immediately when the sixth phase government came into power, President Samia Suluhu Hassan commissioned heads of district and regional authorities all over the country to embark on the relocation exercise to remove petty traders commonly known as 'Machingas' from trading in restricted areas.

The announcement seemed to have confused hawkers psychologically who had been enjoying freedom to trade wherever they could in urban centres without any apparent haste ever since the sixth phase government came into power in 2021, small traders have been advocated and quite the majority of them have now understood their rights.

In the past, petty traders who used to conduct their businesses in densely populated areas in towns and cities, faced inconveniences when confronted by law enforcers in a fracas that resulted into the confiscation of their merchandise.

The government's target was to put in place strategic plans with a view to increase revenue collections on monthly basis so as to reach the targeted estimated rate.

The government had asked Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) officials and treasury registrar for planning and finding best modules for implementation of rightful directives so as to increase national tax base.



# Cost-efficient power measure trial at PSSSF Complex shows success



The PSSSF Complex in Dar es Salaam's Mwenge suburb.

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A pilot study conducted to demonstrate best energy management practices and enhance energy efficiency has proved remarkable success to reduce cost of operation by almost halve.

The study titled "Energy Efficiency Action Plan" is implemented by the Ministry of Energy and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with financial support from UNDP and the European Union (EU).

The energy audits were conducted at three pre-selected pilot study sites, namely Aga Khan, Sifalafira Ltd., and PSSSF Complex with the aim of demonstrating best energy management practices to enhance Energy Efficiency in the country.

Hemed Mndeme, Property Manager of the PSSSF Commercial Complex said that energy auditing was very important for his complex since 60 percent of all cost is energy.

Mndeme said that out of the total cost energy consumption, 52

percent alone is used for cooling systems such as air conditioning and bulbs.

He said that after energy auditing was conducted, the study demonstrated a decrease in cost of operation, especially bills, by almost halve.

He said that as of July this year, the electric bill has dropped from 50m/- to 26m/- calling for other people to conduct energy auditing.

"I call on other people to conduct energy auditing in their premises to reduce cost of operation. We have done and proven the significant reduction in operation cost," he said.

National Energy Efficiency Analyst at UNDP, Robert Washija said that the three years- study was implemented is for first time in the country with overall objective of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all in Tanzania.

He said within the framework of the implementation of the project, Action five (5) calls for the Development and Implementation of a Framework for the Management of Large Energy Consumers.

He said by building national capacities on energy management and audit, significant benefits of energy savings and GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions can be realized.

In this regard, the project conducted pilot energy audits in collaboration with Tanzania Industrial Research Development Organization (TIRDO) for selected large energy users.

"the study provided a set of recommendations to the businesses and identified areas of energy reduction and performance improvement, an investment plan for energy efficiency, and carbon emissions reduction towards a net zero agenda," he said.

The analyst said that Action 7 of the project aims 'to create Energy Efficiency Awareness' among the public and stakeholders, fostering understanding and disseminating information about energy-efficient practices and measures to reduce energy consumption.

He explained that the pilot demonstrations seek to enhance awareness and understanding among large energy users by exploring the benefits of energy management practices so far demonstrated at the three mentioned sites.

The project's communication and visibility efforts include showcasing and demonstrating the attained impact and best practices.

Augustine Masse, Researcher at TIRDO said that the project has built the capacity of experts and enabled them to have modern equipment and laboratories to conduct energy auditing.

Furthermore, it has issued professional certification in energy management to local Tanzanians who can carry the duty within and outside the country.

"Professional certification in energy management is very important to ensure energy auditing is done professionally," he said.

# GGML employees take free cancer screening

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

In a bid to motivate the community in the fight against cancer, Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) employees today turned up at the sixth Geita Mining Technology Exhibition to receive vital information and be screened for various cancers.

The education and screening services for cervical, breast and prostate cancer are being provided free of charge by the Geita Re-

gional Referral Hospital in collaboration with GGML at the Bombabili site in the Geita Economic Zone (EPZA).

Dr Paslates Ijumba, Medical Services Coordinator at the Geita Referral Hospital, says they decided to provide these services to curb the effects of cancer, especially for citizens who are afraid to be screened due to misconceptions in the society.

He cites the example of the cervical cancer vaccine, which is given to young girls; some

communities prohibit their girls from receiving the vaccine because they have not been properly educated about it.

"In the same way, for men, regarding the prostate examination, many think that until they are tested by an expert to palpate the prostate, I would like to dispel their fears about this because now there is a special blood test instead of a finger test," he said, adding that some of GGML's workers have been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Dr Kiva Mvungi, GGML's Senior Manager for Health, Safety, Environment and Training, said: "Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men and the sixth most common cause of death. He said the main symptoms of prostate cancer are urinary incontinence, back and hip pain.

"As a result, the GGML Community Department together with the Health, Safety and Environment Department have prepared a campaign to measure and strengthen medical awareness," he said, adding, "The campaign aims not only to educate but also to encourage not only GGML employees but also people in the community around the mine to test their health and, if found to have a problem, to seek early treatment.

GGML employee Evarist Mwanakatwe says they are motivated to come for the cancer screening and are also being educated about the disease to encourage the Geita community and all those attending the exhibition to come and get the service as it is free.

The mining and technology exhibition, which has attracted more than 400 participants this year, will run for 10 days from 20 to 30 September this year.



Emergency Response Team Coordinator from GGML, Evarist Mwanakatwe given prostate cancer tests by one of the doctors of the Geita Referral Hospital. The hospital in collaboration with GGML are providing free education and screening services for prostate, cervical and breast cancer in the sixth Geita mining technology exhibition.

# Spinneys Dubai plans IPO in 2024

DUBAI

SPINNEYS Dubai LLC, the franchisee of the supermarket chain in the United Arab Emirates and Oman, is planning an initial public offering of the business in the second quarter of 2024, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Albwardy Investment, the franchise's 100 percent owner, hired Rothschild & Co to advise on the planned IPO, the sources said, requesting anonymity as the plans are not public.

It invited banks this week to pitch for roles in the offering, expected to be up to 30% of the company, the sources added.

Spinneys, Albwardy and Rothschild did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

The potential IPO of Spinneys Dubai, planned on the Dubai Financial Market, would add to the small but growing regional food retail sector.

Americana Restaurants, the Middle East and North Africa franchisee of fast food restaurants KFC and Pizza Hut, as well as a seller of frozen foods, debuted in a dual listing in Abu Dhabi and Riyadh in December.

Lulu Group, a supermarket and mall operator, expects its IPO in the first half of 2024, its chairman said earlier this month, adding that it hired Moelis & Co to advise it, confirming an October 2022 Reuters report.

IPO activity in the Gulf is expected to pick up after the pace slowed from an exceptional 2022, when Saudi Arabia and the UAE led new listings, raising nearly \$22 billion - more than half the total for the wider Europe, Middle East and Africa region, Dealogic data shows.

Middle Eastern companies still raised \$5.3 billion in the first half of this year through 23 market debuts.

Spinneys Dubai operates more than 65 stores across the UAE, its website says. In addition, it operates at least seven stores in Oman, Albwardy's website says.

Albwardy, which says it has annual turnover above \$1 billion, also owns the franchise rights to upmarket British supermarket chain Waitrose.

Founded in the mid-1970s, it has a hospitality portfolio that includes several Four Seasons hotels and food distribution investments that include Nestle UAE.

Other sectors in Albwardy's portfolio are industrial and engineering, commercial and insurance, agribusiness and properties.



## GLOBL MARKETS

### Asian shares fall after brutal central bank week

SYDNEY

ASIAN shares fell on Monday, dragged by China, after central banks last week reinforced the message that interest rates would stay higher for longer, while investors braced for inflation data from the US and Europe.

Markets will be looking for clues on whether China's economy is regaining traction, with a week-long national holiday set to begin on Friday that will be a key test for consumer spending.

The yen was jittery near the closely watched 150 per dollar level amid intervention fears, after the Bank of Japan made no change to its dovish monetary policy. Governor Kazuo Ueda is scheduled to give a speech and take questions from 14:30 local time.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan dropped 0.6 percent, edging closer to a ten-month low plumed just last week. Japan's Nikkei, on the other hand, rose 0.7 percent.

Chinese bluechips eased 0.5 percent after a 1.8 percent rise on Friday, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slumped 1.1 percent, giving back about half of Friday's gains.

S&P on Monday lowered its forecast for China's economic growth in 2023 to 4.8 percent from 5.2 percent, saying the fiscal and monetary easing had remained limited.

"Policymakers' emphasis on containing leverage and financial risks has increased the bar for macro stimulus," said Louis Kuijs, Asia-Pacific chief economist.

The big test in the week ahead would be the industrial profit figures on Wednesday from China, as well as manufacturing and services PMIs on Saturday.

BOND ROUT

Bond investors were still smarting from the US Federal Reserve's more hawkish rate projections, which caught markets by surprise. Coupled with the recent economic resilience in the US, markets ramped up bets that interest rates would stay higher for

longer and drastically scaled back rate cut expectations.

"What's driven the move this year is the acceptance that inflation shock isn't transitory, but is going to require restrictive monetary policy for much longer than we first thought," said Andrew Lilley, chief rates strategist at Barrenjoey.

"For bonds to rally globally, we're going to need a coordinated rate cutting cycle, particularly from the Fed. Personally I don't see the Fed cutting in 2024, so I don't think that 2024 will be a particularly good year for bonds either."

Ten-year Treasury yields inched up 2 basis points to 4.4580 percent on Monday, after retreating from a 16-year high of 4.508 percent on Friday.

Two year yields were little changed at 5.1162 percent, having fallen from a 17-year top of 5.2020 percent hit last week.

Much will depend on US data. In a sign of slowing growth, US business activity was basically at a stand still in September, with the vast services sector essentially idling at the slowest pace since February.

Bruce Kasman, chief economist at JPMorgan, expects good news from US and European inflation results this week, which should show low core inflation readings.

The Fed's favoured inflation gauge, the core Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index, is expected to show on Thursday a 0.2 percent monthly increase for August, unchanged from July. Other US data in the week includes final Q2 GDP, and weekly jobless claims.

Euro zone inflation figures for September are due on Friday.

In the currency markets, the US dollar held near its six-month top at 105.60 against a basket of major currencies.

The yen last traded at 148.41 per dollar, after hitting a fresh 10-month low of 148.49 earlier in the day.

Oil prices were marginally higher, not far from their 10-month highs. Brent crude futures rose 0.2 percent to \$93.39 per barrel. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were also up 0.1 percent at \$90.16.

## WORLD

## France to withdraw troops from Niger by year end, says Macron

PARIS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday announced that Paris will end its military presence in Niger by the end of 2023, CNN reported.

He also announced that he has decided to bring back the country's Ambassador to Niger, Sylvain Itte, to France.

The development comes amid high tensions between the two nations since the military junta seized power in Niger in July.

Macron said, "We are putting an end to our military cooperation with the de facto authorities of Niger because they don't want to fight terrorism anymore," CNN reported.

The decision to end the "cooperation"

has been taken "because we are not there to deal with internal politics and be hostages of putschists," the French President said while referring to the military group. He announced that the withdrawal would take place in the coming weeks.

"They will come back in an orderly manner in the weeks and months to come, and for that, we will coordinate with the putschists because we want this to happen calmly," Macron said.

Asked about the timeline of withdrawal, Macron said that there will not be any French soldiers in Niger by the end of 2023.

Macron also announced that he has decided to bring back the country's Ambassador to Niger, Sylvain Itte, to France.



A supporter of Niger's National Council of Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) holds a sign that reads, 'French army leave us, we don't want any more independence under high surveillance', as people protest outside the Niger and French airbase to demand the departure of the French army from Niger, in Niamey on September 16, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

He said, "France has decided to bring back its ambassador," CNN reported.

He further said, "In the coming hours, our ambassador along with several diplomats will return to France." His decision comes over a week after Macron said the French Ambassador was "literally being held hostage at the French embassy." He further said that the "food was prevented from being delivered" to the embassy in Niger's Niamey.

French troops have been stationed in Niger, many of whom were there to assist with counterterrorism missions, on the basis that

Niger was a relatively stable democracy in a region that faces problems like political upheaval and terrorism, CNN has reported. Some 1500 French troops have been stationed in Niger.

Notably, France has not recognized Niger's military authorities and stressed that ousted President Mohamed Bazoum remains the country's only legitimate authority.

After the coup in July, Niger military junta has asked Sylvain Itte to leave the country. It later revoked his visa and ordered police to expel him. However, the diplomat continued to stay in Niger.

ANI

## Sudanese pound hits record low against USD amid civil conflict

KHARTOUM

THE Sudanese pound on Sunday hit record lows against foreign currencies in the parallel market, registering an exchange rate of 880 pounds per U.S. dollar, according to a foreign exchange dealer in the capital Khartoum.

"The pound/dollar exchange rate stood at 880 pounds per dollar for purchase and 885 pounds per dollar for sale in the parallel market on Sunday," the unnamed dealer told Xinhua, noting that the Saudi riyal to Sudanese pound rate reached a record high of 225.

On April 14, before the war in Sudan broke out, the exchange rate of one dollar stood at 607 pounds. The dealer expected the pound to continue falling against foreign currencies due to the impact of the war and the government's inability to provide hard currency for financing the import of goods and services.

Economic experts warned that the ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) would lead to a major economic deterioration in Sudan, an indicator for which could be the pound's depreciation.

"The continued decline in the exchange rate against foreign currencies constitutes



an indicator of a forthcoming economic collapse," Zuhair Al-Bakri, a Sudanese economic analyst, told Xinhua on Sunday. "There are many factors that led to this reality, including high inflation, weak production, cessation of exports, loss of monetary supply, and suspension of business activities," Al-Bakri said.

Sudanese economic expert Adil Mahjoub predicted that the exchange rate of the pound against the greenback would exceed one thousand-to-one within two months

unless the central bank could take effective measures.

"The central bank must urgently intervene and take measures to control the exchange rate, or else a comprehensive economic collapse will be inevitable," Mahjoub said.

In the meantime, the Sudanese General Intelligence Service (GIS) accused in a statement the RSF of leading a sabotage campaign against the national economy, vowing to take legal measures against whoever is

proven to be involved in these suspicious practices, whether individuals or institutions, local media reported.

The GIS said all bank accounts would be subject to monitoring and audit, encouraging citizens to report any suspicious activity related to foreign currencies.

A study by a group of economists, which was published on Saturday, listed the most prominent economic impact of the ongoing war as the destruction of infrastructure and industrial sectors, shrinkage of economic growth, and loss of jobs.

The war also dealt a blow to Sudan's gold exports, a main source of its foreign currency. The total gold produced by its corporate sectors dropped to two tons from mid-April, when the civil conflict erupted, to the end of August, compared to 18 tons in 2022, according to a recent statement from Sudan's state-run Mineral Resources Company.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly clashes between the SAF and the RSF in Khartoum and other areas since April 15, which have caused at least 3,000 deaths and more than 6,000 injuries, according to the Sudanese Health Ministry.

Some 5.3 million people have been displaced inside and outside Sudan, according to the latest report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Xinhua

RAMALLAH

## Saudi delegation expected to visit West Bank

A Saudi delegation is due to visit Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah this week, a Palestinian official said, amid diplomatic efforts to secure an accord between Israel and Saudi Arabia that could involve concessions from the Palestinians.

The delegation will be led by the non-resident Saudi envoy to the Palestinians, who was appointed last

month, the official said.

The visit comes after both Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last week that efforts were underway to reach an agreement normalizing relations between their two countries.

US officials have cautioned that any agreement, expected to include a defense agreement with Washington and a civilian nuclear program for Saudi Arabia, would be some way off.



Among the issues to be resolved would also be the Palestinian question, and calls for a revival of a peace process leading to a two-state solution with an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

US-brokered

peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians broke down in 2014 and relations between the two sides have plummeted amid a tide of violence.

Last week Abbas said no Middle East peace agreement would be achievable until Palestinians were granted full rights, and the Saudi foreign minister also called for a revival of the objective of a two-state solution.

Agencies

## Ukraine to either surrender on Moscow's terms or cease to exist, says top Russian lawmaker

MOSCOW

UKRAINE is fated either to capitulate on Moscow's terms or cease to exist as a state, Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of the Russian State Duma (lower house of parliament), said.

"When speaking about the conflict in Ukraine, [US President Joe] Biden, [NATO Secretary General Jens] Stoltenberg and other Western officials have started calling it 'a war of attrition.' They have put huge amounts of money into militarizing the Kiev regime.

Where has it gotten them? The simple facts are these: the West is experiencing weapons and ammunition shortages, people in Europe and the US have lost trust in politicians, and the Kiev regime's counteroffensive has failed," Volodin (pictured) stated.

According to him, the outcome of the "war of attrition" also includes economic problems in Europe and the US, a lack of manpower for the Ukrainian armed forces, and ultimately bankruptcy and demographic disaster for Ukraine. "These seven facts speak for themselves: Ukraine will cease to exist as a state unless the Kiev regime capitulates on Russia's terms," Volodin stressed.

"More than 10.5 million people have fled Ukraine. Another 11.2 million residents of Crimea, Sevastopol, the Donetsk and Lugansk people's republics and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions decided to join Russia. Ukraine has lost 53.7% of its population since 2014," the State Duma speaker highlighted.

Volodin noted that, in June, then-British Defense Minister Ben Wallace stated that Western countries had run out of stockpiles of those weapons that they could send to Kiev from their own national arsenals.

Biden, in turn, admitted in July that the decision to provide Ukraine with cluster munitions had been driven by the fact that stocks of conventional ammunition were exhausted.

"The approval ratings of EU and US leaders have hit historical lows. The share of people who disapprove of their leaders' performance stands at 57% for Biden, at 69% for [French President Emmanuel] Macron, and at 72% for [German Chancellor Olaf] Scholz.

The majority of people in the United States and European countries oppose weapons supplies to Ukraine," the Duma speaker added.

In addition, the senior lawmaker emphasized that the NATO-backed Ukrainian military had suffered huge troop and equipment losses, while "the lack of achievements has disappointed [Kiev's] Western sponsors." "The economies of the Eurozone countries are going through a recession.

The costs of Ukraine's militarization have forced Germany to cut benefit payments to poor families. France has reduced the number of beneficiaries; people in need no longer receive food packages and reimbursements for drug costs.

International agencies have downgraded the United States' long-term investment rating as they expect the financial situation in the country to worsen in the next three years," Volodin said.

Agencies

## China's urgent relief supplies arrive in flood-hit Libya

TRIPOLI

CARRYING 90 tons of emergency humanitarian aid to flood-hit Libya, a Chinese cargo plane arrived Sunday at the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi.

First aid kits, water purifiers, tents, blankets, ultrasound diagnostic systems, life jackets, and other relief materials were unloaded at the Benina International Airport, in the presence of Omar Abu-Dabous, the secretary-general of the Libyan Red Crescent, as well as senior Libyan and Chinese diplomats.

On Sept 10, Mediterranean storm Daniel triggered Libya's worst floods in decades, resulting in the death of thousands and widespread damage to the region's infrastructure, especially water supply and sewage infrastructure.

Water contamination has led to the poisoning of dozens of people, mainly children, in flood-hit areas where access to clean water was limited, according to Libyan authorities.

Witnessing the handover at the airport, Chinese Charge d'Affaires to Libya Liu Jian said it is hoped that Chinese aid would assist Libya in overcoming the effects of the disaster and getting the affected areas back to normal.

Xinhua

THE Summit of the Group of 77 (G77) and China recently kicked off in Havana, Cuba. The event was attended by 31 heads of state and government, multiple heads of international and regional organizations, as well as high-level delegations from 116 countries.

On this important multilateral cooperation platform for developing countries, China, together with other developing countries, has held high the banner of development, focused on coordination and cooperation to address current challenges, and sent a strong voice of making global governance fairer and more equitable. This has sent a positive signal of solidarity and self-determination among Global South countries.

The world is undergoing changes on a scale unseen in a century.

## China committed to building a Global South community with a shared future

Developing countries are becoming stronger. South-South cooperation is playing an increasingly important role in driving the momentum of collective rise of developing countries and in sustaining the continued global economic growth. At the same time, however, unilateralism and hegemonism are becoming rampant. Some countries are resorting to such practices as unilateral sanctions, decoupling, and disruption of industrial and supply chains, seriously undermining the legitimate development rights and interests of developing countries and their space for development.

Developing countries generally hope to strengthen solidarity

and cooperation, safeguard their development rights, uphold equity and justice, and make global governance fairer and more equitable.

The summit adopted the Havana Declaration. It stressed the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture and a more inclusive and coordinated approach to global financial governance, and rejected unilateral sanctions against developing countries.

It fully proves that the G77 and China, practicing true multilateralism, represent a force of justice pursuing solidarity, cooperation and development. They firmly safeguard international equity

and justice, strive to make a stronger voice of developing countries, and protect the common interests of developing countries.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres termed the G77 and China "a champion of multilateralism" in his speech, saying they will always be essential for the UN system.

As the world's largest developing nation and a natural member of the Global South, China breathes the same breath as other developing countries and pursues a shared future with them.

As the world has entered a period of turbulence and transformation with increasing uncertainties and instabilities, China is

committed to building a Global South community with a shared future, encouraging developing countries to stay true to the original aspiration for independence and greater collective strength through unity, to advocate equity, justice and inclusiveness, and to pursue development, revitalization and win-win cooperation.

Only by rejecting bloc confrontation and the Cold War mentality and seeking to resolve differences and disputes between countries by peaceful means can developing countries better maintain world peace and tranquility.

Only by actively making their voice heard loud and speaking up for justice on the international

stage can developing countries constantly strengthen their voice and representation in global governance and better safeguard their common interests.

South-South cooperation is always a high priority in China's cooperation with other countries. It is always a staunch advocate and active contributor to global development. Today, China provides development assistance to more than 160 countries, joins hands with more than 150 countries in building the Belt and Road, and works with over 100 countries and international organizations to advance the Global Development Initiative (GDI), showing its role as a responsible major country.

China will continue to maintain close communication and coordination with G77 members in order to optimize allocation of development resources, ensure efficient use of public goods of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation, and resolve problems in development. Participants from many countries believe that China's active promotion of South-South cooperation has played an important role in promoting social progress and improving human welfare in developing countries.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega noted that China's assistance to the people of Asia, Africa, and Latin America is provided with no conditions attached, and has contributed to the social progress and well-being of developing countries.

People's Daily



## Congress has been busy glorifying one family, nourishing corrupt system - Modi

BHOPAL

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday made a scathing attack on Congress in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, saying the party "has been busy glorifying only one family," nourishing "corrupt system" and if gets a chance to come into power, it will be a huge loss for the state.

Addressing Karyakarta Mahakumbh in Bhopal, the Prime Minister slammed Congress on a range of issues and said the opposition party "neither has the ability to see nor understand the national interest".

He said Congress does not want to change and does not want the country to change.

"Congress cannot digest the development work in India...They don't want

the country to develop. They are never proud of the country's achievements because neither they want to change or develop. Congress will make Madhya Pradesh a 'Bimaru Rajya' if it gets a chance (to come into power here). They opposed digital payment but the world is impressed by UPI mode," he said.

"Congress has been busy glorifying only one family. Congress has been busy nourishing the corrupt system in India. Congress is like rusty iron, which gets corroded if kept in the rain. Now Congress neither has the ability to see nor understand the national interest," he added.

The Prime Minister said that coming years are crucial for Madhya Pradesh.

"If during this crucial time, Congress, a dynasty party, a party full of corrup-



tion, gets a chance (to come into power), this will be a huge loss for the state," he said.

The Prime Minister said BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has completed almost 20 years and youth are lucky they have "not witnessed the bad governance of the Congress government".

"This means the youth, who will be

voting for the first time in the upcoming elections, have only seen the BJP government. The present youth of Madhya Pradesh are lucky that they have not witnessed the bad governance of the Congress government... Congress turned the state into 'Bimaru Rajya'... BJP has tried to take the state to a new level with new energy... Youth here have seen the development work and good governance of the BJP government," the Prime Minister said.

He said that the 'Karyakarta Mahakumbh' shows the energy of BJP workers.

'Karyakarta Mahakumbh' says a lot of things. This shows what is there in the minds of people here. This shows the energy of the workers of the BJP... Madhya Pradesh is the heart of the country. People of the state have always supported BJP," he said.

PM Modi said Congress had given slogan of 'Garibi Hatao' fifty years ago but failed to deliver.

"The life of the poor does not matter

to their (Congress) leaders, born with silver spoons in their mouth... For them, the life of the poor is adventure tourism... For Congress leaders, poor persons' colonies have become location for video shootings. They have done this in the past too. BJP government is showing the developed and grand face of the country to the world," he said.

He alleged that Congress and other opposition parties tried to prevent Droupadi Murmu from becoming the President.

"These (Congress) are the same people who tried their best to stop the country's first tribal woman President Droupadi Murmu from becoming the President. These are the same people who have repeatedly tried to humiliate her. These people are the same people who had stopped the entry of daughters in the front lines of the country's armed forces," he said.

Madhya Pradesh is among five states which will face assembly polls later this year.

ANI

## Russian Embassy to send note to Canadian Foreign Ministry on Nazi appearance in parliament

OTTAWA

THE Russian Embassy in Ottawa will send a note to the Canadian Foreign Ministry and the office of the country's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in connection with the appearance of a Ukrainian Nazi served in the SS division "Galicia" in the Canadian Parliament, Russian Ambassador to Ottawa Oleg Stepanov told TASS.

"The Embassy is sending a note to the Canadian Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's office demanding clarification. The SS is recognized as a criminal organization by the decisions of the Nuremberg Tribunal, which are an integral part of international law.

By honoring a member of this criminal community, the Canadian cabinet and members of parliament violated not only moral, but also legal norms," the diplomat said.

Earlier, the Associated Press published photographs showing that during Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky's speech in Canada's Parliament on September 22, those in attendance greeted the 98-year-old Ukrainian nationalist, who served in the 1st Ukrainian division, also known as the SS division "Galicia" during WWII.



**The Embassy is sending a note to the Canadian Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's office demanding clarification**

## In a first, US asteroid mission returns sample to Earth

LOS ANGELES

NASA's OSIRIS-REX spacecraft, the first US mission to collect a sample from an asteroid, returned Benu asteroid sample to Earth on Sunday.

This marks America's first sample return mission of its kind and "will open a time capsule to the beginnings of our solar system," said NASA.

The spacecraft released its sample capsule toward Earth at 6:42 am Eastern Time from about 101,000 km of Earth's surface, about one-third the distance from Earth to the Moon, it said.

The capsule entered Earth's atmosphere as planned at 10:42 am Eastern Time off the coast of California.

About 10 minutes later, it touched down on the US Department of Defense's Utah Test and Training Range at 10:52 am Eastern Time. The sample will be transferred to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, on Monday for scientific analysis.

Launched on Sept 8, 2016, OSIRIS-REX arrived at asteroid Benu on Dec 3, 2018. It collected a sample of rocks and dust from Benu surface on Oct 20, 2020.



Recovery team members examine a capsule containing NASA's first asteroid samples before it is taken to a temporary clean room at Dugway Proving Ground in Utah on Sunday. AP

Benu is likely to be a well-preserved, 4.5 billion-year-old remnant of the early solar system, so the samples should provide insight into the role that similar asteroids played in the formation of planets and the delivery of organic material and water to Earth that may have ultimately led to life, said NASA.

Data collected from the OSIRIS-REX mission will also help scientists better understand asteroids that could impact Earth and inform future asteroid deflection efforts, according to NASA.

After releasing its sample capsule into Earth's atmosphere, the spacecraft takes on a new journey to asteroid Apophis, for a close-up look at an S-type asteroid.

Apophis, roughly 1,000 feet wide, will come within 32,187 km of Earth in 2029 -- less than one-tenth the distance between Earth and the Moon.

The new mission, named OSIRIS-APEX, is scheduled to enter orbit of Apophis soon after the asteroid's close approach of Earth to see how the encounter affected the asteroid's orbit, spin rate, and surface, according to NASA.

Agencies

## The right time to complete decolonisation is now

By Nikolay Petrov

THE colonial era that ended de jure on December 14, 1960 with the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is not completely de facto.

According to the UN data 17 territories in the world are deprived of sovereignty or remain in direct dependency on the metropolitan powers.

In Africa these are Western Sahara "given up" by Spain in 1963; in the Atlantic Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), Montserrat, Saint Helena Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands are under control of Britain; in Asia-Pacific the USA control Guam and American Samoa; Britain - Pitcairn. France seized French Polynesia and New Caledonia, New Zealand - Tokelau.

Until the complete liberation of these lands and peoples and the settlement of the remaining territorial disputes in which former colonial powers participate (islands of Bassas da India, Glorious, Europa, Juan de Nova and other islands in the region of Southern French Territories, Adelle Land, Mayotte, Tromlen, Chagos Archipelago, towns of Seuta and Melilla, islands of Perejil, Alboran, Ashmore, Cartier, Navassa, Serranilla, Mathew, Hunter, Swains, Waiheke etc.) the process of decolonization cannot be considered complete.

Even after they were forced to liberate their subordinate territories former colonial powers didn't renounce the practice of exploitation of those countries to feed their own need for resources and to secure their ambitions for global domination.

It is expressed in building inequitable relations with former colonies aimed at pumping out their natural, economic, intellectual and other resources on plausible pretexts.

For the last several centuries international development has been built on a system of colonial or neo-colonial usurpation of the potential of the majority of world nations by the Western powers with the aim to ensure their own prosperity as well as military and economic domination.

By today several unique conditions that have been growing ripe for decades are in place which allows the world to do away with the practice of international exploitation:

1. Lack of trust towards the collective West from the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and an increasing number of countries that give priority to their national interests over dictate from the former colonial powers.

2. Collapse of the authority of the West as the stronghold of stability as a result of self-confident and cynical policy of the United States and the European Union that brought about substantial losses for other countries that had to overcome crises while the West continued with its practices of political and military interventions, use of sanctions and other illegitimate measures with the aim to obtain unilateral benefits.

3. Disappointment of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America at international organizations (including the organizations of the UN system, global financial, trade and economic institutions) whose Western oriented position supports the neo-colonial status quo.

Interaction with newly independent nations also including different means of compulsion:

1) Financial and economic pressure in order to increase debts, to hamper development using unfair competition, non-market protectionist measures etc.;

2) Interference in internal affairs, including electoral processes, in order to form elites under control, creation of manageable systems of counterbalances to control the internal agenda by exerting influence upon ruling circles and opposition, prosecution of unwanted persons, discredit of nationally oriented forces etc.;

3) Enforcement of destructive social directives disguised as struggle for social justice, including "protection" of all sorts of "minorities", destructive environmental agenda, politicized forms of defending "civil and political rights" that promote the West as the model to follow, encourage migration of the most active and educated part of local societies to Western countries;

4) Aggressive promotion of neo-liberal doctrines, ideas of transhumanism and denial of human nature aimed at disorientation of societies, creation of artificial internal barriers including for increasing social instability in the interest of external management of the political situation, creating new markets for relevant services and widening their consumption;

5) Forcing the dependent states to make the artificial choice between "democratic" and "authoritarian" regimes to legitimize their own aggressive intentions against nationally oriented countries. Examples: illegitimate bombing of Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, "colour revolutions" in post-Soviet republics, proxy wars through marionette regimes, building of "coalitions for sanctions" to exert pressure upon targeted states in order to set citizens against their governments.

Projects oriented at serving Western interests are characterized by their ultimate goals - to secure the welfare of the "golden billion" i.e. the collective West. For example, against a background of the efforts to cut themselves from Russian energy resources many EU countries increased the use of coal and other traditional fuel that have put under threat their plans to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases.

At the same time the West continues with the demands to the rest of the world, sometimes against objective economic indices, to force energy transition exclusively on the basis of renewable energy sources and stop using fossil fuels. Although it is obvious that the strategy of providing for energy security and satisfying the increasing energy demand exclusively with the renewables is unbalanced and doesn't guarantee universal access to cheap, reliable and stable energy.

The failure on the part of the former colonial powers to renounce their expansionist and predator approaches determine the necessity to step up struggle to do away with colonial practices and neo-colonial approaches. It will be an important contribution to the process of building a fair and equal multi-polar world order.

Nikolay Petrov is the Director of the Center for the Study of Russian-African Relations



**It is expressed in building inequitable relations with former colonies aimed at pumping out their natural, economic, intellectual and other resources on plausible pretexts**

## 'BRI cooperation with China boosts infrastructure connectivity in Africa'

ADDISABABA

CHINA-AFRICA cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has boosted infrastructure connectivity and integration across Africa, a senior African Union (AU) official has said.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Initiative. "In those ten years, when we look at the landscape of Africa, we find very concrete evidence of the BRI," said Albert Muchanga (pictured), AU commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals.

"You have got transportation networks, communication networks, logistics centers, industrial parks, among several others," he said, listing a few examples of China-Africa BRI cooperation in a recent interview with Xinhua.

He said joint infrastructure development between China and Africa under the BRI "made it very easy to connect African countries. You can move across (Africa), goods and services can also be conveyed and freighted across, and, above all, employment has been generated."

The AU commissioner underscored the BRI's role as a driver of employment for Africa's burgeoning youth population. "When we generate employment, you boost consumption in the domestic economy, and that has a win-win outcome." "We have really been able to get a lot of benefit as Africa from the Belt and Road Initiative. We are very, very happy," Muchanga said.

Muchanga said Africa greatly values its cooperation with China under the Initiative. "We intend to proceed with what we have achieved.

The next stage is to boost the productivity of African economies, and that requires investment in industrialization. The greatest source of our productivity is in manufacturing, so we foresee a lot of manufacturing enterprises," he said.

The AU commissioner emphasized the need to strengthen China-Africa cooperation in the energy sector to realize Africa's aspirations to transition to cleaner energy. "We are going into a green transition, and we need technology, and Africa has the resources to participate in the energy transition into de-carbonization," Muchanga said. Xinhua



# SPORT

## Arusha teenager reveals secret of dominance in Diplomatic Golf tourney

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

SHANE Pandit, the young Arusha golfer who has, for the second time in a row, won the annual Diplomatic Golf tournament held at the foot of Mount Meru, said he was happy to defend his crown.

"It was my biggest dream and I have been losing sleep over it, but thankfully I have managed to win the fifth round of the Diplomatic Golf tournament after working very hard and studying the skills a lot," he said shortly after being presented with a trophy.

"I (not only) feel very good for being the second-time champion but also want to congratulate other participants and winners of the Diplomatic Golf tournament and would like to thank Roy Safaris for supporting my participation," Shane stated, adding that he always wanted to outdo himself.

His father, Sanjay Pandit, said he has been supporting Shane since the young golfer was only aged six and confident enough to play against adults.

Shane, now aged 14, is essentially a child but has succeeded in shining above more than 120 golfers from 18 countries around the globe who battled it out in the tournament that took place at the Kilimanjaro Golf course in Arusha over the weekend.

Young Shane amassed 88 Stable Ford points and emerged the overall winner in the fifth round of the annual Diplomatic Golf tournament.

Previously also he won the fourth installment of the tournament that took place last year, with the golfer then aged 13.

The young golfer was presented with a full Safari Package to Tarangire National Park to be handled by Gosheni Tours, four tailor-made golf balls, and a big trophy.

Khadija Selemani from Dar es Salaam's Lugalo Golf Club was the winner of the Ladies Silver Category in the 2023 Diplomatic Golf tournament, as the golfer recorded a handicap score of 67 Stable Ford points.

Vicky Elias, also from Lugalo Golf Club, was the first runner-up in the Ladies Silver Category with 65 Stable Ford points.

Tanvi Banal won the Ladies Bronze Category with 82 points while the runner-up, Lucy Maina, managed 80 points overall.

Manraj Chadha was the Division A winner with 75 points while Joseph Tango was the Division B winner with 77 points. Kassim Sawa was the Division C winner with 68 points.

The NMB Bank was among the tournament's supporters and the NMB Private Banking Manager, Hilda Mung'ongo, said the financial institution saw the importance of promoting and supporting sports especially the Diplomatic Golf tournament which helps children in need.

"It is part of our corporate social responsibility," the NMB Manager disclosed.

One of the supporting firms was the Kili Mediair, the air taxi service which provides medical evacuation on Mount Kilimanjaro for climbers, porters, and guides as well as providing treatments.

"This was Kili Mediair's first time support to Diplomatic Golf having been attracted by the tourney's mission to help the children in Tanzania," the firm's Marketing Officer, Peter Sarakikya, noted.

Event coordinator, Reinafrida Rwezaura from the Songea Mississippi Foundation, said, as usual, this year's Diplomatic Golf tournament is held to back a campaign termed 'support children living in difficult conditions'.

"We always wanted to attract more international golfers and this has been achieved, plus the mission of raising funds for children has also been successful because this year we have managed to raise 15 million/-," Reinfarida stated.

The tournament, staged on a 36-hole Kiligolf course, brought together more than 120 golfers from Kenya, Spain, Netherlands, Denmark, India, Germany, South Africa, England, USA, China, Zimbabwe, Sweden, and Tanzania, all involved in a race for the event's top diadem.

## Uganda FA president opens up on NBC Premier League success

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

FEDERATION of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) president Moses Magogo has explained why Tanzania's NBC Premier League has made significant strides to become competitive over the last couple of years while Kenya and Uganda leagues have stagnated.

In 2023, the Premier League was named the fifth strongest league in Africa and 38th strongest in the world in a release by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS).

The revelation was an indicator of the way the league has risen and an indictment of how Uganda and Kenya's football leagues have moved backward.

Magogo said that Tanzania capitalized on selling the league through their biggest clubs, Yanga and Simba SC.

"Tanzania is in a different world and they did something we did not do," Magogo said.

"It is one thing they did, we had teams here in Kenya, Gor Mahia and AFC Leopards," he added. Magogo revealed: "For a league to be strong, there must be some traditional clubs that are rivals, and we had the 'Mashemeji derby' (Gor Mahia vs. AFC Leopards) which was good enough. In Uganda, we had the SC Villa vs. Express FC which was good enough."

The FUFA boss believes the willingness of Tanzania's broadcasting satellite company Azam Media Limited to broadcast the country's league has had a huge impact on growing the league.

The official revealed: "I think what Tanzania had, the opportunity they got is that they developed local investment in local pay television, that is Azam Media Limited that took the mantle and decided to produce and put their leagues to the fans."

The administrator noted South African broadcasting company, SuperSport, which broadcasted both the Ugandan and Kenyan topflight leagues at some point, also aired European matches unlike Azam Media Limited, which attracted fans to start following their clubs rather than investing in foreign leagues.

Magogo disclosed: "It did not happen here in Kenya and Uganda. Instead, both countries brought in SuperSport which introduced the foreign leagues, so it became a competition between the local leagues and international leagues- better marketed worldwide with the best players, and best cameras, which took the fans away from supporting what is locally theirs."

The FUFA boss noted: "In Tanzania, you don't struggle to watch the Premier League, which is good inspiration. Yet when you see our national teams compete head-to-head, they are all almost at the same level, but sportingly, we are not yet far stretched."

Magogo added: "As federations and governments, we need to go back to the basics. For us in Uganda, what we have done since we do not have a local investment like Azam Media Limited is doing, as a federation we have decided to do our television and it is possible."

FUFA introduced its broadcasting channel having borrowed a leaf from Uganda, and Magogo hopes that it will put Uganda's league on the African map in five years.

The official noted: "We have seen how it is working, the impact it is making, and believe in the next five years, we will be able to make our sales, club sales, and big sponsors make a lot more money than we are making and when we get the money, we have the talent."

He disclosed: "Kenya and Uganda have the talent, it is only the infrastructure that can stop our leagues from being the best in Africa."

“

It is one thing they did, we had teams here in Kenya, Gor Mahia and AFC Leopards," he added. Magogo revealed: "For a league to be strong, there must be some traditional clubs that are rivals, and we had the 'Mashemeji derby' (Gor Mahia vs. AFC Leopards) which was good enough. In Uganda, we had the SC Villa vs. Express FC which was good enough

## SPORTS

## Yanga and Simba SC face must-win, make-or-break clashes this weekend

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

THIS weekend will be a brief consequential period for local football's two juggernauts, Simba SC and Yanga, as both clubs will be vying for victories in their respective CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round, second leg matches.

Compared to Yanga, Simba SC will head into the second leg slightly more worried than their nemesis as the Msimbazi Street side drew 2-2 with Power Dynamos in the first leg in Zambia a little over a week ago.

Indeed, come this Sunday in the second leg at the Azam Complex Stadium here in this bustling city, Simba SC will have to strain every sinew to prevent Power Dynamos from netting what would be a crucial away goal, that could decisively prove priceless for the Zambian giants.

At the same time, the Msimbazi Street side will have to display loads of flair and imagination to penetrate Power Dynamos' defense and hopefully net a couple of goals which would guarantee victory for Simba SC.

As for Yanga, the Jangwani street side goes into their CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round second leg in a commanding position following their classy 2-0 win in the first leg in Kigali, Rwanda against the Sudanese team Al Merrikh.

Nevertheless, despite that, Yanga mustn't rest on its laurels in the second leg as doing so could prove to be disastrously counterproductive.

Admittedly, while a first-leg 2-nil lead is a comfortable advantage in anyone's book, things can still go rapidly downhill for Yanga in the second leg if the Tanzanian heavyweights display excessive amounts of hubris.

And, with Yanga's second leg run-in against Al Merrikh also due to take place at the Azam Complex Stadium this Saturday, it is hoped that the stadium will be transformed into a hostile sea of Yanga fans clad in their trademark green and yellow jerseys and that these die-hard fans will act as the home team's 12th player in what ought to be an intriguing showdown.

Let us maintain the football theme to consider our very own JKT Queens, who



Yanga's defender, Ibrahim Abdallah (L), negotiates his way past Al Merrikh's midfielder, Ramadan Agab, as the outfits took on each other in the first leg of this season's CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round that took place in Rwanda on September 16. Yanga defeated Al Merrikh 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

won the whole shebang at the CECAFA Zonal qualifiers for the 2023 CAF Women's Champions League.

Indeed, the Tanzanian side will venture into this year's CAF Women's Champions League with the determination to slay giants and put their best foot forward.

Unquestionably, JKT Queens have their work cut out for them as they boldly take a stab at humbling the giants of continental women's football.

With the CAF Women's Champions League set to kick off on November 5, JKT Queens will be the cynosure of Tanzanian fans who will be cheering their team on to soar to lofty heights during the competition.

Finally, I would like to highlight the exceptional display of the Tanzanian female marathoner Magdalena Shauri at the internationally renowned Berlin Marathon in which she

fabulously finished third in the taxing race last Sunday.

By her stunning athletic feat, Magdalena has now fittingly secured automatic qualification for the quadrennial Paris Olympics next year.

Hats off to Magdalena for her remarkable achievement and hopefully she will achieve more praiseworthy feats at the coming Olympic Games.

## Power Dynamos have nothing to lose, says Oliveira

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC has resumed intensive training ahead of the side's second leg of this season's CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round against Zambia's Power Dynamos which will take place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on October 1.

The two sides shared a 2-2 draw in their first meeting at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola on September 16, following Simba SC's late equalizer from Zambian midfielder Clatous Chama.

Simba SC head coach Roberto Oliveira, alias Robertinho, has expressed satisfaction over his charges after last week's victory in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League which has boosted morale ahead of the continental showdown's return leg.

"We have started with a special program for all players by dividing them into two groups, but in general we have started to prepare for our return game, we want to see that we enter the group stage and achieve our objective," the Brazilian tactician disclosed.

Robertinho pointed out: "Once you have a breather in a league match, it sets a new morale and mindset heading into

a continental tier, we missed several chances against Dynamos in the first match but had a comfortable win against Coastal Union, although the second leg is going to be a very difficult game because they have nothing to lose."

Opponents Power Dynamos' recent form in the Zambia Super League is two wins, a draw in three ties, and no loss, with their weekend league match against Zesco United culminating in a 2-2 draw.

The Brazilian tactician said that their opponents are not a weak team and they will come out strong to try to force either a win or a draw that is beneficial for them.

"The game will not be easy, but I have faith in my players even though I will miss Henock Inonga, but the rest can give me what I want and what the fans are waiting for," the gaffer noted.

Simba SC defender, Henock Inonga, suffered a grievous injury during the outfit's league game against Coastal Union and is expected to be out for two weeks.

Another Simba SC player out is Ivorian midfielder Aubim Kramo who has been battling injuries since he arrived at the club.

Despite recent news, Robertinho said he has been pleased with his team's performance in the recent league match against Coastal Union after utilizing several chances to register a 3-0 win over the latter, stressing the displays ought to be continuous against Dynamos.

"We have to be clinical, goals are what matters in this fixture, I know the confidence is high after a 3-0 victory, especially for Jean Baleke after facing criticism in the

first leg, other players can pick it from there but also defensive wise we have to focus on collective discipline," Robertinho noted.

The Fondoh Malone is part of the team's training after the 24-year-old Cameroon international miraculously escaped serious injury, having been involved in a dramatic car crash that occurred around Mikochehi in Dar es Salaam at the break of dawn on Sunday.

The blow to Simba SC's defensive lineup leaves the team in a challenging position as the squad strives for continued success in the league.

Malone, who previously served Cameroon's Coton Sport, is set to partner with Kennedy Juma, who has been coming in for Inonga in the latter's absence this season.



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama (2nd R), shoots past Zambia's Power Dynamos' defender when the clubs took on each other in the first leg of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola last week. AGENCIES

## Morata brace helps Atletico end Real Madrid winning streak

MADRID

ALVARO Morata struck twice for Atletico Madrid as they inflicted rivals Real Madrid's first defeat of the season, with a 3-1 derby triumph on Sunday in La Liga.

Champions Barcelona sit top of the league as Los Blancos lost their 100 percent record, with Antoine Griezmann also on target for Atletico, fifth, at their raucous Metropolitan stadium.

Real Madrid are third, a point behind Barcelona and high-flying Girona in second place, after they failed to match Atletico's level of intensity in an enthralling clash.

Morata netted an early header and Griezmann doubled Atletico's lead, before Toni Kroos pulled Madrid into the game with a stinging drive before half-time.

However Morata headed home again at the start of the second half and Madrid could not find a way back against an Atletico side bouncing back from what coach Diego Simeone labelled their "weakest" performance of his long reign last weekend.

"What I need is to feel important and this year, maybe I feel more important than in other years - I hope we keep winning because I really want to win a title with Atletico," Morata told DAZN.

"I'm very happy for all the fans, I said it the other day ... that the fans are going to have the most important role, and that's how it was. (We're) all together, us on the pitch and them in the stands."

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has given veteran midfielders Luka Modric and Kroos limited minutes this season but chose to start them both in the team's biggest game of the campaign to date, dropping pivot Aurelien Tchouameni and striker Joselu.

The Italian pushed new arrival Jude Bellingham even further into attack, alongside Rodrygo, instead of in the number 10 role he has starred in since his move from Borussia Dortmund in the summer, scoring six goals in his first six games before the derby.

Real Madrid were without star forward Vinicius Junior, who has recovered from his hamstring injury but suffered a stomach problem on Sunday morning, according to

Spanish reports.

It only took four minutes for Atletico to go ahead. Samuel Lino, playing at left wing-back, whipped a ball in for Morata to head home after escaping the attentions of David Alaba.

The hosts doubled their advantage in the 18th minute when Griezmann directed a header past Kepa Arrizabalaga from Saul Niguez's cross.

Atletico should have made it three after half an hour but Madrid's goalkeeper, on loan from Chelsea, produced a fine low save to deny Saul.

The Rojiblancos were quickly made to pay when Kroos swerved away from Marcos Llorente and drilled past Jan Oblak from the edge of the box.

The German midfielder controller was Madrid's stand-out player in the first half and Oblak fielded another of his long-range strikes well.

Eduardo Camavinga tapped home just before half-time but the goal was ruled offside because of Antonio Rudiger's position, to Madrid fury as he did not touch a cross which was curled in his direction.

Atletico defender Jose Gimenez was booked for scything down Rodrygo as tensions rose at the Metropolitan.

- Morata double -

Ancelotti sent Joselu on for Modric, the game largely passing the 38-year-old by, yet barely a minute into the second half, Atletico stretched their lead.

Alaba left Morata free behind him, assuming Camavinga would mark the Spain forward, who netted with a free header from Saul's cross. Mario Hermoso clipped the crossbar with a header as Atletico tried to put the game out of reach of Los Blancos and their penchant for comebacks.

Substitute Tchouameni and Rudiger sent long-range efforts narrowly wide for Madrid as the hosts kept their opponents at arm's length and secured an impressive win. England international Bellingham, who for the first time since arriving failed to have a strong influence on the game, was booked for a wild tackle on Angel Correa in stoppage time to end a disappointing night.

AFP

## Rapinoe makes triumphant US farewell in win over South Africa

CHICAGO

MEGAN Rapinoe was a winner in her farewell game for the United States on Sunday, setting up a goal with a corner kick in a 2-0 triumph over South Africa.

The iconic 38-year-old striker, celebrated for off-field activism as well as glories on the pitch, ended her epic US career with 63 goals in 203 caps over more than 17 years with a 54th-minute exit at Chicago's Soldier Field.

"It makes me really proud to know we've been as successful on the field as we have, but also that we've helped make the world a little bit better of a place," Rapinoe said after the victory.

Rapinoe sparked the Americans to crowns at the 2015 and 2019 Women's World Cups and gold at the 2012 London Olympics, but was a champion for social causes as well.

A vocal advocate for LGBTQ rights who has supported an array of US social justice issues, Rapinoe was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's top civilian award, in 2002 by President Joe Biden.

Rapinoe, FIFA's 2019 Women's Player of the Year, also was among the leaders of the US women's successful fight with US Soccer for equal pay and conditions with the men's squad.

"She has affected so many people's lives in a positive way. She has changed this sport forever," US forward Trinity Rodman said of Rapinoe. "I'm so grateful I'm able to play on the same field with her as well as learn from her so she's a legend."

Rodman scored on a right-footed volley in the 18th minute off an assist from Alex Morgan for the Americans, who also beat South Africa 3-0 Thursday at Cincinnati.

Rapinoe, the 14th player to make 200 career appearances for the US women, made her magic four minutes into the second half.

US midfielder Emily Sonnett scored on a header in the 49th minute off a deflection of a Rapinoe corner kick, nodding the ball over a defender and just under the crossbar for a 2-0 US lead.

Players gathered to celebrate around Rapinoe, who struck a pose after encouragement from teammates.

Rapinoe was replaced by Margaret Purce in the 54th minute and departed to a standing ovation, teammates coming over to share a hug before she stepped off the pitch for the last time in a USA uniform.

"So overwhelming. It has been amazing," Rapinoe said of the day. "It has been really wonderful, to hear all the nice things, to have a closure moment, to play in front of a big crowd again. I'll miss it forever. I don't think I'll ever be at a moment where it will feel perfect but this is pretty close."

"Trailblazer. Icon. Inspiration," the US women's team posted on social media after Rapinoe's exit. "You've made this sport, this country and this world a better place. Thank you."

Morgan, in a video tribute, told Rapinoe, "Your legacy is so much bigger than what you did on the field... you've literally done it all. I'm just so proud of how you get to go out on your own terms."

- 'I feel so at peace' -

Rapinoe thanked fans worldwide and her teammates in speaking to the crowd after the match, saying, "I feel like I've been able to grow up in front of all of you."

AFP

# Saudi Arabia is trying to disrupt soccer's world order. The reasons why might surprise you - 1

By Amy Woodyatt, Krystina Shveda and Antonio Jarne Cubero, CNN

WHEN Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal reportedly planned a \$1.1 billion bid to sign French soccer superstar Kylian Mbappé - including \$332 million to his club, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), and an eye-watering \$775 million salary packet to the World Cup winner for just one year - it was slammed by critics as sportswashing.

Mbappé might have said no to the offer in July, but a month later, Neymar Jr. said yes to Al-Hilal, as the Brazil star moved from PSG for a transfer fee of around \$98.5 million (€90 million) plus add-ons, according to multiple reports.

In a record-breaking transfer window, Saudi Pro League (SPL) clubs spent close to \$1 billion, acquiring 94 overseas players from Europe's major leagues - France's Ligue 1, Spain's La Liga, Italy's Serie A, Germany's Bundesliga and the English Premier League - according to Deloitte.

Despite the Arab nation's poor human rights record, Saudi Arabia's spending spree to turn its domestic soccer league into a star-studded, bona fide competition shows the seriousness of its ambition. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman says he doesn't "care" about the country's investment in sport being described as sportswashing. "Well if sportswashing is going to increase my GDP by one percent, then I will continue doing sportswashing," MBS said in an interview with Fox News which aired Wednesday.

Pressed on if he was bothered by the use of the term, MBS continued: "I don't care. I have one percent GDP growth from sport, and I am aiming for another one and a half percent. Call it whatever you want, we're going to get that one and a half percent."

Saudi clubs, several of which have been taken over by the nation's sovereign Public Investment Fund (PIF), have already attracted some of the biggest names in the sport.

By attracting some of the world's biggest stars to the Gulf states, the SPL wants "to drive competitiveness on and off the pitch," though it's keen to emphasize that these overseas players will help develop "young Saudi talent."

During this summer transfer win-



Earlier this summer, the PIF -- which is chaired by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman -- took ownership of four of the country's strongest soccer clubs: 18-time national champion Al-Hilal, nine-time champions Al-Ittihad and Al-Nassr and three-time champion Al-Ahli. Getty Images

dow, the government-controlled PIF increased the cumulative value of these four clubs nearly five times, making them the most valuable in the country, according to estimates by the sports website Transfermarkt.

Plenty of other leading stars have eagerly said yes to the SPL, notably 2022 Ballon D'Or winner Karim Benzema joining Al-Ittihad at the end of his contract with Spanish soccer giant Real Madrid. As the European transfer window came to a close, the four PIF-owned teams have spent nearly \$900 million (€835.1 million) on buying elite international players. Transfermarkt data shows, which ranked them in the top 20 clubs in the world by transfer expenditure, alongside soccer giants from England, France, Germany, Spain, and Italy. Al Hilal alone paid more than \$378 million (€353 million), more than PSG and Arsenal, making it the second-largest spender this year.

The newly acquired players join five-time Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo, who has a two-year contract with Al-Nassr where he will earn a staggering estimated \$200 million a year, according to Saudi state-owned media, currently making him the world's highest paid soccer player. As of today, 21 of the most expensive soccer players in Saudi Arabia by transfer fees - all

international stars - play for one of the PIF-owned clubs. Despite the financial outlay, the SPL is remaining deliberately tight-lipped about the specifics of its financial gamble, with chief operating officer Carlo Nohra confirming to CNN Sport that it was "not in [the SPL's] competitive advantage" to report the salaries offered to players and coaches.

The PIF has \$777 billion in assets under management, according to its most recent filing, with ambitions to top \$1 trillion within a few years. In 2021, it acquired English soccer club Newcastle United, before focusing on investments at home. The club is now also among top spenders on players.

Saudi clubs not owned by the PIF are also splurging on big-ticket players, with former Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson, 33, offered an eye-watering salary of \$870,000 (£700,000) per week, according to multiple reports, in an estimated \$15 million (£12 million) transfer from Liverpool to Saudi team Al-Ettifaq. In a recent interview with The Athletic, Henderson said those numbers "just aren't true."

Essentially, the signal is "We mean business," Simon Chadwick, a professor of sport and geopolitical economy at SKEMA Business School, told CNN.

"We've got so much money that for a player who is ... coming towards the

end of his career, we can afford to pay him 700,000 [GB pounds a week], or whatever it is that he's being paid, and still have Cristiano Ronaldo and still be in the market for other players as well," Chadwick said, describing Saudi's approach to becoming a sporting superpower, adding that the sky is the limit in terms of cost.

### 'Saudi's love of soccer

Saudi Arabia follows in the footsteps of several other countries - including China and Qatar in investing large sums of money to try and turn themselves into soccer powerhouses.

It remains to be seen whether Saudi's turbocharged investment will have a lasting impact or resemble something like a costly rebranding effort.

The Saudi national team has been to multiple World Cups, and the country's clubs have won multiple Asian titles. Saudi's victory over Argentina during last year's men's World Cup was hailed as one of the greatest upsets in tournament history, with the country's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud granting a national public holiday in recognition of the win. Club games can attract huge crowds in the Middle Eastern nation. "For example, Al-Ittihad against Al-Hilal, you're talking about drawing crowds of 40, 50, 60,000 people, these are games that are comparable in size to Chelsea vs. Arsenal, Manchester United vs. Manchester City," Chadwick said. Buying star players, some arguably past their prime, also provides an easy win for Saudi teams, according to Kieran Maguire, co-host of "The Price of Football" podcast.

"From the Saudi authorities' point of view, they're getting a ready-made product. Everybody's heard of Benzema. Everybody's heard of Cristiano Ronaldo and so on," Maguire said.

Saudi Arabia's lofty sporting ambitions don't end with the SPL or Newcastle United. The country is hosting the 2023 FIFA Club World Cup and is bidding to host the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

Several media reports also indicated that the Gulf kingdom was considering launching a bid for the 2030 FIFA men's World Cup alongside Greece and Egypt - although it is reportedly mulling pulling its candidacy.

To be continued CNN.com

## Arsenal suddenly look short - Mikel Arteta still needs a 'killer'

By Miguel Delaney

AFTER a lot of back and forth about the north London derby itself, Mikel Arteta was eventually asked about what mattered most. It was put to the Arsenal manager whether it was a concern that his side are already four points behind Manchester City following this 2-2 home draw with Tottenham, with that just the sixth game of the season. It is already a lot to make up, and a sizeable psychological task given the champions' points return.

"I'm not thinking about that," Arteta insisted, even if it wasn't completely convincing. The same could be said of the display, which is maybe what is most relevant for what the Basque said he was most bothered by, which is just winning games.

This was a frustrating afternoon for Arsenal in a few senses. There was first of all the fact they were in complete control, and could have killed the game even before it became a proper contest. Gabriel Jesus wasted a huge chance.

There was then how they lost Declan Rice to injury, conceded two soft goals from a defensive point of view, and never really had that big chance towards the end. They didn't really bring on any game-changer.

Arteta fairly pointed to five injuries but it still feels as if Arsenal are missing something more.

It is actually what most of the market was looking for this summer. That is a prime finisher.

It makes it increasingly surprising that Arsenal didn't pursue this option. They instead went for Kai Havertz, who was brought on in this match as a potential game-changer. It didn't do much.

This isn't to criticise the German, who is obviously a far better player than much of the worst criticism has made out so far. He could go on to become a very productive player for



Jesus blasted over after robbing James Maddison (Getty Images)

Arsenal, and it was obvious he was signed to give them a different tactical option, especially given how their main first XI ran out of steam last season.

He is still adapting, though, and his qualities weren't quite what was needed here.

Many will similarly point to Jesus, who missed that big chance. That reflected a lot of the discussion. Jesus is a brilliant all-round forward who links play superbly, but arguably the least of his abilities is his finishing.

That missed effort brought echoes of a common refrain within the game, that the Brazilian isn't "a killer". Arsenal still don't really have that.

If it seems harsh to be focusing on the attack when Arteta's side still scored two and conceded such soft goals, it is mainly because it was their inability to make sure that offered Spurs such encouragement. That fed into the defensive issues.

They should have been out of sight. It may well mean they look around next summer, or perhaps even as

early as January. All of the major London clubs like Ivan Toney, including Arsenal's derby opponents here. The Brentford forward feels like he is now ready to make that step up.

Could he step across? Arsenal are monitoring the situation.

That's natural, since he is an obvious option, all the more so since Arteta didn't have such clear choices on the bench.

Good youth products in Reiss Nelson and Emile Smith Rowe were brought on, and it would of course be better for everyone if they were capable of rising to that level; of offering that difference.

That might even have been the case in a sport that didn't involve such concentration of resources at the top as the modern game. As it is, for all Arteta's insistence he isn't even thinking about it, Arsenal face the most modern of problems.

They have to match City's points return. That may mean trying to match the champions with a clear number-nine in Erling Haaland.

Arteta is now so close to that finished product, even allowing for these slips at the start of the season. They maybe just need that finisher, and those finishing touches.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Saudi Arabia is trying to disrupt soccer's world order. The reasons why might surprise you – 1**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzania Olympic Committee's vice-chairman, Henry Tandau (L), hands over a T-shirt to Russia's Ambassador to Tanzania, Andrey Avetisyan, during a conference for building capacity for young Tanzanians held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The TOC official moreover presented feedback on the youths conference held in Russia recently, bringing together young Africans. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Mbeya Kwanza FC soars to NBC Championship League top with big win

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE third round of the 2023/24 NBC Championship League saw Mbeya Kwanza FC claim top spot after garnering a resounding home victory, while Green Warriors climbed out of the relegation zone.

Mbuni FC had briefly moved to the summit after beating Dar es Salaam-based side Pan African 1-0 at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Friday to continue their unbeaten start to the league.

Arusha-based Mbuni FC has won two games and drawn one. With seven points, they are now third on the table.

Mbeya Kwanza FC ascended to the top of the table 24 hours later courtesy of a 4-0 home victory over Mbeya City FC at the Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium in Mtwara on Saturday. They claim the top status courtesy of a superior goal difference.

KenGold FC now occupies the second spot on the Championship League table, level on points with Mbeya Kwanza FC and third-placed Mbuni FC.

This came about after KenGold FC's comprehensive 3-0 victory over struggling Ruvu Shooting at Jamhuri Stadium, Morogoro on Saturday.

Ruvu Shooting remains the only team yet to register a point this season and is stuck at the bottom of the league standings, four points from safety.

They were relegated from the NBC Premier League last season and are on the verge of selling their status to Iringa's Lipuli FC.

The status sale has hampered their preparation under head coach Khalid Adam. The team did not have any pre-season preparations and assembled a few days before their opening game which ended in a 2-1 away loss to Dodoma's FGA Talents.

Pamba FC dropped to fourth place in the standings following the first defeat of the season that was inflicted by hosts, Stand United, at Kambarage Stadium in Shinyanga on Friday.

Elsewhere, Green Warriors escaped the drop zone thanks to their 1-0 triumph over title hopefuls, Polisi Tanzania, at Uhuru Stadium, while Cosmopolitan and TMA Stars could not be separated after their clash finished goalless.

Biashara United picked their first victory of the season with a 2-0 triumph over Copco FC at Karume Stadium on Sunday.

The victory meant that Biashara United moved up to seventh spot on the log, with four points earned after three games played.

FGA Talents Rovers were dragged into the relegation zone following a second defeat in a row.

They lost 1-0 to hosts Transit Camp FC at Jamhuri Stadium on Sunday. The results also pushed Transit Camp FC to 10th on the table having collected four points.

## Twiga Stars eyes Ivory Coast scalp in 2024 WAFCON Qualifiers rematch



Footballers making Tanzania's senior national women's squad, Twiga Stars, are pictured engaging in training in Dar es Salaam yesterday to shape up for the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) Qualifiers' rematch against Ivory Coast slated to take place in the city on Tuesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national women's football team, Twiga Stars, faces a tough challenge against Ivory Coast in Dar es Salaam in the evening to make it through to the second and final round of the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers.

In the first leg played in Yamoussoukro on Friday, hosts Ivory Coast came out stronger in the second half to seal an emphatic 2-0 victory over a determined Twiga Stars side.

Frédérique Akebie Abroguoa came off the bench to give Ivory Coast the lead just three minutes into the second half before Ines Ida Guehai sealed it for the Ivorians in the 55th minute ahead of the trip to Dar es Salaam.

Twiga Stars will be looking to overturn that deficit in a match scheduled to take place at Azam

Complex Stadium starting at 7 p.m.

The Tanzanian team returned to Dar es Salaam from Yamoussoukro on Saturday and headed straight to camp to continue their preparations for the crucial second leg match, whose winner faces the winner of yet another qualifier pitting Togo against Djibouti.

Twiga Stars' head coach Bakari Shime was defiant that his side could overturn the deficit, insisting they could score three unanswered goals against Ivory Coast.

"I am satisfied with how my team played in the first leg despite losing 2-0. I am very positive that we can get the much-needed results in the return leg at home. We already know how they play, we know where their strengths and weaknesses are," Shime noted.

The tactician revealed: "We will have a different approach, in the first leg we defended and counter-attacked. At home, we will now attack throughout while being cautious not to concede an away goal."

"I believe scoring three goals at home is

not difficult but we have to work hard to make it possible," Shime said.

"It is not a big challenge because we won't be alone but with the home support of Tanzanians who will motivate us."

Shime disclosed: "Our big task is to ensure our players recover physically and mentally quickly to believe the tie is still alive."

He noted: "The players need to understand that we can score three goals. They have seen it is possible and must keep believing we can do it at home."

The 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations for sponsorship purposes and, as WAFCON 2024 for short, will be the 15th edition of the biennial African women's football tournament. It will be hosted by Morocco in consecutive editions.

Twiga Stars made their first and last appearance in the Women's Africa Cup of Nations finals in 2010 but failed to go past the group stage in the tournament held in South Africa.

## Baleke gains ground in battle for NBC PL top goalscorer honour

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC striker Jean Baleke took full advantage of a leaky Coastal Union defense to soar to the top of the 2023/24 NBC Premier League scoring charts.

Baleke scored a first-half hat trick in Simba SC's comfortable 3-0 home victory over Coastal Union last week.

Six minutes into the game, Baleke pounced on a mistake committed by Coastal Union's defense and sent the ball rolling into the back of the net to give Simba SC the lead.

The goal took the wind out of Coastal Union's sails and Baleke would be celebrating once again as he tapped home four minutes later to register his second goal.

Baleke netted a third from the penalty spot five minutes before the break to complete his hat trick and move two goals above midfielder Feisal Salum of Azam FC.

The former DR Congo's TP Mazembe striker has now been directly involved in six league goals in three games for Simba SC.

Salum grabbed a hat trick against eight-man Tabora United on the opening day of the season but has since failed to add to his tally in the subsequent games against Singida Fountain Gate FC and Tanzania Prisons.

He remains in second place in the top goal scorers race followed by eight players that have netted two goals each.

Second-half substitute, Mudathir Yahya, found a way through for Yanga in the 89th minute to earn them three points against a stubborn Namungo FC.

It helped Yanga climb back to the top of the NBC Premier League table with nine points from their opening three games.

This was a follow-up strike to the one he scored against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in the opening tie.

Iddy Selemani's late strike against Singida Fountain Gate FC took his total to two goals for the season and handed Azam FC valuable three points.

With Azam FC pushing for a winner, Nado was on hand at the far post to tap home a deflected ball from Iddris Mbombo's shot in the 90th minute.

Adam Omary also grabbed his second of the season in Mashujaa FC's 2-0 win over Ihefu SC at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma.

The former Mtibwa Sugar striker struck nine minutes before stoppage time to put Mashujaa FC 2-0 up and confirm their second victory of the season.

Ugandan winger, John Nakibinge, scored a brace to help newly-promoted Tabora United register their first victory of the season and also get into the scoring charts.

Stephane Aziz Ki, Max Nzegeli, Matheo Anthony, and Prince Dube are the other players each with two goals despite not finding the back of the net in the third round of matches.



Jean Baleke. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

**EATV TUESDAY**

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
14:00 SPORTS (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
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 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

**MJADALA** is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shaping process.

**eastafrika RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planef Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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## Flexibles by David Chikoko

