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Samia cautions on tax evasion habits

Peace and unity are the basis of everything that is useful, demanding that we value and serve others with devotion and even handedness

By Guardian Reporters

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday cautioned business people against tax avoidance while hiding on the wish to ensure a fair and friendly tax collection environment.

Addressing clerics and a wide range of notables at an Eid el-Fitr national prayer in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the president used the platform to castigate business people who mistake the dissolution of the taskforce in revenue collection to avoid tax payments.

Paying tax is a legal requirement which is recognised in holy books as among dutiful observances of any individual as taxes play a crucial part in social harmony and economic wellbeing.

"It is sad to see that there are business people who avoid paying tax or issuing receipts," she said, asserting that it is the duty of every

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan takes part in Eid El Fitr prayers at King Mohammed VI Mosque in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region, yesterday. More photos on pg 4. Photo: State House

Nine dead, 19 injured in Eid morning crash

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

NINE people died and 19 others suffered serious injuries after a Dar es Salaam to Mwanza bus hit a lorry parked on the roadside in the wake of a breakdown.

Suleiman Mwenda, the Iramba district commissioner, said in an interview yesterday that the accident occurred at around 4:30am at Malendi village,

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A Lujiga Express bus, T 315 CXX which hit a cargo truck parked on the roadside after a breakdown at Malendi in Iramba District, Singida Region at dawn on Tuesday where nine people died and 19 others injured. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

'Quarter of engineers registered since 2021'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A QUARTER of the current 33,218 registered engineers were added to the books during the past three years, board officials say.

Bernard Kavishe, the registrar at the Engineers Registration Board (ERB), said in a briefing on the sector's achievements during the past three years of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in leadership.

He said that the government invested in education, providing loans to technician level training, thus adding to greater output of skilled engineers, with ERB laying emphasis on efforts to empower engineers with practical training for fresh graduates.

The number of women registered projects rose from 99 in 2019 to 1000 in 2023, while

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Matola rues missed chances in Simba SC's Federation Cup exit

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Madrid and Man City draw six-goal Champions League thriller

PMO sends cabinet team for assessing Rufiji situation

The rescue team was helping to evacuate people surrounded by water, where a more powerful boat has been fielded

By Guardian Correspondent

A CABINET team accompanied by experts is to visit Rufiji and Kibiti districts in Coast Region to conduct an assessment of flooding in the areas, which has so far killed two people and a canoe capsized.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa stated this on Tuesday evening at a penultimate Iftar organised for the PMO staff and affiliated institutions in Dodoma.

Those who have already arrived in the area include Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs state minister at (PMO) and the permanent secretary, Dr Jim Yonazi.

Others on the way to strengthen the assessment exercise include ministers in sectors like health, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, he said, noting that PMO was coordinating disaster relief activities countrywide.

Maj. Edward Gowele, the Rufiji district commissioner said that the canoe capsized after hitting a log, losing balance and overturning, where a mother and her children were in the canoe.

He said the canoe had five people in but

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Samia cautions on tax evasion habits

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citizen to pay tax in accordance with the country's laws.

Since the tax collection framework was reworked starting 06 April, 2021 revenues have increased from 18trn/- for 2021 to 24trn/- last year, she said, objecting to tax evasion as a major impediment to socio-economic development.

He praised business people and traders issuing receipts after sales and customers who demand receipts, insisting that with our current population and the need to improve social services, more taxes need to be collected and tax evasion ended.

In an Instagram post earlier, the president urged Tanzanians to maintain peace, unity and solidarity, as vital attributes in promoting social and economic development.

Peace and unity are the basis of everything that is useful, demanding that we value and serve others with devotion and even handedness, she stated, while

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi used the same occasion to demand that security bodies ensure safety outdoors, in gatherings or in the streets, so that people celebrate the festival days peacefully.

He asked clerics to maintain vigil in prayer for the country and its leaders, which helps the government to overcome various development challenges.

Directing his gaze at government activity, he asked the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO), the Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA) and the Ministry of Works to work closely with contractors implementing road projects. This will stop damage

to infrastructure during project implementation, he said.

Sheikh Ponda Issa Ponda, head of the influential Council of Imams, urged that leadership positions should be given to dignified people showing compassion to people "instead of those who have no sense of dignity towards others."

Reading the council statement on the festival in Dar es Salaam yesterday, he touched on the demand for a new constitution, especially due to what happened in previous elections, to avoid this repeating itself in coming elections.

Mwanza regional sheikh Hassan Kabeke told a vast gathering at Nyamagana grounds that Muslims need to promote peace during elections. They should collect forms to seek various leadership positions as a constitutional right.

It is the best time for Mwanza residents to unite and put their religious affiliations aside, he said, expressing grave worries on drug addiction; especially for the chewing drug khat that is credited with ruining the lives of scores of young people.



Peace and unity are the basis of everything that is useful, demanding that we value and serve others with devotion and even handedness



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi greets Muslims shortly after Eid El Fitr prayers at a mosque in Urban West "B" District, Unguja, yesterday. Photo: State House

Nine dead, 19 injured in Eid morning crash

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Mgongo ward in the district.

Daniel Paul, the acting district medical officer, updated information on the bus, T 3150 CXX Lujiga Express was coming from Dar es Salaam en route to Mwanza.

Those who lost their lives were six men and one woman whose bodies were being preserved at

Igunga district hospital in Tabora Region while two others died later among those injured.

The injured were hospitalized at Iramba district hospital, Kiomboi and others at Igunga district hospital for urgent treatment, the DC noted, elaborating that a district defence and security team arrived at Malendi.

They saw a lorry parked on the

roadside, also en route to Mwanza from Dar es Salaam, where the bus hit it from behind, with the impact causing deaths and injuries.

He did not mention names of those who died, affirming that this was being ascertained by the police.

In November last year, a horrific bus-train collision in Dodoma claimed 13 lives and left 32 others

seriously injured at a highway spot in Manyoni, Singida region.

The bus operated by Ally's Star Co. collided with a freight train at a railway intersection in the wee hours of the morning, November 29, 2023.

Authorities have on several times urged motorists to exercise caution and adhere to traffic rules to avoid disasters, the DC intoned.

'Quarter of engineers registered since 2021'

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ERB allocated 300m/- to train women in management and leadership, he said.

Works minister Innocent Bashungwa said that the government has built 25 roads with a total of 1,198.5 kilometres in the past three years, while 57 others adding to 3,794 kilometres are under construction.

Works minister Innocent Bashungwa made this affirmation that the government had constructed five airports and eight others are at advanced stages of construction, meanwhile five bridges have been built as several others are under construction.

A lot of construction projects have taken place in three years, especially in completing projects initiated by the preceding leader, he said, noting that women contractors in road projects from 2018/19 to 2022/23 obtained tenders valued at 3.1bn/- per year on average.

During that period the government-initiated plans to establish the School of Professional Engineering to enable stakeholders in the con-

struction sector to access consultancy services, he stated.

Upwards of 500 engineers were trained through the Structured Engineers Apprenticeship Programme (SEAP) during the period, to equip them with auxiliary skills to become professional engineers able to carry out bigger projects, he said.

Rhoben Nkori, his counterpart at the Contractors Registration Board (CRB), said that earlier, local contractors' participation in development projects stood at 30 percent, while it is now pegged at slightly over 39 percent.

The board plans to extend training to contractors to uplift expertise in the sector, he said, hinting at plans to review local contractors' registration to ensure they are locally based engineers.

Government efforts to support local contractors are a step in utilizing natural resources to bring about the desired development strides, while the government has come up with a local content strategy to empower local contractors so that they can handle development projects, he added.



CCM Vice Chairman (Mainland) Abdulrahman Kinana (with green cap) boarding a boat while visiting flooded areas affected at Muhoro village in Rufiji District, Coast Region on Tuesday. Photo: Fahadi Siraji of CCM

Ship capsizes in Lake Tanganyika, 10 people missing

By Special Correspondent, Kigoma

AT least 10 people, including two Chinese nationals, are missing after a vessel registered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) capsized in Lake Tanganyika at the weekend, it was reported late Monday.

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) said the 10 missing passengers included two Chinese, two Tanzanians, four Congolese, one Kenyan, and an unidentified child.

The statement said rescuers, including fishermen, managed to

rescue two Chinese, three Tanzanians, and 12 Congolese, adding that the ship, MV Maman Benita, was sailing from Kigoma port in Tanzania to Kalemie port in the DRC.

The capsizing of the ship in the Kabimba area of the DRC was reported to Congolese authorities by fishermen, the statement said, adding that rescue efforts were still underway.

The ship left Kigoma port on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. local time and was scheduled to arrive at Kalemie port on Sunday at 2:00 am DRC time, according to the statement.

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three cheated death as they managed to swim to the bank, while the deceased are Mbuke Gulasa and her one-year baby-Tele Ntema.

Residents of the area have been warned using canoes to move from the flooded areas due to the risks posed, but some were yet to move, he said, elaborating that during floods, water carries objects like logs, "so using canoes isn't safe at all." The rescue team was helping to evacuate people surrounded by water, where a more powerful boat has been fielded, he said.

Discounting assertions that the Julius Nyerere hydropower project (JNHPP) dam had contributed to massive flooding, he said that the dam had significantly reduced flooding that was regularly occur-

PMO sends cabinet team to assess Rufiji situation

ring in the district.

Rufiji District has traditionally experienced frequent floods but the construction of JNHPP has reduced the threat, not seen over the past few years, he specified, while analysts noted a compounding effect of flooding by failing to hold back water at the dam and massively releasing it to floodplains.

"Those who say the JNHPP dam has caused the floods are not well aware of the area's history, this is not the first time for Rufiji to experience floods, as this has been the

situation for many years since the 1970s leaving many homeless," the DC insisted.

The floods have caused immense damage, destroying roads, ruining crops, displacing residents and disrupting social services, with the PMO disaster unit and local authorities taking measures to prevent more harm.

The government was providing flood victims with new plots at Muhoro, the DC noted, affirming that some had started to build houses already, where ongoing rescue

efforts were stabilising the situation. People are being placed in safe areas and have access to humanitarian aid such as food, mattresses and tents, where government efforts are complemented by donations of various stakeholders.

Out of the 13 wards in Rufiji, 12 have been affected by the floods, with preliminary assessments showing that 23,000 households were extensively damaged, leaving upwards of 88,000 individuals in need of essential services like shelter, food and healthcare.

Prisons, REA sign 35bn/- clean cooking infrastructure deal

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TANZANIA Prisons Service and the Rural Energy Agency (REA) have signed an agreement worth 34.9bn/- to facilitate construction of clean cooking energy infrastructure in 129 correctional facilities meant to protect the environment and people's health.

Speaking during the signing event here on Tuesday, commissioner general of Prisons Ramadhan Nyamka said the initiative is aimed at permanently ending the use of firewood in cooking which has negative impacts to the environment.

"We thank REA for coming up with this great idea to help our prisons reduce the use of firewood and instead prioritize clean cooking energies; let me assure you that we will continue to supervise the use of clean energies in all our prisons," he said.

Currently, Tanzania implements a national clean cooking strategy aimed at realizing 80 percent use of clean cooking fuels to Tanzanian households by 2033.

Nyamka also thanked the agency for providing cooking stoves to some wardens in order to encourage others to adopt the energy.

He said that clean energy will greatly help easy preparation of meals in the prisons, providing relief to cooks who will eventually spend little time with clean energy than using firewood.

REA director general Hassan Saïdy said that they will continue to provide close cooperation to prisons to disseminate information on clean cooking energy.

He said they initiated a six-month process for the use of clean energy where the Tanzania Prisons Service has been the first to adopt the plan.

Kizito Jacka, Assistant Commissioner of Prisons, said all prisons in the country are expected

to start using clean energy for preparation of meals for inmates.

Last year, the government announced that January 31, 2025 will be the final date for institutions to use firewood or charcoal for cooking to save the environment from further damage.

As per the announcement made by Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr Selemeni Jafo, all institutions serving less than 100 people were required to stop using firewood or charcoal by January 31, 2024 while institutions serving people whose numbers start at 200 will have to stop using the energy source on January 31, 2025.



We thank REA for coming up with this great idea to help our prisons reduce the use of firewood and instead prioritize clean cooking energies; let me assure you that we will continue to supervise the use of clean energies in all our prisons

Produce regulator for awareness on staple food safety

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Cereal and Other Produce Regulatory Authority (COPRA) has called upon the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) to conduct a countrywide campaign to educate smallholder farmers about standards required in staple food value chains.

The idea is meant to avoid poor quality of staple foods on the markets and allow exporters and farmers meet the market requirements.

Irine Mlola, COPRA director general, made the call on Tuesday during the launch of a three-year new project dubbed 'Strengthening Competitiveness in Export-Oriented Staple Food Value Chains in East Africa'.

The launching event involved farmers, processors, exporters, aggregators, brokers, traders, banks and input suppliers from different regions across the country.

Mlola said that the move will ensure that farmers benefit from East Africa market, international markets and improve quality of their produce.

"EAGC should introduce a public awareness campaign to educate farmers because majority of are not knowledgeable about the standards required for staple food export and even handling it before selling in domestically, regionally and internationally," she said

"They can also provide training to farmers through village meetings, their farming groups or associations."

The project will be implemented in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, aimed at increasing job opportunities for women and youth, capacity development to

facilitate regional grain trade and boost economic resilience.

She said that agriculture is a business, if women and youth farmers want to carry out a business, they should meet standards required on the East Africa market and other foreign countries across the world.

Grain storage facilities and warehouses used to stored staple food should also meet standards, she said.

She called upon EAGC and TradeMark Africa (TMA) to conduct warehouse mapping starting at the grassroots level to the national level to push standards required in export-oriented staple food trade value chains in East African market.

Lilian Masalu, TradeMark Africa-Tanzania, programme manager called upon women and youth smallholder farmers to use this project to reach different markets, ensure they meet the required standards in every staple food they produce and obtain information that in turn will help them to understand standards required in export-oriented staple food trade that includes grains and pulses.

"As TradeMark, we are ready to work together with Tanzanian government to ensure that the project goals are achieved," she said



They can also provide training to farmers through village meetings, their farming groups or associations



2024 Uhuru Torch Race leader Godfrey Mnzava (R) and Korogwe District Commissioner William Mwakilema holding the torch leading the race to inspect development projects in Korogwe District, Tanga Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Mashaka Mgeta

Councils to raise road construction funds through Samia bond

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is set to launch 'Samia bond'- a financing approach expected to raise funds for construction of 85 percent of road infrastructure in urban and rural areas before the end of this financial year.

Minister for State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Mohamed Mchengerwa told this paper

yesterday that the government was finalizing procedures before launching it.

He said that the target is to ensure district councils across the country generate funds through bonds to construct road infrastructure instead of depending on funds from the central government.

Mchengerwa said that Samia bond is a strategy to support local contractors participating in different road projects in urban

and rural areas implemented by Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA)

"When I assumed the office, my first strategy was to find possible ways district councils across the country could come up with an innovative financial approach of generating funds to support road infrastructure construction through bonds. We are finalizing some procedures before officially launching it," he said.

He commended Tanga city for launching the first ever subnational water infrastructure green bond for boosting water accessibility and sanitation. He said that out of the total budget, 25 percent is allocated for the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) where 1.3 trn/- was allocated for TARURA (100,000 network of roads) and 750bn/- for Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS)



A commuter bus plying the Tabata Kimanga to Mnazi Mmoja route in Dar es Salaam negotiate its way at a pool of stagnant rainwater along Lindi Street yesterday, with the pond causing inconvenience to road users. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Initiative seeks to empower graduates in agriculture

By Carlos Banda

THE Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) and CRDB Bank Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enable graduates grow their skills and create employment in agriculture sector.

Tully Mwambapa, managing director of CRDB Bank Foundation said during the signing of the MoU in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday that graduates will also be trained on financial literacy.

"We believe doing so prepares competent youth to employ themselves and employ others to boost the growth of agriculture sector in the country. CRDB has set

aside 67bn/- for the programme that will be issued during three years of our cooperation with SUGECO," she said.

Mwambapa said that the foundation has been in the forefront to empower youth and women through its Imbeju programme where it empowers youth through training, counselling and provision of capital.

"Capacity building through our programme is in two forms: the first is through competition conducted in collaboration with the government through the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) and Information and Communication Technologies Commission (ICTC). The second is youth empowerment

by collaborating with various partners like SUGECO," she said.

"For this year, we expect more than 2500 graduates to get capital between 8.7m/- to 11.29m/- for one individual. Capacity building has already been created in collaboration with SUGECO and USAID and we are ready to empower youth by providing them with capital. By doing so, CRDB Bank Foundation and CRDB Bank will have taken part in creating new jobs for the youth."

Revocatus Kimario, SUGECO director, said youth are set to benefit from the MoU because the Imbeju programme is designed to benefit youth and women and the project intends to empower them, adding that 200 youth are the core

group expected to generate 1400 jobs for their colleagues meaning, 1600 youth will be reached.

Kimario said youth acquire knowledge from universities but practical knowledge is gained from practising what they have learned, adding that the bank and SUGECO use the opportunities to produce youth with experience and skills to change agriculture sector for the better.

Dr Anna Temu, chairperson of SUGECO Board, said they are ready to bring impact in Tanzania's agriculture sector as the key mission since the founding of the cooperative, adding that through working with youth and women, she was optimistic the objective will be attained.

Eid El Fitr festival as captured in Dar, Dodoma, Iringa and Tanga



President Samia Suluhu Hassan greets the Chief Sheikh, Mufti Abubakar Zuberi shortly before the Eid El Fitr prayers at the King Mohammed VI Mosque in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam, yesterday. Photo: State House



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses Muslims shortly after Eid El Fitr prayers at the Gaddafi Mosque in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO



Personal Data Protection Commission (PDP) board chairman Ambassador Adadi Rajabu (C) shares a light moment with TSN Director Farouguh Baghoza (R) and elder Juma Nyongo shortly after Eid El-Fitr prayers at main Friday mosque in Muheza District Tanga region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



Some Dar es Salaam residents sort out chicken at Mwananyamala market yesterday for Eid El Fitr celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Iringa Regional Sheikh Said Abri (L) leads Eid Al Fitr prayers at Samora Stadium in Iringa municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin



Anthony Mavunde (3rd L), the Minerals minister and Dodoma MP hands over food items to Julius Ludovick, chairman of a regional association for people living with albinism, to support orphanages and widows. Looking on (C) is Sheikh Mustapha Rajab of the Gaddafi Mosque in the capital. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



Muslim women follow proceedings at Eid El Fitr prayers at the Gaddafi Mosque in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



Some Dar es Salaam residents buying meat at the Mwananyamala market butchery yesterday during Eid El Fitr celebrations. One kilogram of meat went for 10,000/- Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Millions in Sudan face humanitarian crisis, says UNHCR

KHARTOUM

AS the conflict in Sudan nears its one-year mark, the UN Refugee Agency has warned that over 25 million people face a humanitarian crisis with no end in sight.

Ahead of the anniversary of the conflict on April 15, UNHCR said yesterday that Sudan and its neighbours are experiencing one of the largest and most challenging humanitarian and displacement crises in the world.

Thousands of refugees have continued to cross borders daily as they flee the war, with most arriving in South Sudan.

The number of displaced people has "now surpassed 8.5 million people, with 1.8 million of them crossing borders," said Olga Sarrado, UNHCR spokesperson.

635,000 of the displaced have fled to South Sudan, representing over 5 percent of South Sudan's population.

"To make a comparison, if we're talking about Germany, that would be 4.5 million people arriving in one year, in less than one year," said Marie-Hélène Verney UNHCR's representative in South Sudan "And if we're talking about the United States, that would be 17.6 million people arriving in less than one year."

The refugees are in desperate need of food, water, shelter, and medical care, with many families having been separated and in distress.

"This is the world's poorest country," Verney said, speaking from South Sudan's capital, Juba.

"You can imagine the pressure that has been put on this country since 15th of April. Daily average of arrivals since last 15th of April, a year ago is 1,800 people a day. A day. Every single day," she emphasized.

With South Sudan and Sudan still closely interlinked, there are growing fears that the economy will collapse, and insecurity could worsen in South Sudan after one of its key oil pipelines, which passes through Sudan, was damaged and forced to close.

The incident occurred in February in Sudan's White Nile state, an area controlled by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which is fighting the Sudanese army for power in the country.

Oil accounts for some 95 percent of South Sudan's declared revenues.

"Since last month, that oil

pipeline has been closed because Sudan is no longer able to maintain it due to the conflict. This has had a massive impact on the economy of South Sudan, the entire country, with incredibly rapid inflation of the South Sudanese pound and just generally speaking, a lack of revenue getting into the country," explained Marie-Hélène Verney.

Despite the worsening crisis, UNHCR says funding "remains critically low."

Only seven percent of the requirements outlined in the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan for Sudan have been fulfilled.

Similarly, the Humanitarian Response Plan for inside Sudan is just six percent funded.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, coordinates the Regional Refugee Response Plan, which requests \$1.4 billion and targets nearly 2.7 million people in five countries neighboring Sudan.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) takes care of the response inside Sudan: this year's Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan calls for \$2.7 billion to reach 14.7 million people.

Both plans aim to support some 17.4 million people in Sudan and the region.



To make a comparison, if we're talking about Germany, that would be 4.5 million people arriving in one year, in less than one year," said Marie-Hélène Verney UNHCR's representative in South Sudan "And if we're talking about the United States, that would be 17.6 million people arriving in less than one year



Lyaseembe Primary School pupils at Murangi ward in Musoma District, Mara Region standing outside their classroom yesterday whose roof was damaged during heavy rains over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent

Resident magistrate's court adjourns assault case again

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam has again adjourned an injury and abusive language case against city-based couple Bharat Natwan (57) and Sangita Bharat (54) until May 2, 2024 after the defence lawyer's failure to appear in court.

The accused persons who are Tanzanian citizens of Indian

descent face four counts of assault charges allegedly committed on July 21, 2023.

The statement was given yesterday by senior state attorney Grace Mwangi before Chief Resident Magistrate Aron Lyamuya when the case was called for hearing.

"The case was brought for hearing but we did not bring a witness because we received a letter from the lawyer of the defendants that he will not come to court because

he got an emergency. So, we ask for the adjournment of this case," she said.

After the request was made, Lyamuya agreed with the request and adjourned the case until May 2, 2024 for further hearing.

Last month, prosecution witness Dominic Mpakani (43), a carpenter, told the court that Natwan attacked his neighbour Lalit Ratilal by hitting his chest and she fell on the ground and lost consciousness for a while.

In addition, he claimed that there

was an argument between Bharat's wife (Sangita Bharat) and Lalit's wife, (Kiran) who were throwing words at each other violently in Indian language saying after a while, their husbands arrived together and intervened in the argument.

Another witness Dr Lucia Augustino of Mnazi Mmoja Hospital told the court that on July 21, 2023 she was in the Emergency department's room number 20 where she received two patients of Asian origin who had injuries.



City resident Bharat Natwan (L) leaves the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court on Tuesday after the mention of a case where he is charged with assaulting his neighbour Lalit Kanabar. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

SA expands parks territories to protect more wildlife, plants

By Savanna Douglas

IN efforts to conserve more plants and wildlife in South Africa, the National Parks Trust of South Africa (NPTSA) and WWF South Africa have assisted four national parks in acquiring 18,000 hectares of additional land, with a collective total of 20,206 hectares of expansion set across all three parks.

The announcement, made in February indicated that Namaqua National Park in the Northern Cape has expanded by 18,391 hectares due to efforts of the NPTSA and WWF. The park is home to over 1000 plant species such as the quiver tree, and a diverse group of local wildlife. The expansion also aims to protect vital river systems.

Additionally, Mokala National Park located in the Northern Upper Karoo has expanded by 844 hectares, Karoo National Park in Beaufort West by 397 hectares and Agulhas National Park in the Southern Overberg region by 574 hectares.

According to the report, each expansion aligns with national conservation goals, with assessments conducted to evaluate biodiversity and ecological significance. SANParks collaborates with partners like WWF to secure funding and manage acquired

lands.

In a press release issue by Dr Morné du Plessis, CEO of WWF South Africa, said: "These declarations are part of our work to bring some of South Africa's most threatened habitats and species under the umbrella of SANParks as the custodian of our country's very special natural heritage for the benefit of everyone."

"All of this work contributes towards South Africa's commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework to protect 30% of the planet's terrestrial and marine habitats by 2030."



All of this work contributes towards South Africa's commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework to protect 30% of the planet's terrestrial and marine habitats by 2030

Zuma wins appeal to run in elections

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's former President Jacob Zuma won his appeal at the country's Electoral Court on Tuesday, meaning that he will be allowed to contest the upcoming elections as a candidate

of the uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) Party.

"The application for leave to appeal is granted. The appeal succeeds," the Electoral Court's ruling said.

Zuma's appeal at the court came as the Independent Electoral

Commission (IEC), the country's election management body, decided in late March to uphold an objection against his candidacy in the elections.

The IEC's objection is hereby dismissed, according to the court's ruling.

Zuma, who was sentenced to 15 months in prison for contempt of court in 2021, was nominated as a candidate for the elections by the newly-formed MK Party.

South Africa will hold the national and local government elections on May 29.

Botswana's forests go up in smoke to plug electricity gap

GABORONE

KESEBONYE Mbambo, a resident of Somerset, a high-density suburb of Francistown, Botswana's second largest city, has started to ransack the forest near her home for firewood ever since Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) switched from postpaid to prepaid over a decade ago.

Mbambo, 41, said she uses about 2 tonnes of wood per month for cooking and to perform other domestic chores that need energy such as ironing. "There is no other means at my disposal to cook because I cannot afford to buy electricity and cooking gas. So, I have to cut down trees in the forest near where I am renting a room," she said.

According to Mbambo, she used to use electricity in the past even if she had no means to pay for it because BPC, Botswana's sole power utility, had not switched from post-paid to pre-paid electricity.

Pre-paid electricity means a customer can only be allocated electricity according to what one has paid for. The payment is done before the customer has used the electricity, said Mbambo, adding that many are failing to do so.

Tiny Moloi is a neighbour to Mbambo and in most cases they go to the forest together in search of firewood "because like my friend (Mbambo), I cannot afford to buy the pre-paid electricity," she said.

Moloi said she needs at least 1.5 tonnes of wood every month in order to meet all her energy needs. She tried to substitute electricity with liquefied gas and illuminated paraffin, but it proved expensive for her.

A single unit of electricity costs more than one pula while liquefied gas is valued at more than two pulas, according to a recent survey conducted by the Department of Consumer Affairs, which falls under Botswana's Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry.

Mbambo needs 500 pula (about \$38) per month while Moloi needs 300 pula (about \$24). Mbambo has five children and Moloi has three. The bigger the family, the higher electricity expense there are.

Dumetzweni Mthimkhulu, Botswana's Minister of Environment and Tourism, admitted that residents account 20,000 hectares of deforestation each year in Francistown. "We are deeply concerned by the alarming rate of deforestation and forest degradation in our country, driven

by unsustainable land-use practices, illegal logging, agricultural expansion and infrastructure development," he said.

Mthimkhulu said this destruction not only threatens biodiversity and ecosystems but also exacerbates climate change, leading to adverse impacts on weather patterns, water cycles, and human health.

"We call upon residents, civil society, and the private sector to prioritize the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of forests," said Mthimkhulu.

He said Botswana is doing everything within its power to strengthen protected area networks, implementing land-use planning and zoning regulations, promoting agroforestry and sustainable agriculture practices, and supporting community-based forest management initiatives.

In addition, Botswana has embarked on promoting clean energy through installation of solar farms with a view of making electricity accessibility cheaper and more convenient to the residents.

Under Botswana law, anyone who cuts down trees and collects other forest products without a license risks arrest and a fine of between 5,000 pula and 500,000 pula (\$357 and \$35,714).

But little has been done in terms of enforcing the laws protecting forests because "it is difficult to enforce a law when the government is the one failing to provide the amenities to its people," said Mthimkhulu.

According to an analysis by the World Bank, the forestry sector contributes an average of between 4 percent and 19 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) of seven member states in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, including Botswana.



We call upon residents, civil society, and the private sector to prioritize the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of forests

Zambia uncovers 'sophisticated' Chinese cybercrime syndicate

By Wycliffe Muia, Lusaka

ZAMBIA has uncovered a "sophisticated internet fraud syndicate", leading to the arrest of 77 people, including 22 Chinese nationals.

It was a "significant breakthrough in the fight against cybercrime", the authorities said after a multi-agency raid on a Chinese-run company.

The firm employed Zambians who believed they were to be call-centre agents.

Among equipment seized were devices allowing callers to disguise their location and thousands of Sim cards.

Golden Top Support Services, the company at the centre of the raid, has not commented on the allegations.

The swoop on its premises, located in Roma, an upmarket suburb of the capital, Lusaka, was led by the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) and also involved the police, the immigration department and anti-terrorism unit.

It came after months of intelligence gathering by the agencies following an alarming rise in internet fraud cases in Zambia. DEC director general Nason Banda said after Tuesday's raid.

He said Golden Top Support Services had recruited "unsuspecting" Zambians aged between 20 and 25.

They had been tasked "with engaging in deceptive conversations

with unsuspecting mobile users across various platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, chatrooms and others, using scripted dialogues".

During the operation 11 Sim boxes were found - these are devices that can route calls in a way that bypasses legitimate phone networks.

This enables them to be used "for fraudulent activities, including internet fraud and online scams", Banda said.

More than 13,000 Sim cards - both domestic and international - were also seized, which underscored "the extent of the operation's reach," the DEC head said.

An increasing number of Zambians were losing money from their bank accounts through money-laundering schemes, though this scam's alleged "illicit operations extended beyond Zambia's borders", he said. Evidence indicated people in countries including Singapore, Peru, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and others across Africa had been targeted.

Two firearms and about 78 rounds of ammunition were confiscated and two vehicles, belonging to a Chinese national linked to the business, have been impounded.

Banda said the Zambian nationals had been charged and released on bail so they could help the authorities with their investigations.

The foreign nationals - 22 Chinese men and a Cameroonian - remain in custody.



Sharif Ali Sharif the Labour Economy and Investment state minister in the Zanzibar President's Office and Oryx Gas Zanzibar general manager Shuwekha Khamis (L) handing over a gas stove to entrepreneur Ngaza Khamis, a resident of Kwahani in Unguja on Tuesday, during a ceremony to hand over gas stoves to entrepreneurs in the Zanzibar Urban district. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

MOI to perform free surgery to 50 children with spinal bifida

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) and MO Dewji Foundation have jointly organised a free surgery camp for 50 children with spinal bifida scheduled to take place next week.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, MOI acting executive director Dr Lemer Mchome, said MOI strives to ensure

that many children with Spina bifida are reached and given care, including surgery at no cost.

He appealed to parents of children with such conditions to attend MOI this week for a special clinic and that those diagnosed and meet criteria will be operated on from next Saturday.

"Our goal is to reach more children who are not fortunate enough to receive treatment. So, we are collaborating with MO Dewji Foundation to conduct this surgery

camp for 50 children," he said.

He thanked the MO Dewji Foundation for supporting the government's efforts to ensure that children with special needs get the best specialist services at no cost.

Amina Ramadhan, Project Coordinator at MO Dewji Foundation said the selected 50 children will receive care before and after the surgeries, including the required radiological tests and laboratory and medical follow-up for one year.

Suma Mwaipopo, director of the Association of Parents with Children with Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida thanked MOI and MO Dewji Foundation for their cooperation in helping needy children, urging parents from all regions not to miss the opportunity.

Dr Consolata Shayo, a neurologist at MOI, appealed to needy parents and guardians with children to take them to the clinic this week for examination so that those who qualify are scheduled for operation.



Mary Mushumbusi, chairperson of the campaign to empower women to win local government elections, speaks during the campaign's launching at Kipunguni ward in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Councils, regions to compete in attracting investments

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MINISTER of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment) Prof Kitila Mkumbo has announced a competition to attract investments at council and regional levels meant to boost trade and development in the country.

Prof Mkumbo unveiled the plan in Dodoma yesterday while speaking to regional administrative secretaries and council directors

where he said that the goal is to inspire innovation of leaders in their respective areas.

"We want to see how you can attract investments. We will create criteria to be used for evaluation to see how you can lure investors to spur development.

The government develops infrastructure such as the standard gauge railway for transporting cargo but this will not be useful if there is no trade," he said.

The minister called on leaders to enable trade activities to take place in their areas so as to collect tax without impeding the public or discrimination against certain groups of people.

"There is a big problem in the government where many have been regulators rather than enablers. Traders are the big taxpayers. To get our salaries, tax must be paid; for trade to take place there must be an enabling environment for

business," he said.

Prof Mkumbo said traders whose licenses had expired were forced to close their shops after inspection, a situation that does not empower their businesses.

"Do not stop trade because doing so threatens our national security because unsettled civil servants can cause the government to become unsettled as well. When you halt trade, you block tax," he said.

Project targets informal city settlements with weather information

By Getrude Mbago

RESIDENTS of Kombo Mtaa in Vingunguti Ward, Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region, have hailed efforts of stakeholders to enhance their knowledge and understanding of weather information.

This follows Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI)'s implementation of Developing Risk Awareness through Joint Action (DARAJA) project which has been training them to become more informed on weather issues.

Speaking at the weekend when CCI in collaboration with the Tanzania Federation of the Urban Poor (TFUP) and Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) organized a special campaign to educate residents of the Mtaa, Abdulrahim Amiri, one of the residents, said the organizations have played a big role to increase understanding on weather issues, enabling people to effectively use weather forecast information to mitigate climate change-related disasters.

Amina Hussein, another resident, said that for many years people in the area have been facing difficult situations during rainy seasons as they lacked essential knowledge on how to overcome impacts of floods.

"The campaigns have helped us a lot through our leaders here at the Mtaa and experts from TMA and CCI. We receive weather information almost every day as well as skills on how to overcome weather disasters," she said.

Bariki Mseni, another area resident, commended CCI for implementing the project but called for more efforts from the government to increase public awareness programmes.

"In order to reduce impacts of extreme weather events among communities, it is important to invest heavily in awareness programmes because most people who live in unplanned settlements do not have access to information and they are ones who experience weather related impacts," she said.

Mussa Mkuide, Kombo Mtaa executive officer, said the awareness campaign has come at the right time when the government invests heavily in infrastructure to improve accuracy of weather forecasts.

He said that the government will continue to support efforts of stakeholders channelling their resources to stimulate development among communities.

Mussa Raido, DARAJA project officer, said that the initiative is aimed at reducing the effects of extreme weather events by facilitating easy access to information and promoting understanding of weather forecasts for residents living in informal settlements.

Supported by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) under IKI small grants, the project reaches residents in the informal settlements with weather education to enable them make informed decisions on their daily activities.

"The focus was on making weather information readily available, understandable and easy to follow by the residents, enabling them to effectively communicate weather-related information to other people," he said.

“The campaigns have helped us a lot through our leaders here at the Mtaa and experts from TMA and CCI. We receive weather information almost every day as well as skills on how to overcome weather disasters”

I have no intentions to run for third term, states Mnangagwa

HARARE

ZIMBABWEAN President Emmerson Mnangagwa has dismissed allegations he would run for an unconstitutional third term.

"There is not an iota of evidence where Zanu PF or I, as President, has ever expressed the violation of our constitution," the 81-year-old said yesterday.

"We in Zanu PF are very democratic and we obey the constitution."

Zanu PF, the ruling party has reigned over Zimbabwe since independence.

Much attention has been drawn to a slogan heard at Zanu PF rallies in recent months '2030 vaMnangagwa vanenge vachipo' (loosely translated as '2030 Mnangagwa will still be president').

The party secured a supermajority in Parliament last February in disputed by-elections. This left it closer to changing the constitution if it wishes.

Zimbabwe's 2013 constitution limits the presidential term of office to two five-year mandates and establishes a constitutional court.

A supporter of a hard line and heavyweight of the party in power (Zanu-PF) since independence, Mnangagwa became head of state at the end of a war of succession which opposed him to Grace Mugabe, the wife of President Robert Mugabe who was dismissed in 2017.



Akili Plaform Tanzania (APT) godwill envoys participate in cleaning the Coco Beach area in Dar es Salaam yesterday as part of contributions to environmental care. Photo: Correspondent

US must boost Africa ties to focus on critical minerals - report

WASHINGTON DC

A REPORT from the Washington-based United States Institute of Peace (USIP) says the US must refine its Africa policy with a focus on critical minerals, including boosting its diplomatic and commercial presence in African mining hubs.

The USIP group added that the changes are needed to safeguard against export controls and market manipulation by geopolitical competitors.

The report comes as the US tries to catch up or become a competitor with China whose investment in Africa is heavily concentrated in the extractive sector.

Chinese firms owned or had stakes in 15 of the 19 cobalt producing mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo DRC which produces more than 70 percent of the world's cobalt. It is also has a big trade partner in Zambia, the world's sixth-largest copper producer and the second-largest cobalt producer in Africa.

The USIP report also recommends that the U.S. increase the physical presence of diplomatic and commercial officers in mining centres.

The United States heavily relies on imports for many critical minerals for use in electric vehicle batteries and other applications such as cobalt, graphite and manganese.



A tricycle taxi passenger hangs her legs outside while moving along the Mbezi Terminal to Segerea road in Dar es Salaam yesterday, an objectionable posture dangerous for road safety. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Kenyan hospital lays off 100 striking doctors

NAIROBI

A PUBLIC hospital in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, has laid off 100 doctors who take part in a nationwide strike that has been ongoing for almost a month, its management said on Tuesday.

The Kenyatta University Referral Hospital said new doctors had been

hired in place of those striking.

Doctors in Kenya went on a nationwide strike in mid-March, demanding better pay and working conditions.

President William Ruto on Sunday broke his silence over the strike, saying there was no money to pay striking doctors. "We must be honest with ourselves and the truth is that we must

live within our means; we can't borrow money to pay salaries", he said.

The doctors' union has remained adamant, and on Tuesday hundreds of doctors took part in protests and presented a petition to parliament urging lawmakers to intervene in their labour dispute.

This is not the first time Kenyan

doctors go on strike over poor pay and working conditions. In 2017 doctors took part in a 100-day strike that saw people dying from lack of care. The strike ended with the doctors' union signing an agreement with the government to increase their pay. Doctors now say part of what was agreed upon in 2017 has not been implemented.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

French agency, funding hydropower, has cleared myths about clean energy

JUST what clean energy means was the key issue being contemplated when the government and the French Development Agency (AFD) lately signed a grant agreement for euro 34.86m (96.47bn/-) for the Kakono hydropower project in Kagera Region. The AFD country director dwelt on the significance of the project as if it was something quite new, and there was a reason for that posture. As someone living in Tanzania and exposed to what we routinely say about clean energy especially in relation to cooking energy solutions, there was a point in the effort, and hopefully it may help to inform policy in that direction, soon.

Going into details after the brief signing ceremony in the capital, the director said that the grant delegated by the European Union (EU) assists environmental and social management plans, as 87.8MW of hydropower can change some things in that regard. One point the director was stressing is that Tanzania's energy mix is currently based mainly on thermal power plants (gas-fired), apart from hydropower. There was reference to considerable untapped renewable energy potential, including hydropower, which also says geothermal, solar, etc.

The idea from the EU is that this potential should be mobilised to meet the country's growing electricity demand but on a low-carbon path, which the local atmosphere is by and large a drift of that need. Issuing a loan to finance the hydropower plant was tied to the wish to support this trajectory, which the country director presented as if it was a policy trajectory, whereas our proper outlook is directed elsewhere. The development partners, in financing the Kakono project, had to make a

point about increasing renewable generation.

The other point made about the Kakono project specifically is that it reduces hydrological risk, with a dam located on a new watershed less affected by droughts. That provides the background to expected sustainability of the project when it is said to be unlikely to be hit by droughts the way we have continually experienced with Kidatu and Mtera hydropower plants, in particular. In that case the project is seen to be fully in line with international climate objectives, a reason for development partners to focus on it, and wishes it as a policy axis.

The idea that EU and others intend to support Tanzania in its energy transition to reduce the carbon intensity of the power sector was a sort of appeal to change tact. The government appears to be overly satisfied with transition to natural gas as the proper solution to energy needs, in contrast to the global agenda of cuts in carbon footprint where possible. That 87mw of hydropower reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 216,065t of CO2 per year is not the sort of data we often hear.

What this effort on the part of the lending agency country director is that local energy policy analysis needs to tune their language to global environmental concerns. By contrast, at present we are closely knit with the OPEC group as a natural gas producer, explaining including the dominant idea here at present that natural gas is clean cooking energy. This is true for homes and not for the atmosphere, in which case proper clean cooking energy can be obtained in large amounts and at local level by allowing biomass projects in neighbourhoods, etc.

Not certain that Africa needs space technology to 'spur' development

THERE are plans being mooted in the African Union for the setting up of an African Space Agency (AfSA) in the hope that technology of this sort will help to spur not economic growth but development. The difference in the usage is not accidental, as it shows the difficulties the various project designers faced in linking it with an economic lever as a special dynamic. It is a dream of experts wishing for a magic wand on development, not rules of credit to land holding.

A top official of the African Union Commission said lately that the AU space policy mandates the creation of an African space agency, now likely to be based in the Egyptian capital of Cairo.

This agency is in addition to individual countries launching own satellites by using existing facilities for instance in the United States but a host of other countries can provide launching facilities, while the satellites can be purchased or manufactured on order like aeroplanes. An African space agency could thus be related to localising space research, etc.

The official suggested that due to technological advancements, the benefits in areas such as earth observation, navigation and connectivity are becoming obvious to everybody, which a number of news agencies placed in quotation marks, implying that it needs to be verified.

Space observation is helpful only with a prepared environment where climatic opportunities can be put to good use, for instance someone learning that huge floods were likely on the Nyerere hydropower project feeding rivers. He would then prepare to buy up land in the area, but if the policy setting is different,

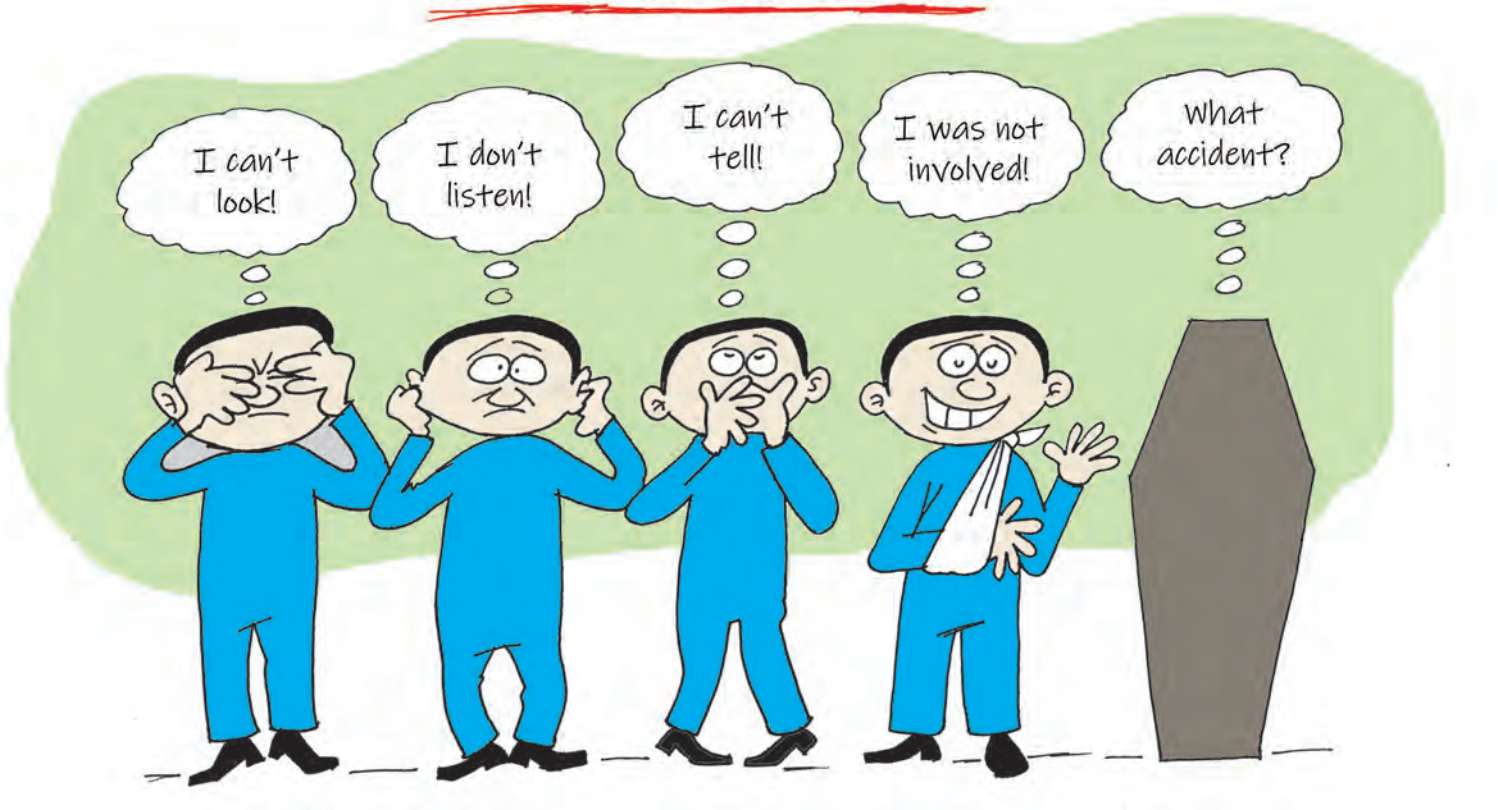
authorities scream at residents to leave.

The AU expert was closer to reality when he referred to the miniaturization of satellites which lessens their cost, which quickly shows that there are areas where we can easily use such facilities. One is geological mapping and other geo-positioning needs whether it is companies tracking the movement of long haul vehicles or other. The dispute comes up in space research per se, to Africa.

The official said that with interest in space science and technology in African countries growing stronger, more countries are investing in space via bilateral agreements. There may be exceptions like in the days when people were talking about an African atomic bomb, or in the low level, diplomatic dispute about an African veto in the UN Security Council, as outlandish concerns having little to do with development as such. The peaceful use of space resources is a fairly outlandish matter when Africa can't feed itself by its land, educate all children.

Again it is uncertain how far satellite launching and its ties with space technology can be operated on an African Union framework, as there is plenty that has to do with security issues, and that can't be compromised. The AU space facility can strike agreements with foreign companies or state agencies for work that involves doing one or other space-related work in Africa and definitely they will get the right licences from regulatory agencies. They would even set up local units with relevant research organizations or academic institutions depending on their line of interest. It is a useful auxiliary, to be fair.

Concerns on road accidents



By Robert Paarlberg

AVERAGE fish catches by traditional fishing communities along the West African coast have declined significantly over the past three decades.

Along the Gulf of Guinea, stretching from Côte d'Ivoire to Nigeria, fishers launch their wooden canoes from the beach to catch small pelagic fish, like sardines and anchovies, which they sell into local informal markets to make a living. They have done this for generations, but since the 1990s, a decline in the catch has put their livelihoods at risk.

In Ghana, total landings of small pelagic fish fell by 59% between 1993 and 2019, despite increased fishing efforts. Landings of *Sardinella aurita*, a favoured species, declined from 119,000 tonnes in 1992 to just 11,834 tonnes in 2019.

Côte d'Ivoire has experienced a parallel fisheries decline, with its catch plummeting nearly 40% between 2003 and 2020.

The continuing decline in fish catches has serious implications for some of the poorest families in the region. Ghana, for example, has more than 200,000 active fishers. More than two million others along the value chain, including thousands of women who process and sell fish at markets along the coast, are now at risk as well. Already living at or below the international poverty line (US\$2.15 per person per day), these communities now face further income loss. In essence, they are falling deeper into poverty.

I have researched food and agricultural policy in a dozen African countries over the past three decades, but the current west African coastal fishing crisis in the Gulf of Guinea is complex because it has multiple and reinforcing origins: climate change, illegal fishing by China, and too many African canoes in the water.

My work on this crisis is part of a three-year study (2023-2025) funded by the Salata Institute at Harvard University. To pursue this work I spent three weeks in 2023 visiting coastal communities in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria. On a return trip to Ghana in 2024, I will share the preliminary findings with local stakeholders, including fishing community leaders, local advocates and government officials. Meanwhile I set out the main findings below.

Among the multiple threats from climate change, ocean warming is probably the least appreciated. Plenty of warming is experienced on land, but roughly 90% of the extra heat trapped by greenhouse gas is absorbed into the ocean. This helps contain warming on land in the short run, but in the long run it brings a cascade of larger climate threats.

Illegal Chinese trawlers, climate change and artisanal fishing fleets to blame in W. Africa



Millions of people in West Africa rely on fishing to make a living.

When ocean waters warm they expand in volume, and this thermal expansion is now the source of almost half of all sea-level rise. Warmer ocean waters also hold less oxygen, creating a threat to all marine life. But for human populations that catch fish for a living, ocean warming becomes an acute threat when it results in fish stock migrations.

Fish are cold-blooded, so if the water becomes too warm the only means they have to regulate their body temperature is to move away. This is what they have been doing along the warming equatorial currents in the Gulf of Guinea, and it accounts for some of the fish catch decline.

Dynamic bioclimate models allow us to project what continued ocean warming of this kind will do to Africa's fish stocks. The models are widely used to forecast range shifts of organisms due to climate change and predict the eventual ranges of invasive species, among others.

One study found that the maximum catch potential for Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria would be reduced 50% by mid-century, compared to a zero ocean warming scenario. Another study published in 2018 was in rough agreement. It projected that climate change alone would reduce maximum catch potential in the Guinea Current System by 30% or more by 2050, even if the fisheries were well managed.

Unfortunately, Africa's coastal fisheries are not being well managed.

Chinese trawlers

Lax regulation of international fishing trawlers is a second source of the recent fish catch decline.

Countries like Ghana, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire have laws that prevent foreign trawlers from getting a

licence to fish within national exclusive economic zones, which extend 200 nautical miles beyond territorial seas. However, Chinese trawlers get around this barrier by using local companies as legal "fronts". Chinese companies, thinly disguised as Ghanaian companies, currently own over 90% of Ghana's licensed bottom trawlers. The Chinese vessels are damaging fish stocks by using illegal nets to catch too many undersized fish, including juveniles that have not yet had a chance to reproduce.

Chinese trawlers are occasionally fined for illegal practices in Ghana, but some fail to pay the fines and still do not lose their licence. This damaging non-enforcement of fishing laws is hard to understand, since the foreigners pay minimal taxes and licence fees, and most of the fish they catch are exported, adding almost nothing to national food supplies.

Too many canoes

Traditional fisherfolk in west Africa like to blame Chinese trawlers for diminished stocks of fish, but the increased fishing activities of their own canoes have been at least as damaging.

In West Africa there are now seven times as many canoes engaged in ocean fishing as there were in 1950. Today's canoes have larger nets and bigger crews, and many have powerful outboard engines.

This expansion of the region's artisanal fishing fleet has been driven by powerful demographic trends, including rapid rates of population growth plus steady human migrations towards the coast to escape impoverished rural farming.

This is why, between 1960 and 2023, the leading coastal cities in Ghana, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire saw population increases of at

least seven-fold (Accra) and in some cases 30-fold (Abidjan). Having more people on the coast increases commercial demand for fish consumption while providing the added labour needed to catch, process and market the fish.

Despite the recent fish catch decline, canoe numbers have continued to increase; in Ghana there were 8,000 canoes in 1990, but by 2017 there were 13,650.

New livelihoods

Most traditional fishing communities will have to find new sources of income to survive. This won't be easy since roughly 40% of coastal fishermen in Ghana and Nigeria have no formal education. Non-fishing jobs will increase in the fast-growing coastal economy. If the children of today's fishing families stay in school long enough to complete a secondary education, most will be able to make the shift.

One policy measure to keep them in school would be to provide monthly cash transfers conditioned on school enrolment and attendance. Such conditional cash transfers have been producing results in other low- and middle-income regions. Data from 75 reports drawing on 35 studies show that conditional cash transfer policies can lead to a 60% increase in school enrolment.

Cash transfer policies are already in use in west Africa. Since 2008 Ghana has operated the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty programme, providing cash and health insurance to the elderly poor, the disabled, pregnant women and infants. Expanding this program to poor coastal fishing families with school-aged children could promote education. For fishing communities threatened by falling fish stocks, this might be a path to future livelihood protection.

Busy work schedule for parents necessitates one on one class meetings

DUE to increased awareness on the need to harvest more from the education sector, the phrase 'class meeting' is nowadays common. In the past what was common was a school meeting where all parents met teachers to discuss several matters related to school development in different aspects.

The increased interaction between parents and teachers is what has put into place class meetings. These meetings are crucial but they are now facing a challenge of attendance of parents. The main reason is the busy work schedule due to increased competition in the struggle to obtain the daily bread.

Many schools which have introduced class meetings prefer to conduct them during the time of giving out results to parents. According to school academic calendar there are at least four main result giving seasons. This suggests that there may be four class meetings per year. With four meetings per year, parents have an opportunity to air out their opinions abundantly. The challenge is the fact that many of the parents with learners in private schools are workers in other offices or they are businessmen or women with a very busy work schedule. The precious resource being time, everyone looks at it with much determination.



It is a very promising statement that, any notable impact in any investment or undertaking must involve use of time. The devotion of time in an activity is what enables someone to see weaknesses and find out ways to solve those weaknesses and make an improvement a reality. Teaching and learning as one of the most important activities needs a lot of time for discussion between the teacher, parent and learner.

The time which the teacher would emphasize the parent to sacrifice for education of their children is the same that the parent desires to use to find the school fees. The English people say; mind your business.

But there are businesses which relate in some cases. The business of the teacher and the business of the parent become one business as the efforts should be directed towards reaching a common goal of academic excellence.

The current life situation where the struggle to find the daily bread is becoming hard and harder everyday has made it difficult to gather individuals at the same time. People get chances to come for example to school but at different time periods in a day. You can get all parents at school the day you need them but not at once. Everyone begs to come at a convenient time regarding their work arrangements. This kind of re-

ality is what justifies the one to one class meeting. This meeting is beneficial if someone will consider the following aspects.

One of the aspects is saving time. In one against one meeting the parent is given the brief academic and general progress of the learner and school and then given a chance to question where they have not understood or even giving out their opinions. When the parent is satisfied with what they have been told and they have asked questions they are allowed to go and their views are taken to the school administration for consideration. In this way the views of parents are obtained and their time to search for the school

fee which is the base of the school progress is less consumed.

Another aspect which shows benefits of one to one meeting is confidentiality. Nearly every individual is comfortable when their matters are treated with confidentiality. Revealing of unpleasant information about someone causes embarrassment to an individual. For instance revealing the worst performance by a learner whose parent is present in a meeting will cause a kind of discomfort to them. One to one class meetings avoid the situation making the talk between the parent and teacher or the learner more comfortable.

Also deep insights are found when the meeting involves only the teacher, parent and learner. The one to one class meeting enables the teacher to find some information or reality which would not be said in a general class meeting involving all the parents. This opportunity

to get in depth information enables arranging the teaching and learning in a way that can benefit a particular learner with a certain challenge or unique character.

As the lives of schools especially the private ones is on the willingness of parents to continue keeping their children at school, it becomes more important to consider demands of parents. It is believed that money speaks. The weaknesses which will be raised in one against one class meetings may be discussed or solved by the school meetings which are per demand of the law governing education sector and they are only conducted twice a year hence not consuming much time of parents. We need to balance between efforts to improve financial position for parents and making follow up on academic progress of learners. Teaching is being creative so as to accomplish the targeted objective.

By Adonis Byemelwa

ON April 5th, 2024, Shinyanga District Commissioner Julius Mtatiro took a decisive step in addressing a growing controversy surrounding compensation issues at the Shinyanga regional airport site.

During a public meeting held in the Ibadakuli ward, Mtatiro heard firsthand accounts from residents who claimed they had been unfairly compensated for land acquired by the government for the expansion of the airport.

In a recent development in Shinyanga, a resident of Ibadakuli ward found herself at the center of a compensation debacle that has stirred considerable controversy. Initially offered a mere Sh600,000 for her sizable seven-acre plot to make room for the expansion of the airport, the resident raised objections upon realizing she was being shortchanged. Shockingly, subsequent correspondence from the director revealed that she was entitled to over three million shillings.

"This situation is deeply concerning and cannot be ignored. The relevant authorities must act swiftly and justly to rectify this injustice," emphasized the District Commissioner, underlining the need for fairness and accountability in compensation procedures.

Mtatiro's call for urgent action highlights the gravity of the situation and accentuates the importance of ensuring that citizens receive fair and adequate compensation for their land. The revelation of such discrepancies has further fueled public outcry, prompting demands for transparency and accountability in the compensation process.

"Often when citizens come for compensation after assessment, they are initially threatened. Officials treat them as ignorant and powerless. This is unfair. Our President Samia Suluhu Hassan wants justice to prevail. Change. Follow the law and procedures," Mtatiro emphasized, reflecting on the grievances expressed by the residents.

In response to grievances voiced by residents like Joyce Bala Lukale, who received inadequate compensation for her seven-acre land, Mtatiro vowed to tackle compensation discrepancies head-on.

Lukale's disappointment echoed that of many others who felt similarly shortchanged by the compensation process, alleging that the government's offers did not reflect the true value of their land or adequately compensate them for the disruption to their lives.

Mtatiro's commitment to jus-

Government addresses compensation controversy for airport expansion in Shinyanga's Ibadakuli ward



Shinyanga District Commissioner, Julius Mtatiro, addresses attendees at a public meeting in Ibadakuli ward in Shinyanga municipality on April 5th, 2024. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

justice and accountability struck a chord with residents who have long felt marginalized by government authorities. His pledge to address the compensation issue underscores the urgency of ensuring fairness in land acquisition processes.

This commitment aligns with Tanzania's legal framework, where the Land Act of 1999 ensures individuals receive full, fair, and prompt compensation for revoked land rights under Section 3(1)(g). Similarly, Article 24 of the Constitution reinforces property rights protection, emphasizing lawful procedures in land acquisition.

Compensation mechanisms, as outlined in the Land Acquisition Act of 1967, mandate fair compensation through compulsory acquisition by the government. Notably, Section 12 safeguards against unjust com-

ensation for improvements made on acquired land.

In addition to addressing compensation issues, Mtatiro also voiced his concerns about the performance of the Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) in Shinyanga District. He criticized TARURA for delays and inefficiencies in the execution of road projects, citing numerous instances where contractors were absent from project sites.

"Among the areas that I am not satisfied with since I came here as the District Commissioner is the performance of TARURA," Mtatiro lamented. "If they continue like this, we will inform the Director-General because these contractors who have been given the money, which is taxpayers' money, our country's money, to carry out maintenance of various Shinyanga roads, should be

seen on-site."

The district boss' frustration with TARURA's lackluster performance highlighted his commitment to holding government agencies accountable for their actions and ensuring that public funds are used responsibly.

As the meeting progressed, Mtatiro reiterated his commitment to transparency and accountability in local governance. He urged residents to actively engage with their local councils and hold them accountable for addressing their concerns.

"Where were you burying your relatives before? Wasn't everyone burying them in their land? Then continue doing the same," Mtatiro urged, emphasizing the importance of citizen empowerment in local decision-making processes.

In the days following the

public meeting, Mtatiro wasted no time taking concrete action to address the compensation issue. He directed the Shinyanga Municipality Council to establish a special camp to handle citizens' complaints and vowed to oversee a thorough investigation into the matter.

"As the investigation unfolds and corrective measures are implemented, residents remain hopeful for a resolution that upholds their rights and promotes transparency in public service delivery," Mtatiro assured the residents.

The dynamic expansion project underway at Shinyanga Airport, valued at a staggering Sh55.9 billion and generously funded by the European Investment Bank (EIB) in conjunction with the Tanzanian government, has ignited intrigue with its recent amendments amid escalating costs,

as highlighted by former Deputy Minister for Works Godfrey Kasekenya.

As an integral part of a monumental € 50 million initiative, this ambitious endeavor is set to revolutionize infrastructure across five key airports, Shinyanga included, over a visionary 20-year period, as meticulously documented by the Tanzania airports database.

Led by SMEC and CHICO, the project seeks to elevate infrastructure standards, facilitate all-weather operations, and accommodate growing passenger traffic. Meanwhile, District Commissioner Mtatiro's unwavering commitment to resolving compensation issues sets a precedent for local governance accountability, underscoring his dedication to the people of Shinyanga and their welfare.

Nicaraguan indigenous struggle to preserve their identity



By A Special Correspondent

WHEN a baby is born in the community of La Laguna, some 2.5 miles from the town of San Ramon in Nicaragua's north central region, the mother presents the baby to the full moon. It's an ancestral rite that takes place before the newborn baby is two months old. In the ceremony, the mother invokes the "protective energy" of nature. This tradition has been passed down for generations in intimate ceremonies held among the indigenous people of Matagalpa - a culture that's among the oldest in Nicaragua.

The one telling us the story is Maritza del Carmen Centeno, 50 years old and the mother of two children. She's a member of the Indigenous Movement of Nicaragua and a firm believer that her people's traditional knowledge is synonymous with wisdom.

That would seem like a declaration of principles, but Maritza Centeno's personal history concretely supports these ideas. In 2012, she founded the Tonanzintalli Agricultural Cooperative and promoted a project for planting coffee trees on small plots of land belonging to women. Her efforts and those of the cooperative were recognized in Berlin, Germany, with the 2023 Lush Spring Prize for social and environmental re-

generation. The project combines technical knowledge about production, Maritza's career in marketing and advertising, and the beliefs of their ancestors.

According to the book *Ethnology and Anthropology* by French authors Philippe Laburthe-Tolra and Jean-Pierre Warnier, identity is "a cohesive principle internalized by a person or group, that allows them to differentiate themselves from the rest, to recognize themselves and be recognized."

Talking about identity might appear only marginally relevant in a convulsive world, if you think that focusing on the ideas of the indigenous leader means putting aside other concerns such as economic survival, hunger, war, terrorism, or political crises. However, Maritza Centeno explains the existing connection between the indigenous cosmological vision of the earth, the ancestral knowledge of planting, music, dance, gastronomy, and natural medicine. All of these topics are essential to life.

Victor Manuel Centeno lives in the small valley of Siare, in the buffer zone adjoining the Apante Hill Natural Reserve. He makes temazcales - vapor baths of medicinal and aromatic herbs - whenever he notes "changes of energy." These baths are also indigenous rituals, he notes, customarily used at the June or December solstices, or in the equinoxes of spring or fall.

But Victor Manuel has another

Maritza Centeno participating in a native ceremony

name as well. To all who know him, he's "Canek," a name that in the Yucatan Maya language would be kaan eek, meaning black serpent. Although that may seem a terrible nickname, for the community members he's a sukia, a consultant. He's proud of his Miskitu heritage, and the knowledge of natural medicine passed down to him from his grandparents, as well as the knowledge he's received from those he calls his "Matagalpa brothers."

The "official" data regarding Nicaragua's indigenous population is nearly twenty years old. Since that time, many questions have arisen: How many Nicaraguans are indigenous? What parts of Nicaragua do they live in? Are they the object of discrimination? Their history is always present, including the differences in the relations the indigenous communities wove with the Spanish conquistadores in the Pacific, the North and the Central region; and with the English pirates on the Caribbean coast.

The 2005 Population and Housing Census counted less than 500,000 people classed as indigenous, out of a total population of 5.4 million. Of those half-million Nicaraguans who identified themselves as indigenous, 33,604 were from Matagalpa, but less than 150 of them spoke their native language. Further north, in the nearby department of Jinotega, the statistic was only slightly higher: 36,958 people identified themselves as indigenous, of whom a little over 7,200 were Miskitus; 6,600 called themselves "Chorotega, Nahual or Mangue," and just over 2,200 identified as Mayangna.

The difference between the two areas is that Jinotega also contains the Alto Wang-

ki Bocay Special Zone where the Miskitu Indian Tasbaika Kum territories are, comprising 14 communities in Wiwili. In addition, the Jinotega department also includes 9 indigenous communities around the municipality of San Jose de Bocay, grouped as Mayangna Sauni Bu.

The lack of updated censuses has been noted by studies of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the 2022 report authored by Laura Acosta and Bruno Ribotta, "Statistical visibility and participative mechanisms of the Latin American indigenous peoples" [United Nations, 2022]. The report indicates that during the decade of the 2000s, only 15 countries asked about indigenous identification in their censuses, while in the 2010 censuses it was notable that neither El Salvador nor Nicaragua included any measurement of this type.

Despite that apparent government indifference, indigenous vision and organization are very current topics among Nicaraguans. "The people here do recognize themselves as indigenous. Even those who aren't, say they're indigenous, in order to have the benefits like not paying land rental fees," comments Victor Chavarria, ex-president of the Board of the Indigenous People of Sebaco. He sees land tenancy as a basic issue for his organization.

The Department of Matagalpa extends over 2,627 square miles, divided into 13 municipalities. Eleven of these municipalities include the presence of three of the 22 indigenous groups of the Pacific, North and Central regions: the Matagalpa people, the Sebaco people, and the Muy Muy

indigenous people. Each one of these has their own territory, with land titles dating from 1723, 1724 and 1726 respectively, some 98 years before Nicaragua gained its independence. The Nicaraguan government reported this information in a document from the Attorney General's office published in January 2018.

Mosaico CSI, an independent local digital media team based in Matagalpa, reviewed 34 texts and official documents, including books, monographs, and articles, and spoke with indigenous people and some of their leaders in different communities, along with historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists from Matagalpa, in order to learn the history of the Matagalpa indigenous people and the deep significance of the way they view the cosmos. The result has been a portrait that leaves their legacy clear, but unfortunately paired with a history of discrimination. Nonetheless, their influence on history is undeniable, according to the experts interviewed.

Sayda Liseth Hernandez a 41-year-old economist originally from the community of Siare admits that she used to call herself a mestizo. Now, as an adult, she recognizes her indigenous roots. She observes: "the colonization, plus the modernization, have caused people to be ashamed of their roots and to go on forgetting them."

Others blame the impact that the disorganization of the indigenous groups may have had. Miguel Angel Gomez, president of the Indigenous People of Jinotega and assistant coordinator of the National Council of Indigenous Peoples, points to another reason: poor administration of the assets has also caused the indigenous people to stop self-identifying as indigenous, and even to distance themselves from the formal and traditional structures. To him, this is an essential element.

The indigenous people of Sebaco, Muy Muy, Matagalpa, Jinotega and other groups from the Central, North and Pacific regions of Nicaragua have had serious conflicts; there have even been times when two or more Directive Boards existed simultaneously. Now however, most of them are controlled by the governing Sandinista Party.

"That's part of the loss of identity, because at times we're not capable of managing our resources and that's a very serious problem," Gomez admits during an interview with Mosaico CSI. He defines himself as a Chorotega and asserts that the indigenous lands of his community were acquired with "gold coins." The land title they have is matriarchal, because it was the women who traveled from Nicaragua to Guatemala, seat of the military government at the time, to assure the ownership of the lands.

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

Kampala, Juba commit to boost ties, border operations at the Elegu-Nimule border post

By Guardian Reporter

UGANDAN and South Sudanese government officials, trade representatives and other stakeholders convened at Nimule Border on Tuesday for a high-level joint border sensitisation mission focused on strengthening cross-border trade relations and fostering regional integration.

The mission provided a platform for in-depth discussions on various issues impacting trade between the two Partner States, with a particular emphasis on the implementation of One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) and other trade facilitation measures.

A key highlight of the mission was the in-depth review of the performance of the OSBPs, which aim to streamline clearance processes and enhance security measures at border points. Stakeholders underscored the importance of consolidating various government agencies into one central location to expedite clearance times and simplify procedures for cross-border traders.

Presentations from both Partner States' delegations revealed a significant increase in traffic between the two countries, highlighting the growing importance of efficient trade facilitation measures. Despite progress, challenges such as differing operational hours and tax regimes were identified, emphasising the need for harmonisation and coordination between border authorities to ensure smoother trade operations.

Reactions from stakeholders echoed the call for improved understanding of OSBP procedures, gender-sensitive integration efforts and the need to address environmental challenges affecting trade



activities in the area, with particular reference to floods known to frequently affect the Elegu-Nimule area.

Other key recommendations included the need for capacity building for traders to fully appreciate and experience the benefits of the EAC integration and infrastructure development to support cross-border trade.

Dr Anne Itto, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Member of Parliament, said that the Community had put in place various initiatives to facilitate trade and regional integration, and OSBPs take centre stage.

"If we do not have the free movement of goods and people, then we do not have integration" she said. "There is therefore an urgent need

to ensure there are facilities to effectively facilitate trade on both sides on the Elegu-Nimule border," said Dr Itto.

Annette Ssemuwemba, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs, commended all border agencies for their commitment in ensuring services were offered despite challenges in the execution of their respective mandates.

In responding to the matters raised, the Deputy Secretary General said that the EAC Secretariat would work jointly with Uganda and South Sudan in the development of strategies aimed at transforming operations at the Elegu-Nimule border.

"The Secretariat has taken note of all challenges raised and recommendations offered for improved

trade facilitation. We shall develop an action plan that incorporates all issues raised, stakeholders charged with ironing out these issues and the implementation timeframe - short, medium and long term," added Ssemuwemba.

Ssemuwemba further said that longer-term interventions such as infrastructure development, IT systems interconnectivity and the provision of facilities for women cross-border traders were essential for sustainable progress and prosperity at the border.

Adv. Beny Gideon Mabor, Under Secretary in South Sudan's Ministry of EAC Affairs, said that the deliberations of the day were centred on the Customs Union and Common Market, both pivotal components of the EAC integration agenda. "We

have identified several challenges impeding the seamless functioning of OSBPs, ranging from issues within the mandate of Partner States to logistical hurdles," Mabor said.

"The Government of the Republic of South Sudan is committed to addressing these challenges by implementing necessary measures to operationalize OSBPs," said Mabor.

"I recognise that certain decisions can be expedited without the need for OSBP structures, we pledge to implement these with urgency," he added.

Representing the South Sudan Minister of Trade and Industry, the Advisor to the Minister of Trade and Industry in South Sudan, Simon Nyang, said that the OSBP review meeting was critical to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, adding that the Ministry will strive to implement the recommendations of the meeting.

Rebecca Kadaga, Uganda's 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of EAC Affairs hailed the diligent efforts of all border agencies in facilitating the movement of goods.

Kadaga underscored the urgent need for South Sudan to expedite the im-

plementation of the EAC Customs Union Protocol.

"This acceleration is imperative in ensuring citizens enjoy the full benefits of the EAC integration," said the Minister.

"In areas where legislative frameworks to facilitate the implementation of the Customs Union remain pending, I implore the Republic of South Sudan to actively seek support from the EAC Secretariat to conclude the same," said Kadaga.

The Minister reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to ensure enhanced collaboration of the border agencies from the two Partner States.

"Collaborative efforts are indispensable to navigate the complexities of integration, with a collective focus on ensuring tangible benefits for the populace," she said.

The Elegu-Nimule border mission served as a testament to the shared commitment by both Uganda and South Sudan towards strengthening cross-border trade and advancing regional cooperation. The stakeholder engagements session was preceded by an inspection of the Elegu and Nimule OSBPs.

By Guardian Correspondent

ORGANIZING Iftar events for the Muslim community has now become part of various public and private institutions' tradition to honour and celebrate the holy month of Ramadan, sharing love and unity.

Every year, during the fasting season, NMB Bank Plc through its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) strategy has also been organizing Iftar events across the country that brings together the bank's customers and other stakeholders including government leaders.

Through these Iftar events, NMB brings together customers to reflect on the values that unite all human beings, love for their families, gratitude to Allah, but also repentance and increased cooperation through worship.

During the bank's first Iftar event held in Zanzibar recently, the bank's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ruth Zaipuna reiterated that the bank has over the years hosted Iftar events as a sign of gratitude for its customers' continued trust as the bank of their choice.

"Organizing Iftar events is our long-time tradition and aligns with our 'Closer to You' philosophy. Such gestures bring us closer. We are glad to organize this Iftar event for our Muslim community in Zanzibar and we are glad to host orphaned and vulnerable children today," Zaipuna said.

"We at NMB believe that the presence of these children at this Iftar event is an opportunity for them to learn and continue to be motivated in doing good and being generous to the community around them."

She urged orphaned and vulnerable children to continue to grow in faith and increase their efforts in everything they do in life, especially in their studies.

This year, NMB Bank undertook a more inclusive approach towards its Iftar events and invited orphaned children who walked away with an assortment of goodies to commemorate the Eid el Fitri festive season celebrations.

She said over 500 orphaned and vulnerable children from seven orphanage centres in Zanzibar, Pemba, Dar es Salaam and Dodoma attended NMB Bank's Iftar events.

The Second Vice President of Zanzibar Hemed Suleiman Abdullah during an Iftar event held in Zanzibar received an assortment of donated goods from the NMB Bank Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ruth Zaipuna and then handed them over to the leadership of Kidundo and Mazizini orphanage centres both located

Bank's Iftar events put smiles on faces of orphaned, needy children



in Zanzibar.

During the Iftar event held in Dar es Salaam, the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa received an assortment of items from the NMB Bank Chief Finance Officer (CFO) Juma Kimori and then handed them over to the leadership of Tanzania Kwanza, Al Zam and Umrah orphanage centres, all located in Dar es Salaam.

In a related development, Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson during an Iftar event hosted for legislators in Dodoma received an assortment of items from the bank and then handed them over to the leadership of Zamzam Islamic and Darul Maarifa under National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA).

On a separate note, Tanzania's Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa

lauded NMB Bank for supporting various socio-economic initiatives across Tanzania adding that the bank's initiatives compliment the government's efforts to enhance social service delivery.

He was speaking after attending an Iftar event held at the Dome in Masaki, Dar es Salaam.

"This act of compassion aims to bring smiles to the faces of the orphaned and abandoned children and provide them with much-needed support." I would encourage other corporate entities operating in Tanzania to emulate NMB Bank so as to bring smiles to the faces of the young orphans and provide them with much-needed support.

"These children are the leaders of the next generation. Providing their basic necessities should be a pre-

requisite," Majaliwa stressed.

He also tasked local Government and municipal councils to identify orphaned and abandoned children and coordinate their basic needs.

Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah earlier during an Iftar event held in the Isles that hosted orphaned and vulnerable children lauded NMB Bank for maintaining a positive culture of organizing Iftar events for its customer adding that the bank has been instrumental in supporting Zanzibar's development agenda.

"This is a very positive gesture and I salute you for bringing on board orphaned and vulnerable children at this year's Iftar event and I believe you have left a big mark in the hearts of these children," he added.

Dr Tulia equally shared the same sentiments during an Iftar event hosted by NMB Bank in Dodoma at the weekend.

"I commend the bank for this generous and positive gesture that seeks to give back to communities. I also take this opportunity to thank the bank's management for being at the forefront of supporting various development initiatives across the country," she said.

She added: "It's my belief that the bank's efforts to support various communities including orphaned and vulnerable children will bear fruits soon as NMB Bank has been creating a bond with the needy during this holy month of Ramadan".

Darul Maarifa - Masjid Gaddafi, Airport Dodoma: "On behalf of the orphanage's management, I would like to extend my appreciation to the bank for extending to us this Iftar invitation. We are also grateful for the items donated to us to commemorate the Eid el Fitri festive season. I call upon other stakeholders across the country to extend support to orphanages as they face a lot of challenges" Awamu Hamimu - Student Leader Darul Maarifa."

"What has been done by NMB Bank should be emulated by everyone. Orphanage centers face a lot of challenges so I call upon all the companies and institutions to offer a helping hand and this should not be done only during the month of Ramadan," said Teacher Hassan, a leader at Mazizini Orphanage Centre in Zanzibar.

"We are grateful for the invitation to the Iftar event hosted by NMB and for the assortment of goodies handed over to us. We wish the bank success so it can continue supporting other orphanage centers. We call upon other stakeholders to extend their support as well," said Hamid Nassor Salum, a guardian at Zamzam Islamic School in Mihuji, Dodoma.

Khalid Kidundo, chairperson at Kidundo Orphanage Centre in Zanzibar: "Our centre caters for both orphaned children and the elderly and some of them live here at the centre. We need well-wishers like NMB so as to enable us to meet some of their day-to-day basic needs."

Leaders of Al Zam Centre (Mbagala Zakhim, Dar es Salaam), Umrah Centre (Magomeni Mikumi, Dar es Salaam) and Tanzania Kwanza Centre (Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam) at different occasions lauded NMB Bank for its generous support during an event held in Dar es Salaam that was graced by the Prime Minister Majaliwa.

Frank Abel

Flood challenges: Call for action to safeguard lives and the society

TANZANIA, a land of natural beauty and vibrant communities, is facing a pressing crisis that demands immediate attention: recurrent floods. With each passing season, the spectre of flooding looms large over places like Rufiji district, Mohoro ward, casting a shadow of uncertainty and devastation. In the year 2024, we also experienced serious cases of flooding in Morogoro Municipality due to the overflow of the Ngerengere River. Additionally, Nachingwe District is facing flood challenges that threaten the wellbeing of its people.

On this urgent hour, the call to action reverberates louder than ever before, echoing through the corridors of power and the hearts of citizens alike. As floodwaters rise, so too does the imperative for decisive measures and concerted efforts to safeguard lives, livelihoods, and the very fabric of Tanzanian society. Join us as we delve into the depths of Tanzania's flood crisis, exploring the challenges, the stakes, and the urgent need for action.

Floods in Tanzania represent a recurring natural phenomenon that poses significant challenges to communities, infrastructure, and the environment. As seasonal rainfall patterns intersect with various geographical, environmental, and human factors, the country grapples with the consequences of inundation.

In this article, we explore the multifaceted causes of floods in Tanzania, ranging from heavy rainfall and topographical features to human-induced factors such as deforestation and urbanization. By understanding these root causes, we can better comprehend the complexities of flood dynamics and formulate effective strategies for mitigation and resilience-building.

Heavy rainfall

Tanzania's climate is characterized by distinct rainy seasons, notably the long rains (Masika) and short rains (Vuli). Intense or prolonged rainfall events during these seasons often result in overflowing rivers, flash floods, and widespread inundation, particularly in low-lying areas. The volume and distribution of rainfall play a pivotal role in shaping the severity and frequency of floods across the country.

Topography and drainage

The geographical landscape of Tanzania, marked by rivers, lakes, and coastal plains, significantly influences flood dynamics. Regions with low-lying topography and inadequate drainage systems are particularly susceptible to flooding. Poorly designed or maintained drainage infrastructure exacerbates the problem, leading to water accumulation in urban areas and agricultural fields during periods of heavy rainfall.

Deforestation and soil erosion Deforestation, driven by agricultural expansion, logging, and urban development, contributes to soil erosion and loss of vegetation



Hundreds displaced and crops destroyed in recent floods in Rujiji District, Coast Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

The erosion-prone soils become less capable of absorbing rainfall, resulting in increased surface runoff and sedimentation in water bodies. Consequently, deforestation intensifies flood risk, particularly in areas where land degradation is prevalent.

Climate change

The impacts of climate change, including altered precipitation patterns and extreme weather events, further exacerbate flood risk in Tanzania. Rising global temperatures contribute to more frequent and intense rainfall, amplifying the likelihood of floods. Climate variability also disrupts traditional seasonal rainfall patterns, making flood forecasting and preparedness more challenging for communities and authorities.

Addressing flooding and reducing its impacts in Tanzania requires a comprehensive approach that integrates various strategies across multiple sectors. Here are some key actions that can be taken:

Investment in infrastructure

Developing and maintaining robust infrastructure, including drainage systems, embankments, and flood barriers, can help manage water flow

and minimize the impact of floods on communities. Upgrading existing infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events and expanding drainage networks in urban areas are crucial steps.

Early warning systems

Implementing effective early warning systems can provide timely alerts to communities at risk of flooding, enabling them to evacuate or take preventive measures. This requires the deployment of flood monitoring technologies, such as river gauges and weather forecasting systems, along with community outreach and education programs to ensure effective communication of warnings. Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) is currently doing a very good job, where they issue a weather forecast statement for every 24 hours, but I think consumption of these information to the grass root level is not effective, we need to ensure these information reach good number of people in Rural area.

Natural resource management

Promoting sustainable land management practices, such as reforestation, soil conservation, and watershed management, can help reduce soil erosion, improve water retention, and enhance

natural flood mitigation processes. Protecting and restoring wetlands and natural floodplains also contribute to flood prevention and ecosystem resilience.

Urban planning and land use regulations

Enforcing land use regulations and zoning policies to prevent construction in flood-prone areas and preserve natural drainage channels is essential. Integrating flood risk assessments into urban planning processes and promoting resilient building design, such as elevated structures and green infrastructure, can reduce the vulnerability of urban areas to flooding.

Community resilience building

Empowering communities with knowledge, skills, and resources to prepare for and respond to floods is critical. This includes conducting risk awareness campaigns, establishing community-based disaster preparedness committees, and providing training in emergency response and evacuation procedures. Encouraging the adoption of resilient livelihood practices, such as diversified agriculture and access to microinsurance, can also enhance community resilience to flooding.

Climate change adaptation

Integrating climate change adaptation measures into national policies and development plans is essential for addressing the long-term impacts of flooding. This may include enhancing water resource management, promoting climate-resilient agriculture, and implementing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the drivers of climate change.

Cross-sectoral collaboration

Addressing flooding requires coordination and collaboration among government agencies, local authorities, communities, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Establishing multi-sectoral task forces or disaster management committees can facilitate information sharing, resource mobilization, and joint decision-making to address flooding holistically.

Urbanization and land use changes

Rapid urbanization and improper land use planning exacerbate flood vulnerability in Tanzania. The encroachment of settlements into flood-prone areas, coupled with inadequate infrastructure and drainage systems, increases the exposure of urban populations to flood hazards. Unregulated land development further alters natural hydrological processes, disrupting water flow and exacerbating flood impacts.

Poor infrastructure

Inadequate infrastructure, including poorly constructed drainage systems, bridges, and

roads, contributes to flood vulnerability in Tanzania. Weak infrastructure impedes the natural flow of water, leading to localized flooding and infrastructure damage during heavy rainfall events. Insufficient investment in flood-resilient infrastructure exacerbates the socio-economic impacts of floods on communities.

River management

The management of rivers, including dam construction, river channelization, and sand mining, can alter natural water flow patterns and exacerbate flood risk downstream. Poorly planned river interventions may disrupt the equilibrium of river ecosystems, leading to increased sedimentation, reduced floodplain storage capacity, and heightened flood vulnerability in adjacent areas.

Mitigating the risks of flooding in Tanzania requires a concerted effort at various levels of society, spanning from individual actions to government policies and private sector initiatives. By implementing a range of measures across these sectors, the country can work towards reducing the impact of floods and building resilience in vulnerable communities.

At the individual level, community awareness and engagement play a crucial role in flood preparedness. Individuals can take proactive steps to educate themselves and their neighbours about flood risks and response measures. This can involve organizing workshops, distributing educational materials, and conducting simulation exercises to ensure that community members understand how to respond effectively to flood warnings. On the governmental front, effective policy development and enforcement are essential for flood risk reduction. Government agencies can develop and enforce land use regulations, building codes, and zoning policies to prevent construction in flood-prone areas and ensure that new infrastructure projects incorporate flood risk considerations. They can also invest in flood control infrastructure, such as drainage systems and embankments, prioritizing funding for vulnerable communities and regions most at risk of flooding.

In the private sector, companies have a role to play in investing in resilient infrastructure and innovative technologies for flood risk reduction. Private sector companies involved in construction, real estate development, and infrastructure finance can incorporate flood risk assessments into their decision-making processes and invest in resilient infrastructure projects, such as green roofs and flood-resistant buildings. Additionally, private sector companies can develop and deploy innovative technologies for flood monitoring, early warning, and disaster response, such as mobile apps for disseminating flood alerts and drones for rapid damage assessment.

Furthermore, public-private partnerships can facilitate collaboration between the government, private sector, and NGOs to address flood risks more effectively. These partnerships can leverage the strengths of each sector to mobilize resources, expertise, and funding for flood risk reduction initiatives, while also promoting innovation and accountability in flood management efforts.

In conclusion, we cannot afford to remain passive spectators to this ongoing challenge. It's time for proactive measures and sustainable solutions. We need comprehensive strategies that not only mitigate the immediate impact of floods but also address the root causes and prevent future occurrences. Investments in infrastructure, early warning systems, and community resilience are paramount. Additionally, we must prioritize ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management practices to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Frank Abel is Senior Programme Accountant at Amref Health Africa Tanzania and one of Stakeholders of Sustainable Development focusing more on effect of Climate Change.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 95 -

1. the day of the week before tuesday
 8. confess openly
 9. the religion of the Muslim
 11. the members of a household
 12. flightless Australian bird resembling an ostrich
 13. an extra seed covering, typically

coloured and hairy or fleshy
 14. mponye that is borrowed
 16. suffered patiently
 17. an immoral act
 19. mental picture
 22. goodbye 24. sincerely
 26. town on the Italian Riviera
DOWN:
 1. one's mother
 2. time worked in addition to one's normal working hours
 3. a tropical evergreen shrub native to southern and SE Asia
 4. deadly nightshade
 5. produce
 6. easy to understand
 7. atomic mass unit
 10. an official pardon for people convicted of political offences
 15. ejection from a property
 17. signal conveying information
 18. a fool 20. a weapon
 21. Lesser Bairam
 23. cooked in a specified style
 25. Noh

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

PER: AI: OI SNEERING AMEN
 CAT: KRAFT DRASTIC TASER
 DUMB: SH UFO: RVA NAEVUS
 OMAN: UP WESAK MEANS
 COWSHED OMAN BRIGHT

Yesterday's solution

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



TCB targets third place in competitive market

By Guardian Reporter

IN a highly competitive banking industry like Tanzania, where it can be challenging to distinguish oneself from the rest, Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) has boldly set its sights on becoming the third leading bank in the country.

During a speech in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, April 10, 2024, Adam Mihayo, the Chief Executive Director of TCB, revealed the bank's ambitious plans to grow and expand its presence, with a mission to revolutionize the banking sector in Tanzania.

TCB doesn't just offer financial services; it goes the extra mile to truly understand the unique needs and aspirations of its clients. By providing personalized solutions and cutting-edge products, the bank seeks to foster strong relationships with customers, ultimately building trust and loyalty.

By offering personalized solutions and innovative products, the bank is able to build strong relationships with its customers, earning their trust and loyalty.

"Our consistent growth is driven by our unwavering dedication to excellence and our relentless focus on exceeding customer expectations," he emphasized. "We prior-

itize listening to our customers and thoroughly understanding their needs in order to provide the best possible service."

Mihayo elaborated, stating, "With a significant 30 percent increase in revenue, we have once again showcased our resilience and adaptability in navigating the ever-changing market. The continuous trust and confidence our customers place in us is evident through the substantial growth in customer deposits. Additionally, our commitment to promoting economic development is underscored by the rise in customer loans."

The CEO of TCB reported that expenses for the quarter totaled 43.2 billion/-, reflecting a 6.1% increase compared to the previous year. Additionally, total expenses increased by 2.5 billion/- from the first quarter of 2023 to the first quarter of 2024, reaching 26.8 billion/-.

Moreover, TCB recognizes the significance of financial inclusion and remains steadfast in its dedication to serving underserved communities by expanding its branch network and forming partnerships with local organizations.

"We offer a range of products specifically designed for pensioners, including the option to request a pension advance or access loans through our Wastaafu Loans



Adam Mihayo, TCB CEO, emphasizes a key point during a media meeting in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Carlos Banda

Scheme. Our goal is to reach even the most remote areas and provide financial solutions to those who need them most," he confirmed.

He emphasized that the bank's key strategy for achieving its ambitious goals is to prioritize digital transformation.

"In today's digital age, customers expect seamless and convenient banking services, and TCB is dedicated to meeting those expectations. By investing in cutting-edge technology and modernizing our infrastructure, we are able to offer a wide array of digital banking solutions, making it easier for customers to manage their finances at any time, from anywhere," he elaborated.

"In fact," he added, "Our strategic direction and ongoing digitization efforts have allowed TCB to bring banking services closer to our customers than ever before, enabling them to conduct their banking activities at their convenience. This fosters a relationship of trust between the bank and its customers."

TCB's vision extends far beyond mere business growth and market dominance. The bank is deeply committed to making a positive impact on society through its corporate social responsibility efforts. Through initiatives supporting education, healthcare, and community development, TCB is actively enhancing the lives of Tanzanians and furthering the country's pro-

gress. The goal of TCB to become Tanzania's third-largest bank is not merely aspirational; it reflects the bank's steadfast dedication to excellence, innovation, and customer satisfaction.

Emphasizing digital transformation, financial inclusion, and social responsibility, TCB is strategically positioned to achieve its goals and reshape the banking landscape in Tanzania. The future holds great promise for TCB, and it is only a matter of time before the bank secures its rightful place among the industry's top contenders.

Mihayo is incredibly bullish about TCB's growth prospects, confidently stating that the bank plans to distribute a substantial Sh300bn in loans to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). By focusing on innovative new approaches, TCB aims to make a significant impact on these burgeoning sectors.

Emphasizing the pivotal role that SMEs play in driving economic growth, Mihayo highlighted that these businesses contribute a substantial 30 percent to the total. TCB is set to ramp up investments in the production sector and provide crucial funding to over 2000 entrepreneurs, all in a bid to supercharge economic expansion.

Commenting on the bank's stellar performance, Mihayo proudly

announced that TCB's total assets surged to an impressive Sh1.47 trillion in 2023, with ambitious plans to reach Sh1.7 trillion by 2024.

With a strong start to the year, the bank already notched up a profit after tax of Sh10.7 billion in the first quarter, setting the stage for a full-year profit target of at least Sh40 billion. Furthermore, TCB carefully managed its Non-Performing Loans ratio, cementing its reputation for prudent financial management.

In a testament to customer trust, the bank holds a staggering Sh1.17 trillion in customer deposits, representing an impressive 12 percent improvement from the previous year. With a relentless focus on SME empowerment and strategic investments, TCB is poised for even greater growth in the future.

"We are resolute in our commitment to drive operational efficiencies and decrease our cost to income ratio, notwithstanding the marginal increase in the current period," remarked Mihayo, outlining the bank's laser-focused strategy for sustained success.

Mihayo said the bank's record of profitable growth was a result of continuous prioritization of the value and sustainable growth of the micro, small and medium-sized businesses in the country.



Banks counters transact 1.2m shares in two days

By Guardian Reporter

BANK counters transacted 1.23 million shares on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) during the first two days of this week, which maintains its position as top moving stocks in the market.

The DSE daily market reports show, banking are the only stocks which have maintained an active consistence, with CRDB Bank counter leading the race.

During the first two days of this week, CRDB has moved more than 97 percent of banking stocks, after transacting 1.21 million shares valued 674m/-, which is 15 percent of the total turnover which has been recorded since the start of the current quarter.

NMB counter was the second mover among banking stocks, after transacting , after transacting 12,016 shares valued 56m/-, followed by DCRB counter and Maendeleo Bank Plc (MBP) counter.

Other than banking, other stock which recorded considerable transaction was Industry, whereby Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL), the largest listed company on DSE transacted 200,120 shares valued 1.15bn/-, the largest valued transaction to be recorded since the start of the current quarter.

The largest deal was recorded on Tuesday, whereby TBL counter transacted 200,100 shares, of which 200,000 shares were

traded through block trade and the remaining 100 were traded through normal trade at a price of 10,400/- per share.

During the first day of the week, a total turnover of 430m/- was recorded, whereby foreign investors participated in the market through selling shares valued 385m/-, which was 89.55 percent of total value of shares sold and bought shares valued 1.98m/-.

In the second day, ahead of Eid Al-Fitr holidays, the market recorded the turnover of 1.5bn/-, of which foreign investors participated through selling shares valued 1.4bn/- which was 93 percent of the value of all shares sold. All shares were bought by local investors.

According to the market report, a total turnover of 4bn/- has so far been recorded since the start of the second quarter, of which foreign investors have purchased shares valued 314m/- which is 7.85 percent of total value of shares bought.

The report shows foreign investors have participated in the market through selling shares valued 2.1bn/-, which is 51.02 percent of total value of shares sold.

Market analysts say they expected improved involvement of foreign investors, during the current quarter in buying shares in active counters as well as selling shares in dormant counters.

During the last quarter, for-

eign investors sold shares valued 26bn/- and bought shares 4.3bn/-.

Meanwhile, the DSE listed-Vodacom Tanzania Limited (VODA) has announced the completion of block acquisition of 284,984,314,284 ordinary shares in Smile Communication valued 68.8bn/- on a debt free cash basis.

In the public announcement made on Tuesday, Vodacom Tanzania said the deal involved the price/ consideration of 0.24144 per ordinary share, subject to adjustment. All acquired Smile's issued and fully paid shares valued 1/- each.

"The Acquisition necessitates access to a combination of both coverage (sub-1GHz bands) and capacity bands (mid bands) for 4G and 5G by Vodacom Tanzania PLC to better roll-out a competitive 4G network service in Tanzania and ensure a best-in class customer service," said the public announcement.

The announcement further said the acquisition was implemented on April 3, 2024 after the approval by Fair Competition Commission (FCC), Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and transfer of the ordinary shares by Brela.

Before the deal, Smile was operating 4G LTE mobile broadband networks in the 800MHz band in Tanzania, by offering nationwide Super-Fast mobile broadband services.

TBL, CRDB Foundation ink Mou to enhance agri-sector

By Carlos Banda

Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) partners with CRDB Bank Foundation to launch the Barley Farming Pre-financing Seed Capital Scheme, aimed at empowering farmers with financial, connections, and skills support to boost productivity and optimize natural resources.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, TBL Managing Director Michelle Kilpin highlighted that the scheme, part of TBL's Smart Agriculture Initiative, is a significant milestone in the company's commitment to fostering sustainable farming methods and supporting local communities throughout Tanzania.

"Through the joint efforts of TBL and CRDB Bank Foundation, we strive to greatly elevate the barley sector and improve the economic well-being of small-holder farmers in Tanzania. Our partnership exemplifies the power of collaboration in driving positive change and generating value for all stakeholders. With this significant milestone achieved, we are optimistic that it will ignite similar initiatives nationwide, inspiring others to follow suit," she remarked.

Further, Kilpin explained: "Through the alliance with the CRDB Bank Foundation, TBL seeks to integrate

financially empowered criteria into its smart agriculture framework, enabling farmers to adopt sustainable practices that promote environmental stewardship and reduce reliance on chemical inputs. This partnership underscores TBL's broader commitment to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 2, which emphasizes achieving zero hunger; SDG 12, for responsible consumption and production; SDG 13, for climate action; and SDG 17, to enhance partnership for the goals."

She also said that the Foundation's initiative, named the iMbeju program, aims to boost the barley sector and enhance the economic welfare of small-holder farmers across Manyara, Karatu, and Monduli Districts for the 2024 agriculture season.

Tully Esther Mwambapa, CRDB Bank Foundation Managing Director, said the iMbeju program has been on the market for almost a year now and has attracted a huge number of youth and women, its primary target. To date, she says that the program, which involves financial literacy training and the provision of seed capital, has trained around 250,000 women and offered seed capital to the tune of 5bn/-.

"We both seek to enhance sustaina-

ble agricultural practices through empowering our farmers. Once farmers are financially stable, production will more than double in all key produce, stabilize our food safety, and increase surpluses for local trading and export. This will have a positive impact on our GDP, where agriculture contributes a lion's share," she said.

Mwambapa added: "Under this affiliation, farmers will have timely access to agricultural inputs, be exposed to smart technology utilization, and receive comprehensive training, all of which are going to boost yields and improve incomes for farming families. Furthermore, the effort fosters economic growth and rural prosperity in Tanzania by supporting community development."

She emphasized that through the collaboration, TBL and the CRDB Bank Foundation will provide capacity-building programs, seed capital, insurance coverage, the supply of essential agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and agrochemicals, and support for cost-effective harvesting logistics, citing that the goal is not only to boost barley production but also to equip farming communities with the necessary tools and knowledge for sustainable agricultural practices and financial management.

Michelle Kilpin (R), TBL Managing Director, signs a MoU with Tully Mwambapa of CRDB Foundation, for barley farming pre-financing. Photo: Carlos Banda



WHY CREDIT CARDS ARE BETTER THAN DEBIT CARDS- PART I

BY KELVIN MKWAWA

CREDIT card use has gained popularity throughout the world. Banks and other financial institutions have introduced the credit card service as a way of improving their revenue streams. Unfortunately, credit card usage in Africa trails other continents significantly, mostly because of the extremely rural nature of most residences.

According to TheGlobalEconomy.com study in 2021, the average percent of people in Africa aged above fifteen years old (15+) who have a credit card was 3.92 percent. The study was based on 28 countries; the country with the highest average percent was Mauritius with 20.06 percent and the country with the lowest average percent was Tanzania with 0.31 percent.

In one of my articles, I argued that bank cards are important in our lives as they offer convenience and versatility. Also, I shared the dangers of using debit cards: the reimbursement of fraudulent charges on your debit cards takes longer, there is a high chance of being charged overdraft charges, and amounts are withheld from merchants when using your debit cards at most hospitality service providers. I also shared the dangers of using credit cards: the temptation to overspend money than you don't over, high charges of ATM usage, and high chances of overlooking your billing

statements hence missing monthly repayments.

As you can see, both debit and credit card usage have some elements of risk but life is all about risks hence one should not be discouraged from using either bank card. Both cards are important in our daily lives for different purposes. Nonetheless, if you have an opportunity to choose between debit cards and credit cards on your next purchase, I would suggest you choose credit cards as I believe credit cards are better than debit cards in many ways. In this article, I will share the reasons why:

Credit cards provide better safeguards against theft. If your credit card is stolen and used by the thief, you are covered with limited liability for consumers regardless of when you filed the missing report. On the other hand, debit card purchases have limited coverage since it's based on when you report the card as missing.

This is because banks offer more fraud coverage on transactions authorized by signatures than ones authorized by PIN mainly because banks earn more fees on transactions authorized by signatures. With credit cards, a customer does not have to worry about how many days it has been since the fraudulent charges appeared because fraudulent charges are covered by credit card issuers, and since credit cards are not connected to a customer's checking/saving account, customer's balances on their bank's account are not affected by fraudulent charges.



Kelvin Mkwawa

But if a thief gets hold of a customer's debit card and wipes out the checking account, the customer will have no cash to spend until the bank clears up the

theft and gives the customer his/her money back. Also, the customer might be liable to pay any overdraft fees triggered by the theft. In addition, replacing a lost or stolen credit card is faster than replacing a debit card. Most credit card banks will send overnight the replacement credit card but with a debit card, it varies as some banks provide instant issuing of debit cards and others don't.

Credit cards give more power to dispute charges. Customer always wants to feel safe when doing transactions with his/her bank's card and a credit card offers that. If something goes wrong with the item the customer bought, the customer can dispute the charges to the bank and will work directly/indirectly (through credit card networks) with the vendor or manufacturer to resolve the issue. The customer does not have to pay the price for the goods/services until the matter is resolved and if the vendor/manufacturer/merchant does not resolve the issue to the customer's satisfaction, the customer is not liable to pay at all.

Next week, I will share more reasons why I think credit cards are better than debit cards.

Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA (pictured) is a seasoned banker based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached through Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com

Transition to digital payments must be 'carefully managed'



By Thibault Pelé

THE World Bank identified approximately 1.7bn unbanked adults globally in 2017. The mission to catalyse financial inclusion works in concert with fostering economic growth. But studies have identified several barriers to financial inclusion, including a lack of trust in financial institutions and services.

Public distrust has led some individuals to explore cryptocurrencies, which operate independently of central authorities. However, cryptocurrencies are often subject to price volatility, further complicating their use.

In order to reduce this volatility, stablecoins were introduced but concerns regarding security and the management of private keys remain - posing risks of loss and hacking. These issues are particularly severe for the unbanked population, which typically has limited financial education. The collapse of cryptocurrency Terra/Luna, for example, led to significant financial losses for many families.

Cash continues to be the primary medium of exchange for the unbanked. Yet, the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the transition, and inclination, towards digital payments. For instance, in India, the pandemic prompted 80m adults to make their first digital transaction.

The shift to digital payments, spurred by the pandemic, highlights the potential importance of central bank digital currencies in practice. CBDCs - often considered digital equivalents of cash - offer key features in an increasingly

digital economy, such as accessibility, minimal costs, privacy and security. Discussions around CBDCs frequently consider a two-tier system that emphasises the role of financial intermediaries, including commercial banks and payment service providers. These entities could facilitate access to digital wallets, particularly for the unbanked.

Moreover, CBDCs could offer significant benefits to micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises by shortening settlement cycles, enhancing transaction efficiency, improving cash flow management and reducing costs. Pilot projects have also demonstrated how CBDCs can improve the delivery and effectiveness of government subsidies. In China, for example, trials in Jiangu and Fuyang have aimed to refine the use of a digital renminbi for more targeted subsidy distribution.

Such initiatives fall under the 'government payments' use case, which seek to enhance the precision and reach of subsidies. By utilising digital currencies, governments can ensure that subsidies are more effectively distributed to those in need. A more systematic use of CBDCs could also help facilitate access to financial resources and serve as an introduction to manage digital wallets.

However, the transition to digital payments must be carefully managed. It involves leveraging existing systems and ensuring that public institutions play a role in educating individuals on how to use their digital wallets. Gradually, the integration into the digital economy will be underway.

Offline payments and financial inclusion

In the pursuit of financial inclusion, offline capabilities play a crucial role, especially in areas lacking the necessary infrastructure for internet or mobile connectivity. In regions prone to natural disasters, offline functionality is critical for monetary system resilience. A survey by the Bank for International Settlements highlighted a divide between emerging markets and advanced economies concerning the importance of offline payments: 34.5% of respondents from emerging markets deemed them crucial, compared to 14.5% in advanced economies.

The connection between offline capabilities and financial inclusion is evident. While 90% of individuals in high-income countries have easy internet access, this figure drops to just 58% for those in low- and middle-income countries. Given their reliance on cash and existing infrastructure for cash access, it is vital for central banks to use current systems to facilitate access to CBDCs, such as postal networks or ATMs, for topping up offline CBDC wallets or synchronisation.

However, the development of offline CBDCs must consider the accessibility of necessary devices. Many current offline technologies rely on smartphones and secure elements, which may not be affordable for everyone. Policy-makers, together with manufacturers, should standardise secure elements, ensuring compatibility across a wide range of devices, including affordable options and potentially wearables.

Incorporating cards equipped with secure elements for offline transactions is also essential. These cards, which can be topped up via phone, ATMs or cash transactions at post offices, offer a cost-effective solution for storing digital wallets.

It is clear that financial inclusion will not rely on a single device or technology. It will rest on central banks' ability to provide a variety of devices, to enhance their efficiency and ensure their interoperability.

Thibault Pelé (pictured) is Product Lead of CBDC at Worldline.



Gungu Mibavu (2nd-L), Ministry of Agriculture's Acting Director of Marketing and Food Security, led the ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch a three-year staple food value chain trade project. Also present were representatives from USAID, COPRA, EAGC, and TradeMark Africa-Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Smallholder farmers to reap from USAID funded project

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

SMALLHOLDER farmers in Tanzania are expected to increase the quality of their produces as well as expand the market scope of their products, following the launch of new regional project targeting to boost exports of staple food.

Dubbed 'Strengthening Competitiveness in Export-Oriented Staple Food Value Chains in East Africa', the project is implemented in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Gungu Mibavu, acting director of marketing and food security Ministry of Agriculture, said during the launch of the project on Tuesday that the beneficiaries include women and youth engaged in maize, beans, sorghum, soya beans, millet, pulses and others staple food crops.

Under the project, smallholder farmers will be trained on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to help them to produce high quality products that meet international standards, how to supervise their farmers through associations/groups,

post-harvest handling and technology.

He called on Tanzanian businessperson to utilize this opportunity to sell staple food that has high quality because the demand in very high in East Africa Regional and other foreign countries across the world.

Businesspersons, farmers, processors and other people who will be ready to sell their produce in EAC regional and other foreign countries, Cereal and Other Produce Regulatory Authority (COPRA) will check quality of staple food before sold or exported in other countries, he said.

"Don't adulterate rice with sands or cooking oil, because you will get loss when you export because no clients will be ready to purchase staple food that is not clean and safe for their customers," he said.

He lauded the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC), TradeMark Africa (TMA) and USAID-Economic Recovery and Reform Action (USAID -ERRA) for introducing the project aimed at increasing job creation and income among staple food value chain actors in

three countries.

"The governments will continue to cooperate in various areas focusing women and youth by positioning them at the center of our food systems initiatives, as they are the most vulnerable group to food insecurity and poverty," he noted.

"We are intending to continue open up our borders to make sure we have smooth cross border trade and make export ban a story of the past that won't happen again to enable women and youth benefit from this project," he said. On behalf of Craig Hart's, USAID mission director, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s project management Specialist Junior Ndesanjo, said that Tanzania's production of key staples such as rice and maize has increased, showcasing the country's capability as a leading net exporter in the region.

Despite the remarkable strides, the full potential of Tanzania's agricultural sector remains untapped, hindered by various challenges that affect regional trade and competitiveness.

Fair Competition Tribunal resolves 97pc of cases

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

SINCE its establishment in 2007, the Fair Competition Tribunal (FCT), has registered a total of 442 cases, with a remarkable 97.1 percent (429 cases) successfully resolved after being heard.

The tribunal's head of economics department, Kulwa Msogoti, made this observation yesterday when speaking at the opening of an awareness seminar for the tribunal's stakeholders that is held in Mbeya.

He said the remaining 13 cases

are at various stages of hearing and added that the tribunal was established under section 83(1) under Competition Law No. 8 of 2003 under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Msogoti said the results of the decisions of the consultations have increased responsibility for all stakeholders in the market and encouraged the companies to increase attention in following laws of the country, increased transparency and price competition in the country's telephone companies and responsibility on competition in the business sector.

Msogoti explained that the

Tribunal was established for the purpose of promoting and protecting competition in the market and preventing bad behavior in the Tanzanian Market in order to increase efficiency and production, distribution of services and products, promote creativity, facilitate the use of effective resources and to protect the consumer.

Msogoti also explained that the purpose is implemented by handling disputes between traders, investors, service providers and consumers, including the community related to commercial competition and market regulation

by receiving, hearing and deciding appeal cases.

In addition, he said the Tribunal receives, hear and decides appeal cases arising from the decisions made by the Competition Commission-FCC, the Energy and Water Regulatory Authority (EWURA) and the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA).

He mentioned other authorities as the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA), the Telecommunications and Broadcasting Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and the Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA).

The Chief Legal Officer of FCT, Hafsa Said explained that an individual, a business company or an institution is allowed to submit an appeal and must prove that the decision appealed must have been made by one of the previously mentioned Authorities or the Competition Commission.

Hafsa also noted that the FCT has created a friendly environment for stakeholders to be able to access it easily where until July, 2024 the Tribunal will start registering consultations electronically.

Assistant Administrative Secretary of the Department of Investment, Industry and Business

in Mbeya Region, Anna Mwambene, advised traders to use the tribunal to solve their challenges instead of going to court where they spend a lot of time to find solutions.

She said that experience shows that many of the issues that have been presented to the tribunal have been resolved peacefully and in a short period of time, so traders should see this as an opportunity for them.

"If cases are taken to court, they will last a very long time and this situation often prevents traders to continue with their daily activities, but FCT conducts their proceedings very quickly and fairly," she said.

Zimbabwean businesses grapple with transition to new currency

Harare

ZIMBABWEAN businesses have not transitioned to the nation's new currency as they continue to adjust their systems, five days after the central bank introduced the sixth medium of exchange in 16 years.

The southern African nation, which has been grappling with currency crises over the past 24 years, on April 5 introduced the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG), which is backed by 2.5 tonnes of gold and some foreign currency reserves worth about \$285 million.

The government made the change following a drastic depreciation of the Zimbabwe dollar (ZWL) since its reintroduction in 2019. Banks, mobile money companies and retailers, among other businesses, put local currency transactions on hold a day after Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor John Mushayavanhu announced his first monetary policy statement.

Though electronic ZiG transactions began on April 8, physical notes and coins will begin

to circulate on April 30. Those holding the ZWL have been left stranded as the changeover progresses.

"You really want my comment?" said Eddie Cross, a business leader and former member of the RBZ monetary policy committee, when Semafor Africa asked him about the future of the ZiG. "The issuance of a currency is one thing, managing and supporting it is another."

It is said that the launched of a new "structured currency" backed by gold, seeks to tackle sky-high inflation and stabilise the country's long-floundering economy.

The new currency will be backed by foreign currencies, gold and precious minerals.

Mushayavanhu said the ZiG would circulate alongside a basket of other currencies.

He said the central bank would also introduce a market-determined exchange rate.

"With effect from today (April 5, 2024) ... banks shall convert the current Zimbabwe dollar balances into the new currency," said the central



Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor with the ZiG, by Jekesai Njikizana/AFP

bank governor.

The move is aimed at fostering "simplicity, certainty, [and] predictability" in Zimbabwe's financial affairs, he added, presenting the new banknotes that come in eight denominations ranging from one to 200 ZiG.

The new notes feature a drawing of gold ingots being minted, as well as Zimbabwe's famous Balancing Rocks, which already appeared on the old ones.

Zimbabweans have 21 days to convert their old cash into new money, Mushayavanhu said.

Sufficient reserves to back new currency?

The Zimbabwean dollar has lost almost 100 percent of its value against the US greenback over the past year.

Last week, it was officially trading at about 30,000 against its more coveted US counterpart - and at 40,000

on the black market, according to tracker Zim Price Check.

Its poor performance has contributed to the Southern African country's high inflation rate, which after climbing well into the triple digits last year, was at 55 percent in March, according to official data.

The current inflation rate has piled pressure on the country's 16 million people who are already contending with widespread poverty, high unemployment and a severe drought induced by the El Nino weather pattern.

Soaring prices have also brought back memories of 2008, when hyperinflation was so out of control that the central bank even issued a 100-trillion-dollar note, which is now a collectors' item.

Amid these economic challenges, analysts have questioned whether Harare has enough reserves to adequately back the new currency, and if the latter could suffer from volatility in gold prices.

Last week, President Emmerson Mnangagwa inspected the central bank's vaults that Mushayavanhu - who was appointed earlier this year - said hold 1.1 tonnes of solid gold.

The bank also has almost 1.5 tonnes more abroad, as well as \$100m in cash and precious minerals - such as diamonds, that if converted into gold would account for another 0.4 tonnes, Mushayavanhu said.

Altogether, the reserves' value totals \$285m, which Mushayavanhu highlighted was "more than three times cover for the ZiG currency being issued".

Meanwhile, the central bank added that it would also adopt a tight monetary policy, linking money supply growth to growth in gold and foreign exchange reserves.

Agencies

BANKING & FINANCE

China outlook turns negative on steady rise in debt

BEIJING

FITCH Ratings revised China's outlook to negative from stable, saying the government is likely to pile on debt as it seeks to pull the economy out of a real estate-driven slowdown.

Growing uncertainty about the outlook for the world's second-biggest economy, amid Beijing's drive to make growth less dependent on housing, "could keep debt on a steady upward trend," Fitch said on Wednesday.

China's government, which has been talking up the prospect of a turnaround in the economy, rapidly pushed back - saying the rating company failed to reflect the role of fiscal policy in shoring up growth, which helps to stabilize debt burdens. Financial markets were unfazed, with the yuan steady. China's 10-year sovereign bond yield edged higher after trading little-changed for most of the day, as investors digested a report that policy banks are expected to sharply increase long-bond issuance.

"I think the agency got the logic backwards," said Hao Hong, chief economist at Grow Investment Group. "There are good debts and bad debts. At this stage, if the government expands its fiscal budget deficit then it will actually improve



the economic outlook."

The Fitch announcement, which matched a similar one by Moody's Investors Service in December, comes at a crucial time for China's economy. In the coming week, the government is due to release some key indicators - including first-quarter growth - while the central bank will decide on a key loan rate. Financial markets are closely watching for clues about whether the economy has put the worst behind it, after some encouraging numbers for manufacturing and exports earlier this year.

Those data releases are what markets are focusing on, but the Fitch

decision "may still hurt near-term market sentiment on China while the confidence level is already low," said Xiaojia Zhi, an economist at Credit Agricole.

China's public debt has risen rapidly over the past dozen years or so, as the government pumped funds into the economy in a bid to maintain the world-leading growth rates it posted over previous decades. Amid the property slump that's now threatening to slow output, the government has outlined some new stimulus measures - like subsidies for households and businesses that want to upgrade appliances or machinery - and signaled that

more may follow.

Public debt was close to 80 percent of gross domestic product as of the middle of last year, roughly double the level of the mid-2010s, according to the Bank for International Settlements. That's well below many advanced economies like Japan and the US, though relatively high for an emerging market. Beijing's own measure for government debt shows it at 56 percent of GDP at the end of 2023, up sharply since the pandemic.

Still, since China borrows in its own currency, it's at no risk of the kind of debt crisis that's hit other developing nations in the past, ac-

ording to Andrew Freris, chief executive officer of Ecognosis Advisory Co.

"The only thing they need to be concerned about is their domestic situation," he said. "That is much more easily doable because one-third of the banking system belongs to the government."

Foreign ownership of China's sovereign bond market remains small at just under 8%, according to Bloomberg calculations of the latest official data. That's likely to cap any impact of the outlook change. Overseas investors have been net buyers of Chinese bonds since October, despite the outlook cut by Moody's.

While Fitch lowered its outlook, it maintained China's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating at A+. It said one key point to watch out for is "the degree to which fiscal support reignites underlying GDP growth."

Responding to Fitch, China's Ministry of Finance defended its fiscal policy as supportive for growth, arguing the government will be able to "control its debt ratios well and save policy room for dealing with potential risks and challenges in future."

"We regret Fitch's cut to China's credit outlook," the ministry said in a statement released minutes after

the Fitch announcement. The company's ratings methods "failed to reflect on the positive role" of China's fiscal policy in stabilizing economic growth as well as the macro leverage ratio "in an effective and forward-looking way," it said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also weighed in, with spokeswoman Mao Ning telling reporters at a briefing that "China's determination and ability to safeguard its sovereign creditworthiness will not change" when asked about the Fitch move.

Officials from the ruling Communist Party have become more sensitive about negative commentary on the economy as they seek to bolster confidence and stem capital outflows. The country's top leaders in December called for efforts to amplify bullish views, and officials have come up with new strategies including front-running disclosures on flatter data.

Fitch's move likely won't affect Chinese policy decisions such as the central bank's announcement of the one-year medium-term lending facility - a key interest rate - which is due on April 15, said Frances Cheung, a rates strategist at OCBC. Nor, in the longer run, is it likely to lead to a rating downgrade, she said - thanks to "China's taxation power and growth prospects."

WORLD

Israel urged to be accountable for aid worker killings

CAIRO

HAMAS said on Tuesday that an Israeli proposal on a ceasefire in their war in Gaza did not meet the demands of Palestinian militant factions, but it would study the offer further and deliver its response to mediators.

The proposal was handed to the Palestinian Islamist movement by Egyptian and Qatari mediators at talks in Cairo that aim to find a way out of the devastating war in the Gaza Strip, now in its seventh month.

Residents said Israeli forces kept up airstrikes on parts of central and southern Gaza on Tuesday, including one on a family house in Al-Nusseirat that killed 14 people, according to Hamas' Al Aqsa television. Other airstrikes were reported in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza and Rafah in the far south.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly flagged plans for a ground assault on Rafah, where more than one million displaced civilians are holed up, despite international pleas for restraint.

The talks in Cairo, also attended by the director of the US Central Intelligence Agency William Burns, have so far failed to reach a breakthrough towards pausing the war.

"The movement (Hamas) is interested in reaching an agreement that puts an end to the aggression on our people. Despite that, the Israeli position remains intransigent and it didn't meet any of the demands of our people and our resistance," Hamas said in a statement following the latest ceasefire proposal.

It said it would review the proposal further and go back to the mediators with its response.

Hamas wants any agreement to secure an end to the Israeli military offensive, a withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, and to allow displaced people to return to their homes across the small, densely populated enclave.

Israel's immediate aim is to secure the release of hostages seized by Hamas in the Oct 7 cross-border rampage that triggered the conflict. It says it will not end the war until it annihilates Hamas, which has run Gaza since 2007.

The United States is pushing hard for a ceasefire, after telling its ally Israel to do more to protect civilians in Gaza and let in more aid to prevent a famine.

In Washington, US Vice-President Kamala Harris met family members of some of the Gaza hostages, who told reporters they were pleased to be told progress was being made but that they wanted to see action soon. Jonathan Dekel-Chen, the father of American hostage Sagui Dekel-Chen, urged Hamas to come to the negotiating table to strike a hostage deal.

"We are waiting now and the world waits for Hamas to get to yes. It is in their court," Dekel-Chen said. Another member of the group, Jonathan Polin, said he is holding out hope a deal can be reached. "We have no choice but to stay hopeful," he said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said 400 aid trucks had been cleared to enter Gaza the previous day, describing it as the most since the war started six months



Injured men walk with crutches past children sitting atop the rubble of a collapsed building along a street in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Monday. AFP

ago. He said a good ceasefire offer had been presented to Hamas, which should accept it.

Israel says aid is moving into Gaza more quickly after international pressure to increase access, but the amount is disputed and the United Nations says it is still much less than the bare minimum to meet humanitarian needs.

Rafah invasion

Israel pulled back most of its ground forces from southern Gaza this week after months of fighting, but still says it plans to launch an assault on Rafah, on Gaza's southern border with Egypt, where more than half of Gazans are now sheltering.

In one of the first signs of concrete preparations for a ground assault, Israeli media reported on Tuesday that the Israeli defense ministry was purchasing 40,000 tents ahead of an evacuation of the city.

The United States has warned Israel not to storm Rafah due to the high risk of civilian casualties and US and Israeli officials will meet in person in a couple of weeks to discuss the matter, the White House said on Tuesday.

"I don't anticipate any actions being taken before those talks, and for that matter I don't see anything imminent ... It remains our conviction

that major military operations in Rafah would be extremely dangerous for civilians who would be caught in harm's way," Blinken told reporters in Washington.

Of the 253 hostages Hamas seized in its Oct 7 raid, 133 remain captive. Negotiators have spoken of around 40 going free in the first stage of a deal.

Hamas fighters killed 1,200 people in southern Israel in the lightning Oct 7 attack, according to Israeli tallies. At least 33,360 Palestinians have been confirmed killed in six months of war, Gaza's health ministry said in an update on Tuesday, with thousands more dead feared unrecovered in the rubble.

Most of the enclave's 2.3 million people are homeless and many at risk of famine.

Palestinian emergency teams supported by international organizations scoured the rubble of Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City and the shattered city of Khan Younis in the south following the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

So far the teams have recovered 409 bodies of Palestinians killed in the hospital and its surrounding neighborhood and in Khan Younis, according to Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson for the Hamas-run Gaza Civil Emergency Service.

Agencies

African experts meet in Kenya to prioritise global climate change goals

NAIROBI

AFRICAN experts are meeting in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, on Tuesday to align their priorities with the global climate change objectives ahead of the UN climate change conference to be held in June in Germany.

The four-day meeting, which brought together policymakers, negotiators, practitioners, farmer organizations, and civil society organizations from 30 African countries, will develop a common African position ahead of the 60th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and

Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SB 60) to be held on June 3-13 in Bonn.

In his remarks, George Wamukoya, team leader of the African Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES), said that it is imperative that experts unite under a common African position to pave the way for meaningful action at the coming climate change meetings.

"Collective effort, guided by reflection on COP28 outcomes, will shape strategic approaches across agriculture, adaptation, gender equality, health, water security,

biodiversity, and nature-based solutions," Wamukoya said during the meeting. He added that, through dialogue, collaboration, and determination, there is an urgent need to chart a path towards resilience, sustainability, and equitable development for the whole continent.

The meeting is expected to provide the African negotiators with a strategy and an approach to engage in negotiations on agriculture, adaptation, loss and damage, and adaptation finance.

Mithika Mwenda, executive director of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA),

promised to leverage its convening power by facilitating broad-based consultations on adaptation issues at the 60th sessions of the SB 60 in Bonn. Mwenda said that PACJA is providing a unified platform for African non-state actors to support and maintain the campaign for increased adaptation financing.

He said that with the global temperatures already surpassing pre-industrial levels, the need for decisive action by African countries and the global south is now.

Meanwhile, Anne Wang'ombe, principal secretary in Kenya's Ministry of

Gender, Culture, The Arts and Heritage, urged African climate change experts to integrate gender perspectives to tackle climate challenges in the continent.

Wang'ombe said that collective gender representation across various sectors calls for a holistic approach to tackling climate change challenges.

She urged people to seize the opportunity and amplify the voices of women and vulnerable groups, as well as work to ensure that Africa receives fair attention in global climate change negotiations.

Xinhua

New York judge rejects Trump's request to delay hush money trial

NEW YORK

A judge from the New York Court of Appeals on Monday rejected former US President Donald Trump's emergency request to delay a criminal trial on his hush money payments to an adult film star during the 2016 presidential campaign, according to media reports.

Associate Justice Lizbeth Gonzalez from an appellate court in Manhattan denied Trump's bid to delay the criminal trial scheduled for April 15 follow-



ing a hearing.

Trump's legal team asked the judge to postpone the trial indefinitely as efforts are made to change the venue of the trial.

Seen as the first of this kind facing an ex-US president, the criminal trial against Trump regarding election interference would begin on April 15 with jury selection, another New York judge, Juan Merchan said earlier. Judge Merchan continued to proceed with the preparatory work and sent a letter to Senior Trial Counsel Joshua

Steinglass from the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and Todd Blanch, a former federal prosecutor and Trump's lead counsel in the case on Monday regarding issues on jury selection.

Arraigned in the case in early April 2023, Trump faces charges that he falsified business records during the 2016 presidential campaign to make "hush-money" payments to porn star Stormy Daniels and keep her quiet about an alleged past sexual encounter with Trump.

Xi meets Russian foreign minister

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Tuesday met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Beijing.

Xi asked Lavrov to convey sincere greetings to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Noting that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries, Xi said China and Russia have embarked on a new path of harmonious coexistence and win-win cooperation between major countries and neighbors, which has benefited the two countries and their peoples and contributed wisdom and strength to international fairness and justice.

"President Putin and I have agreed to continue to maintain close exchanges to ensure the smooth and steady development of China-Russia relations. The two sides should take the opportunity of celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties and the China-Russia Years of Culture to fully implement the important consensus reached by President Putin and me," he said.

Xi stressed that China supports the Russian people in following a development path that suits their national conditions, and supports Russia in combating terrorism and maintaining social security and stability.

China always attaches great importance to the development of China-Russia relations, and stands ready to strengthen bilateral communication with Russia and enhance multilateral strategic coordination in BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Xi said.

He added that the two countries will show more responsibility, unite countries in the Global South in the spirit of equality, openness, transparency and inclusiveness, promote the reform of the global governance system, and vigorously lead the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Lavrov conveyed President Putin's cordial greetings and good wishes to President Xi. Lavrov said that under the strong leadership of President Xi, China has made achievements that have attracted global attention and provided important opportunities for other countries to achieve common development, which Russia deeply admires.

Lavrov said the priority of Russia's foreign policy is to comprehensively consolidate and upgrade relations with China, and the smooth reelection of President Putin guarantees the continuity of Russia-China relations.

He added that Russia is willing to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, strengthen bilateral and multilateral coordination, and work with other countries of the Global South to strengthen solidarity and cooperation in order to contribute to creating a more fair and just international order.

Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on Tuesday. Xinhua

Over 5,000 inmates in Uganda infected with conjunctivitis

KAMPALA

THE Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) announced on Tuesday that more than 5,000 inmates in the country have been diagnosed with conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye disease.

Frank Baine, the UPS spokesperson, said that the confirmed cases are spread across various facilities in Uganda. Out of the 5,905 confirmed cases, 4,704 inmates have already recovered, leaving 1,201 active cases that are fortunately not in a critical stage. Baine said that the UPS is strictly adhering to the operating standards and guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health to manage the outbreak. While visitations to all prisons remain open, Baine advised the public to stay away from prison facilities if they have contracted conjunctivitis. "Stay away until you recover. Continue washing your hands, avoid shaking hands, and hugging," he said.

Nigerian solo driver receives grand welcome after 68-day London-Lagos road trip

ABUJA

PELUMI Nubi arrived Sunday afternoon at the terminal point of her epic 68-day solo road trip from London to Lagos, in Nigeria's southwest region, greeted by the warm embrace of family, friends, government officials and admirers - marking the end of an adventure that transcended boundaries and inspired hearts.

The 28-year-old globetrotter and travel content creator on Jan. 30 embarked on a quest of a lifetime, traversing vast distances and diverse landscapes, all behind the wheel of her trusty vehicle, or "travel buddy," which she calls "Lumi, The Car."

Charting her course through 17

countries, navigating through challenges, triumphs and unforgettable moments of discovery, Nubi said her solo road trip was not merely a physical expedition but a testament to the power of passion, perseverance and the relentless pursuit of dreams.

"I feel so good to be home. Honestly, the homecoming has been so amazing and really welcoming," she said, acknowledging cheers from a crowd of admirers and well-wishers who gathered for a carnival-like homecoming celebration.

Despite encountering obstacles, including a harrowing accident in an undisclosed location in late March, with severe damage to the front bumper and a shattered windshield



of "Lumi, The Car," Nubi remained undeterred, drawing strength from her determination and resilience.

Her unwavering spirit propelled her forward, fueling her belief that "adventure awaits those bold

enough to seek it." Dubbed "the first black woman to solo drive," Nubi as a dauntless traveler attracted mere accolades, embodying the spirit of empowerment and possibility.

Her parents said they approved of the solo road trip because she had been exhibiting courage since 2016, and had already visited over 80 countries before embarking on the latest adventure in January.

In the words of Timothy Nubi, her father, the avid globetrotter's arrival marked "the end of anxiety for the family," saying the solo travel was rather a nightmare for her relatives.

"Every night we could not sleep. So, it has been two months of fun for the whole world but not for us,"

Timothy told the media.

On Sunday evening, the Lagos state government announced Nubi as its ambassador while presenting her with a brand new Chinese-brand GAC car and a new home as gifts. Nubi has donated "Lumi,

The Car" to a tourism facility in Lagos. "This solo drive has shown that it is possible; anything and everything you want is possible," she told the media Sunday, noting along the way, she carved a path of courage, leaving behind a legacy that resonated far beyond the miles she traveled. "You can do it, so go after it with all you have got, with all your energy, with all your life," Nubi said.

Xinhua

Bloodshed and suffering unbearable... doing everything we can: British PM Sunak

LONDON

INVOKING the plight of Palestinian natives in Gaza amid the ongoing Israeli military offensive against Hamas, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, while greeting the Muslims in the country and across the world on the occasion of Eid, said the bloodshed and suffering are 'unbearable'.

He added that his country was doing everything it could to help bring the conflict to an end and ensure that the hostages were released.

Sunak's invocation of the Israel-Hamas conflict during his Eid address served as a grim reminder to the war that has clocked over 6 months and counting, with little hope of a ceasefire on the horizon.

Wishing "Eid Mubarak to Muslims celebrating across the UK," Sunak, in a video message, thanked people from the community for their contribution across many fields in the nation.

"After the long month of fasting, I wish you all the joy of this festival that brings people together for thanks and reflection. And at this special time, I want to say an enormous thank you, not just for your contribution in so many different fields, from the NHS to business, politics and the armed forces, but for your generosity, hard work, commitment to service, and for your compassion to those in need," Sunak said in the personalised video that he shared on his official X handle.

Bringing up the prevailing situation in Gaza, the British PM said, "This year, I know many will be thinking particularly of those in Gaza. The bloodshed and suffering are unbearable."

"I want you to know we are doing ev-

erything we can to help bring the conflict to an end, ensure the hostages are released and get life-saving food, shelter and medical aid to civilians in Gaza," he added.

He said the UK was also working towards ensuring that the British Muslims felt secure in the country.

"Here in the UK also, we're working to make British Muslims feel secure and tackle sickening and utterly unacceptable hatred. That's why we've committed over £29 million every year for the next four years, to help protect the mosques, faith schools and community venues," Sunak said.

"But for now, as people gather together to pray and spend time visiting family and friends, I simply want to wish you and Muslims around the world a blessed and peaceful Eid," he added.

Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated on the first day of Shawwal, the 10th month of the Islamic lunar calendar. The festival is of great significance due to the moon sighting, which has been part of Islamic culture for a long time.

It is believed that Prophet Muhammad used to wait for news of sightings of the crescent moon as it indicated the beginning of a new month.

Ending the holy month of Ramadan and starting a new spiritual journey also marks the beginning of a new Islamic year. Eid-ul-Fitr marks the month-long Ramadan fasting and the beginning of Shawwal which is the tenth month of the Islamic calendar.

Since the observance of the moon is essential for ending Ramadan month and celebrating Eid, it is celebrated in different parts on different days usually with a one-day difference.

ANI

US Defence Secy Austin says 'don't have evidence' of Israel committing genocide in Gaza

WASHINGTON

REJECTING accusations that Israel carried out a genocide in Gaza, US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin said there was no 'evidence' of it.

On Tuesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken criticised the international community for failing to hold Hamas accountable, while US Defence Secretary Austin denied claims that Israel was committing genocide in Gaza, according to The Times of Israel.

Both officials insisted that Israel must guarantee long-term improvements to the humanitarian situation in the enclave.

"We don't have any evidence of genocide being created," Austin (pictured) said in testimony before the US Senate Armed Services Committee regarding US President Joe Biden's latest budget request, The Times of Israel reported.

Austin's statement came a day after Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren shared a video on her social media handle, asserting that the International Court of Justice should find Israel guilty of genocide because there was 'ample evidence'.

Austin referred to the horrors carried out by Hamas on October 7 as a 'war crime' but refrained from calling them a genocide at the hearing on Tuesday.

Austin made these remarks during a session that was often disrupted by far-left protesters yelling at him to cease supplying Israel with arms, The Times of Israel reported.

They raised their hands, stained in red, in the air and yelled, "Stop the genocide." Several senators expressed their outrage at the civilian deaths and insisted that more was needed to be done by the administration to put pressure on Israel to save the Gaza population.

Six months have elapsed since Hamas launched a brutal onslaught on Israel, resulting in widespread devastation and loss of life. Despite the passage of time, 134 hostages remain in Hamas' captivity, their fate hanging in the balance amidst ongoing efforts to secure their release.

The Israel Defence Forces have withdrawn all ground troops from the southern Gaza Strip after a four-month fight in the Khan Younis area, The Times of Israel reported.

As the country marked six months of war against Hamas, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) published new data on its operations in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Lebanon, highlighting everything from the number of terror operatives killed to the number of sites struck.

According to the data, more than 13,000 Hamas operatives and members of other terror groups have been killed by the IDF in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the war, in addition to some 1,000 terrorists inside Israel on October 7, when gunmen rampaged through southern communities, massacring some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 253 to Gaza.

The data presented by the IDF further stated that the military has killed five Hamas brigade commanders and those of an equivalent rank, as well as more than 20 battalion commanders.

Since October 7, in the West Bank, the IDF said the troops have arrested more than 3,700 Palestinians, including more than 1,600 affiliated with Hamas. ANI



China's demographic dividend is turning into talent dividend

WITH over five million students graduating in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) each year, China has become the world's leading producer of STEM graduates.

According to global think tanks, approximately 50 percent of the world's leading artificial intelligence (AI) researchers are trained in Chinese universities, making China the top provider of elite AI talents globally.

Behind these numbers lies China's transition from demographic dividend to talent dividend. After years of efforts, the average duration of education for China's working-age population has steadily increased to 11.05 years. The country now ranks first in the world in terms of the size of talent pool, human resources in science and technology and the total number of researchers.

Such growing talent dividend has provided strong support for technological advancements and industrial transformation and upgrading, bolstering the world's second-largest economy's confidence in future development.

Prioritizing talent as its main resource, China is committed to building a leading country in education. By recognizing the importance of STEM education in nurturing innovative and versatile talents and maximizing the potential of human resources, new achievements have been made in this regard.

From 2012 to 2022, the Chinese government's budget spending on education increased from 2.2 trillion yuan (\$304.13 billion) to 4.85 trillion yuan, with an average annual growth of 8.23 percent. China now has a nearly 900 million working-age population, and the average years of education for the newly added workforce has risen to 14 years.

Besides, China boasts 3,074 higher-educational institutions, with a student enrollment of over 47.63 million in various types of higher education. Home to over 200 million skilled workers, including more than 60 million high-skilled professionals, China has emerged as a country with the world's largest number of talents specialized in a diverse



An R&D staff of a new material company in Jiujiang, east China's Jiangxi province, works in a lab of the company. (Wu Jiang /People's Daily Online)

range of industries.

Research shows that in developing countries, the number of high-level talents, the overall quality of the talent pool, and the innovation vitality of talents collectively serve as a valuable resource for achieving leapfrog development. It is heartening to see these positive outcomes taking shape in China.

In recent years, multiple breakthroughs have been made in quantum computing in China, such as developing China's first quantum computing measurement and control system, first quantum computer operating system, and first quantum chip design software, largely due to the efforts of a research team led by Guo Guoping, deputy director of the Key Laboratory of Quantum Information of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. These achievements have made China the third country in the world with the ability to deliver a complete quantum computer.

China now leads the world with over 6 million R&D personnel, and maintains the second position globally in R&D investment for multiple years.

Japanese magazine Nikkei Asia said on its website that it is easy these days to construct a bearish view on China's economic outlook. But a frequent omission from such narratives is the country's zeal for innovation.

China's expanding investment in innovation is playing a crucial role in boosting productivity and fostering long-term, sustainable economic growth. According to the World Bank, human capital has contributed over 36 percent to China's economic

growth, and the number is still on a rise.

International institutions and companies are increasingly drawn to China's human capital potential and seeking to tap into the country's talent dividend.

Schneider Electric, a multinational based in France, has been making quick advances in China in 2023, launching a new R&D project approximately every two months. China has now become one of the company's four R&D bases in the world.

Why does Schneider Electric frequently expand its R&D presence in China? One key reason is China's advantage in talent. According to Yin Zheng, executive vice president of Schneider Electric's China & East Asia Operations, the company has been continuously strengthening its local innovation team. Over the past three years, its number of R&D staff in China has grown by 30 percent, surpassing 2,000 individuals.

"We will continue to reinforce our R&D capabilities in China, establish more research institutions, promote innovation to support China in developing new quality productive forces, and share 'Chinese wisdom' with the rest of the world," said Yin.

Jiang Hao, vice president of Roland Berger Greater China, said in recent years, foreign companies have been rapidly setting up R&D centers in China. "The large number of exceptional management talents and skilled engineers in China has caught the attention of foreign companies, leading to a rise in investment toward building R&D centers in the county," said Jiang. *People's Daily*

21 years after fall of Saddam Hussein's statue, Iraqis still grapple with repercussions of US invasion

BAGHDAD

ON April 9, 2003, the fall of a statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad's Firdos Square marked a symbolic end to the regime of the former Iraqi leader.

The event occurred amidst the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, initiated by then-President George W. Bush under claims that Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), which were never substantiated.

More than two decades later, the impact of the invasion is still felt in Iraq and beyond.

Ali Moussa, a political analyst, reflects on the profound changes since 2003, highlighting the radical ramifications not only within Iraq but also regionally and globally.

The promise of democracy, once seen as a beacon of hope, has been overshadowed by the ensuing conflicts, sectarian violence, and political stalemate.

"If anyone should be blamed for the chaos and bloodshed in Iraq, it is the U.S. administration which invaded the country and substantially decimated the fabric of its society, deepening ethnic and sectarian divisions,



Cpl. Edward Chin of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines Regiment, covers the face of a statue of Saddam Hussein with an American flag before toppling the statue in downtown Baghdad, Iraq, on April 9, 2003. AP

spreading chaos, instability, and large-scale displacement," Moussa said.

The sentiment is echoed by many Iraqis who initially welcomed the prospect of change but now advocate for the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

"After those difficult years, the Iraqis have gained nothing but devastation, blind killing, displacement, sectarianism, systematic corruption, and a deterioration in public services," Moussa said.

Yasir al-Jubouri, head of the Fawasel Foundation for Research and Studies, said the United States created a power vacuum in Iraq that resulted in the country's current chaos.

"The U.S. invasion of Iraq caused extensive damage in Iraq and the wider region, and after over two decades, my people paid a high price for the false prom-

ises of democracy made by the U.S..

It seems that it will take more decades for us to undo the damage," he said. "Security and stability in Iraq are inversely proportional to the American presence," said Mohammed al-Jubouri, professor of media at the Baghdad-based al-Iraqia University.

As Iraqis contemplate the events of the past 21 years, there is an increasing support for groups like the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, which opposes U.S. military presence, said al-Jubouri.

"I was in my twenties when U.S. forces entered Iraq, and I once dreamed that Iraq would turn into a prosperous country. However, the Americans did not fulfill their promises, and they did everything just for their own interests," said Hussein Kadhim, a 44-year-old Baghdad resident.



Yanga's Congolese midfielder, Maxi Nzungeli (2nd R.) attempts to get the better of Mamelodi Sundowns footballers when the teams locked horns in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League last eight's second leg in Pretoria last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Yanga's spirited showing in CAF Champions League bolsters E.Africa soccer

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANZANIA'S pursuit of an impressive stint in the 2023-24 CAF Champions League was brought to an end last weekend after the country's two outfits - Simba SC and Yanga - were knocked out of the last eight phase.

Simba SC succumbed to 3-0 aggregate loss the premier continental club tournament defending champion, Al Ahly, as the latter cruised to 1-0 victory in the first leg and wounded up with a comprehensive 2-0 victory in the rematch.

Tanzania's other envoy in the competition, Yanga, was knocked out by Mamelodi Sundowns. The spot kicks had to decide the pulsating two-leg encounter given the two teams shared the spoils with a barren draw in the two legs.

The South African football giant eventually had the last laugh in the spot kicks, having notched 3-2 victory to dim Yanga's hopes of becoming the first outfit in Tanzania to book a place in the prestigious showdown's semi-finals.

There was though a bit of controversy during the second leg which was played in Pretoria, given Yanga looked to have found Mamelodi Sundowns' back of the net in the 57th minute of the game but the goal was disallowed by the referee.

Yanga's midfielder, Stephane Aziz Ki, beat Mamelodi Sundowns' shot stopper, Ronwen Williams, with a left-foot effort from inside the box, the ball hit the crossbar and looked to have gone over the goalline.

Ki, who was lurking around the South African club's box, had made good use of forward Kennedy Musonda's center from the left flank, got past defenders and rifled past Williams.

After a brief consultation with officials in the control room, the referee deemed the ball to have not wholly gone past the goalline and thereby disallowed the goal, to the dismay of Yanga's footballers and their supporters.

A lot has been said by soccer stakeholders concerning the goal which was disallowed, with a section of them that root for Yanga feeling their club was unfairly eliminated.

There are a lot of questions from the football followers, who are keen on finding out whether East African teams are still regarded as underdogs.

The performance shown by the Jangwani Street side in this season's premier continental competition's last eight has brought about such a query from the football lovers.

Were there plans to see to it Tanzania's squads battling it out in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League hardly make their presence felt in the showpiece?

Tanzania was so far the only country that had two teams featuring in the prestigious continental club tournament, which comes third after AFCON and African Football League in terms of prominence.

The Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) defines goal-line technology as a technical means of instantly determining whether the whole of the ball has crossed the goal-line or not.

Such a technology unfortunately has yet to be deployed in Africa inter-club tournaments and its absence has led to the presence of controversies, including the one that came about in the 2023-24 CAF Champions League last eight second leg, which had Mamelodi Sundowns hosting Yanga.

Simba SC face tough journey towards renewed greatness

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC's dreams of garnering CAF Champions League glory were shattered in a brutal quarterfinal clash against Egyptian football powerhouse Al Ahly.

The resounding aggregate defeat, marked by a 1-0 loss at home and a 2-0 defeat away, exposed vulnerabilities within the Tanzanian club.

Simba SC's head coach Abdelhak Benchikha, a proven winner with Algeria's USM Alger, has responded with a clear plan for improvement, outlining the team's shortcomings and proposing solutions through a strategic recruitment drive.

The encounter with Al Ahly marked a historic low for Simba SC. Never before had the Msimbazi Street team succumbed to two defeats against the Egyptian opponent at the former's home stadium, Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

This unprecedented setback served as a wake-up call, prompting Algerian gaffer Benchikha to dissect the team's performance and identify areas demanding immediate attention.

While the defeat stings, Simba SC is choosing to view it as a valuable learning experience.

The club acknowledges its limitations and recognizes the need for strategic adjustments.

This period of introspection coincides with their return to domestic competitions, offering an immediate



Simba SC's head coach, Abdelhak Benchikha. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

platform to implement these changes.

The CRDB Federation Cup and the NBC Premier League present an opportunity for the club to test and refine its approach before returning to the continental stage.

A crucial area requiring focus, according to Benchikha's report, is the defense. Veteran defenders Shomari Kapombe and Mohamed Hussein have shouldered a significant workload, leading to concerns about fatigue.

Their consistent playing time highlights the lack of depth in the positions they are playing in.

The recruitment of new defenders, particularly for the left and right flanks, would provide valuable rotation

options.

This would not only lessen the burden on experienced players but also foster healthy competition within the squad.

David Kameta and Israel Mwenda, currently underutilized defenders, could benefit from the influx of fresh talent, pushing them to elevate their performance and vie for starting positions.

The midfield, while possessing strength, is also slated for reinforcement. Addition of a new player, ideally a skilled left-footed attacking midfielder.

This targeted acquisition would add tactical flexibility and depth to the center of the park.

Upfront, the departure of Jean Baleke and Moses Phiri, prolific

goalscorers in the previous season, is viewed as a missed opportunity.

Their absence has left a noticeable void in attack. The report emphasizes the need for high-quality reinforcements in the attacking department to bolster Simba SC's goal-scoring prowess.

Simba SC is urged to learn from past mistakes and prioritize acquiring players with extensive CAF Champions League experience.

A squad with depth allows for effective rotation, a critical factor in navigating the demanding continental tournament.

Integrating players accustomed to the competition's intensity, pressure, and tactical nuances would significantly benefit the team.

Understanding the unique challenges posed by the CAF Champions League would be invaluable in future campaigns.

The introduction of new players is not merely about bolstering the squad - it also creates a healthy level of competition within the existing ranks.

Current players will be pushed to elevate their performance to retain their positions.

This competitive environment fosters a culture of continuous

improvement, ensuring that every member of the squad strives to reach their full potential.

Benchikha's successful track record with USM Alger inspires confidence in his ability to cultivate a winning team.

His experience in continental inter-club competitions and his tactical acumen are valuable assets for Simba SC.

The club's leadership is urged to prioritize Benchikha's recommendations and actively seek players who possess the experience and skills necessary to excel in the CAF Champions League.

Simba SC's recent defeat exposes areas for improvement, but it also presents an opportunity for growth. The club's response demonstrates a commitment to learning and adaptation.

With strategic recruitment, a focus on experience, and unwavering support for Benchikha, Simba SC is well-positioned to bounce back from this setback and make a stronger push for continental glory in the seasons to come.

United in the quest for redemption, the team is poised to write a new chapter in its illustrious history.



Dar es Salaam's junior footballers showcase their skills at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Promising visual artists stage exhibition at Nafasi Art Space

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM'S contemporary art center, Nafasi Art Space, has stepped up its efforts to promote domestic visual arts with a showcase of an exhibition titled 'The Inner Mirror'.

The center disclosed recently that the showcase, which got underway at its premises at Mikocheeni early this month, has brought together 16 visual artists.

"Through their different perspectives and inspiring expressions, a total of 16 are being showcased, each embodies the essence

of introspection and revelation. These pieces serve as mirrors reflecting the multifaceted nature of the human experience," the center said in a statement.

"In just a few short days, the fruits of their labour have been unveiled to the world in a breathtaking showcase of artistic creations," it revealed.

The center pointed out that 'The Inner Mirror' offers the reflective depths of the artists' creations, with each artist having found a voice, a unique resonance that yearns to be heard, understood, and embraced.

With the completion of the center's first module, an incredible transformation has taken root and nurtured by the hands of dedicated mentors and the fertile soil of artistic exploration.

"As our aspiring artists eagerly await to finish their production stage, anticipation hangs in the air like a delicate brush stroke on an awaiting canvas," it disclosed.

"As we stand on the peak of this significant event, we extend our deepest appreciation to all who have supported and championed our artists on their journey especially themselves," Nafasi Art

Space added.

The center noted: "Together, let us celebrate the power of art to illuminate, inspire, and unite. May 'The Inner Mirror' serve as a beacon of hope, reflection, and transformation for all who behold its radiant beauty."

In another development, Nafasi Film Club's members have kept on gaining more insight into the world of cinematography with facilitators, Kerage Kamuli and Amini Suwedi.

According to the center, the month continues with the exploration of "Sound in Film" and "Di-

recting Actors" as NFC members prepare for their Module II narrative short film projects.

Later in the month, the Nafasi Film Club partnered with Goethe Institut for a showcase screening at a weekly film event, termed 'Muvi Kali', held at Goethe Institut.

Nafasi Art Space moreover revealed that domestic artist, George Emmanuel Nyandiche, has featured as the Artist of the Month at the center.

The painter has created an artwork titled 'Classic Royal' now showcased at the center's hall. He has used acrylics and oil on can-

vas for the artwork created last year.

The Nafasi Academy's 2022 cohort alumnus, also based in Dar es Salaam, has embraced art early on and, since completing his studies in 2014, he has fused Tanzanian traditions with conceptual ideas, experimenting across various mediums.

Notable exhibitions the artist has participated in include 'War against Corruption' (2014), East African Art Biennale (2019), and 'Agenda Zetu' (How art can shape politics and contribute to activism).

Ancelotti confident Madrid will stay strong in Man City return

MADRID

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said he is confident his team can shine against Manchester City next week to progress in the Champions League, after a thrilling 3-3 quarter-final first leg draw Tuesday.

Last season record 14-time winners Madrid tied 1-1 with Pep Guardiola's City at home in the semi-final first leg but were hammered 4-0 at the Etihad Stadium.

City, who went on to win the competition for the first time, twice took the lead against Madrid but Los Blancos battled back to leave the game finely poised.

"We had the grit to get back into the game, now we have a small disadvantage because we play away from home, but with the confidence that we can repeat this performance," Ancelotti told reporters.

Ancelotti said his players lacked courage and personality last season in Manchester but the coach insisted this year would be different.

"Today we gave our best selves -- we have the confidence of repeating the same in the second leg," said the coach, who managed a record 200th game in the competition in the draw at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"The truth is the idea was to take a small lead, maybe a 4-3, it wouldn't change a lot of what I'd plan for the second leg," he continued. "We started in a very bad way with a goal against us but the team managed the situation very well."

Bernardo Silva sent City ahead with a free-kick but a Ruben Dias own goal and Rodrygo's strike helped Madrid go ahead. Phil Foden and Josko Gvardiol scored two screamers for City but Fede Valverde rescued Madrid a draw with a searing volley.

Guardiola said his team showed maturity to "control the game" in the second half, after seeing Madrid evaporate their initial lead.

"In the first one, two, three seasons together we would have lost (the game) 4-1, 5-1, we were not stable emotionally," the former Barcelona coach explained. "Being stable emotionally is fundamental ... in the good moments and the bad moments."

Guardiola said having home advantage in the second leg could give his team the equivalent of a one-goal boost.

"In Manchester it will be sold out, our fans will help us score one goal, and we will try to do the rest," added Guardiola. "It's simple, the team who wins will be in the semi-final."

Arteta urges Arsenal to learn from mistakes in Bayern showdown

LONDON

MIKEL Arteta has warned Arsenal to learn from their costly mistakes in Tuesday's dramatic 2-2 draw against Bayern Munich if they want to reach the Champions League semi-finals.

Arteta's side ensured their quarter-final clash remains finely balanced thanks to Leandro Trossard's late equaliser in the first leg at the Emirates Stadium.

Arsenal's old tormentor-in-chief Harry Kane had ignored a hostile reception from Gunners fans to mark his return to north London with the ice-cool penalty that put Bayern 2-1 up in the first half.

Former Tottenham striker Kane's sixth career goal at the Emirates came after ex-Arsenal winger Serge Gnabry cancelled out Bukayo Saka's early opener for the Gunners.

It was a frustrating evening for Arsenal, who looked hesitant at times in their first Champions League quarter-final since 2010.

The Premier League leaders have been in red-hot form in 2024, while Bayern have stumbled through a crisis-torn campaign. But Arsenal's status as favourites to advance to the last four was undone by some uncharacteristically sloppy defending.

Arteta urged his players to use the experience as a valuable tool to make amends in the second leg in Munich on April 17.

"We will go again in Munich. We are alive. The game became difficult and they understand they have to step up the level," he said. "We have made some mistakes today. Let's learn from it. These players have been unbelievable. It's part of football. Let's support them."

"I sense the belief there. We are going to go to Munich and have a chance to win it. We're going to be better in certain areas and that's how we are going to prepare it."

Arteta admitted Bayern's impressive first half had rattled his team, but he was impressed with the way they regained their composure after the interval.

"The second goal created some insecurity in the team but after we reacted well. It's easy to throw your toys away when things don't go right," he said.

"The subs, especially Leandro and Gabriel (Jesus), made a huge impact with their body language and the initiative they took to make things happen."

AFP

Madrid and Man City draw six-goal Champions League thriller

MADRID

REAL Madrid and Champions League holders Manchester City shared a pulsating 3-3 draw in a roller-coaster quarter-final first leg on Tuesday.

Bernardo Silva put City ahead with a low free-kick but Ruben Dias' own goal and Rodrygo Goes helped Madrid dramatically and swiftly fight back.

Manchester City's own quick-fire double in the second half through Phil Foden and Josko Gvardiol stunned the record 14-time winners, but they snatched a draw through Fede Valverde's scorching volley.

The thrilling match was played in the shadow of a threat by the Islamic State group to target every quarter-final first leg, with a heavy security presence around the Santiago Bernabeu.

Spanish officials said 2,000 police were to be deployed, but the match was played without incident off the field. On it, there was plenty under the closed stadium roof, which produced a thunderous atmosphere.

"I think it was a really good, entertaining game, (it) dignified this competition," said Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola.

His Madrid counterpart Carlo Ancelotti agreed.



Manchester City's Josko Gvardiol scores their third goal past Real Madrid's Andriy Lunin REUTERS

"I said yesterday, with all the quality we see on the pitch, of course it will be a fantastic game," said the Italian. "A lot of quality, two fantastic teams, I think the result was right, correct."

Guardiola omitted influential playmaker Kevin De Bruyne after the Belgian said he was unwell shortly before the game.

The former Barcelona coach also chose Stefan Ortega in goal over the experienced Ederson, only just back from a thigh injury, while Gvardiol overcame a fitness doubt to start.

Ancelotti opted for defensive midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni at centre-back over

Nacho Fernandez and an early rash challenge from the Frenchman paved the way for City's opener.

Tchouameni clumsily hacked down Jack Grealish after 33 seconds and was booked, meaning he will miss the second leg.

From the free-kick Silva punished Madrid further, catching goalkeeper Andriy Lunin out at his near post with a low effort which skidded home.

Lunin was sluggish to react and although he got a hand to the ball he could not keep it out.

Ancelotti, coaching a record 200th Champions League match, claimed his team

lacked courage and personality when they were crushed by City in last season's semis, but they showed mental strength to quickly turn the game on its head.

This kind of feat is Madrid's wont in the Champions League, and they produced two goals in two minutes, reminiscent of their stunning 2022 semi-final comeback against City thanks to Rodrygo's brace.

Dias deflected the first into his own net as he tried to block Camavinga's long-range pile-driver, and Rodrygo slipped home the second after Vinicius Junior played him in, aided by another deflection, off Manuel Akanji.

A breathless first 45 minutes was followed by more of the same, in a tie increasingly dubbed a Champions League "Clasico".

Rodri headed over for the visitors and Vinicius blasted over the top before City sprang their own comeback and extended their unbeaten run to 26 matches.

Foden pulled his team level with a superb strike, arced into the top corner from the edge of the box.

The England international is enjoying his finest goalscoring campaign with this perfectly placed effort his 22nd across all competitions.

Foden was taken off hurt late on but Guardiola said the injury was just "a knock".

With Antonio Rudiger shackling Erling Haaland, City got a goal from an unlikely source to lead five minutes later.

Gvardiol's ferocious bending effort from distance left Lunin no chance and silenced the Bernabeu -- but not for long.

Valverde's brilliant volley from Vinicius' cross zipped past Ortega to level the score and leave the game deliciously poised for the second leg on April 17.

"We have to win there now," Rodrygo told Movistar. "It's all open, whoever makes less mistakes there will go through."

AFP

Trossard strikes late to rescue Arsenal in Bayern draw

LONDON

ARSENAL rescued a 2-2 draw against Bayern Munich as Leandro Trossard's late leveller stopped Harry Kane making a triumphant return to north London in Tuesday's Champions League quarter-final first leg.

Trossard came off the bench to equalise in the closing stages at the Emirates Stadium after former Tottenham striker Kane put Bayern 2-1 ahead with a first-half penalty.

Arsenal had taken an early lead through Bukayo Saka before former Gunners winger Serge Gnabry put Bayern back on level terms.

Kane scored a north London derby record 14 goals against Arsenal during his time with Tottenham, making him an inevitable target for taunts for Gunners fans.

When Kane bagged his sixth career goal at the Emirates -- and his 39th in all competitions in his first season with Bayern -- it seemed the England captain would have the last laugh. But Trossard's dramatic intervention leaves the tie delicately poised ahead of the second leg in Munich on April 17.

Although Saka was furious not to be given a penalty in the final seconds when Neuer appeared to trip him, Gunners boss Mikel Arteta would only say: "The decision was made. We cannot change it."

"We started really well. We were dominant, created some momentum and scored the first goal. Then at a critical moment we didn't get the second. We have given them two goals today.



Arsenal's Leandro Trossard scores their second goal past Bayern Munich's Manuel Neuer. Agencies

That is the biggest lesson. When they have this space they can punish you."

Bayern boss Thomas Tuchel claimed his side should have had a penalty of their own, saying: "The referee would not give a penalty because he said it was a kid's mistake by their defender when he handled."

"This is a horrible explanation. We feel angry. It is a huge decision against us."

Premier League leaders Arsenal have been in superb form this season, while Bayern are on the brink of surrendering the German title for the first time in 12 years after a brutal domestic campaign.

But, playing in the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time since 2010, Arsenal looked unusually hesitant at times and will be relieved to have emerged with their hopes of a first European Cup still intact.

Fans in the 60,000 sell-out crowd were able to focus on a pulsating

clash after security was increased at Champions League games this week.

A media outlet supporting the Islamic State group published threats against stadiums hosting quarter-finals this week.

UEFA, European football's governing body, confirmed it was aware of the threats but the ties at the Emirates and in Madrid -- where Real drew with Manchester City -- both went ahead as planned.

Befitting their poor form, Bayern made a

nervous start and Alphonso Davies was quickly booked for a challenge on Saka that triggered a second-leg suspension for the Canadian defender.

Arteta's men took the lead in the 12th minute, showing the intensity and poise that had led Tuchel to label them "the best team in the Premier League".

Saka started Arsenal's high press, winning the ball deep in Bayern's half before Ben White's return pass picked out the

England winger in the area.

Saka's strike was unerring, flashing low past Manuel Neuer into the far corner for his 18th goal in all competitions this term. But Tuchel's side exposed a rare moment of naivety from Arsenal to draw level six minutes later.

Arsenal's Gabriel Magalhaes carelessly surrendered possession and Bayern pounced as perfectly weighted passes from Leroy Sane and Leon Gore-

tzka picked out Gnabry, who deftly guided his shot past David Raya from 12 yards.

It was the first time Arsenal had conceded at home in the Champions League this season, and Raya had to pick the ball out of his net again in the 32nd minute.

Leroy Sane's dazzling burst through the heart of the flat-footed Arsenal defence was only halted when William Saliba's crude challenge conceded a penalty.

With boos ringing around the Emirates, Kane kept his composure to send Raya the wrong way from the spot before aiming a broad grin at the Arsenal keeper on his way back to the centre-circle.

In an inspired tactical change, Arteta sent on Trossard and Gabriel Jesus in the second half, lifting Arsenal out of their lethargy in time to snatch a 76th-minute equaliser.

Jesus was the catalyst with a superb surge into the Bayern area that ended with a pin-point pass to Trossard, who gleefully slotted a fine finish past Neuer.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Madrid and Man City draw six-goal Champions League thriller

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Mashujaa FC's head coach Abdallah Mohamed.

Mashujaa FC head coach lauds players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER the 10-man Mashujaa FC delivered a shock victory over Simba SC to sail through to the quarterfinals of CRDB Bank Federation Cup, the former's head coach Abdallah Mohamed has lauded his team's resilience and mentality.

The two sides produced a 1-1 draw at Lake Tanganyika Stadium during 90 minutes thereby spot-kicks decided the fate of the two sides - ending in a 6-5 victory for Mashujaa FC.

Despite playing with 10 players, the Kigoma-based side resisted the pressure from the Msimbazi Street squad throughout the second half until the final whistle was blown.

Five minutes into the game, goal-getter Reliants Lusajo gave the hosts the lead which was cancelled out by substitute Freddy Kouablan in the 51st minute, having come in for Pa Omar Jobe.

Mashujaa FC has, therefore, handed Simba SC the second cup competition elimination in a space of one week after exiting in the CAF Champions League quarterfinal following defeat to Egypt's Al Ahly.

"I am pleased with what I saw from my players, we prepared for these results and all possible outcomes including penalty shootouts, and we selected the best goalie for the match from our three," the delighted gaffer noted.

"Performance-wise we analyzed Simba SC in their past local and international games and knew where we could hurt them," the tactician added.

Abdallah pointed out: "Simba SC came from CAF champions league games, their momentum was set to be high with a higher rotation, we learned and projected everything would have happened, we succeeded."

Mashujaa FC joins other six teams that have secured progression to the showdown's quarterfinals.

They are Ihefu SC, Tabora United, Coastal Union, Namungo FC, Geita Gold FC, and Azam FC.

Abdallah said their win against Simba SC is momentum for their upcoming NBC Premier League fixtures, as they are set to face Coastal Union at home on Friday.

"This match was a huge boost for us especially in preparation for our NBC Premier League fixtures, we are not safe in league standings albeit our previous form has been good, we still need to keep on winning games," Abdallah revealed.

Mashujaa FC for that matter avenged against Simba SC in the Tuesday fixture, given before the international break the Kigoma club lost 2-0 to the same opponent in this season's NBC Premier League tie at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Matola rues missed chances in Simba SC's Federation Cup Round of 16 elimination



Simba SC winger Saidi Ntibazonkiza (L) negotiates his way past Mashujaa FC defender Mpoki Mwakinyuke, in a CRDB Federation Cup Round of 16 match that took place in Kigoma on Tuesday. Mashujaa FC edged Simba SC 6-5 in spot kicks to make it to the showdown last night. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA SC assistant coach Selemani Matola was left to rue his side's wastefulness in front of goal as the outfit was dumped out of the CRDB Federation Cup on penalties by Mashujaa FC.

Sadio Kanoute and Willy Onana missed from 12 yards after Simba SC failed to capitalize on their numerical advantage in the second half to settle for a 1-1 draw in 90 minutes of the Round of 16 tie which took place at Lake Tanganyika Stadium on Tuesday afternoon.

Mashujaa FC took full advantage of Simba SC's chronic

wastefulness to command a 6-5 penalty shootout victory in the Federation Cup third round.

The results have sent Simba SC - the Federation

Cup five-time winners - packing before the quarterfinal stage for the third time in the last six years.

It was the home side who caught the eye in the early

stages of this standout fixture of the round, and forward Reliants Lusajo was in the thick of the action with a goal in the sixth minute.

Lusajo's goal separated the sides at Lake Tanganyika Stadium but the visitors wasted a string of promising positions.

The momentum changed promptly in the second half following a red card to Mashujaa FC just before the halftime break.

Simba SC players though were still missing their shooting boots - especially Saidi Ntibazonkiza, who could have netted as many as three himself before his substitution.

In his post-match reaction, Matola was satisfied with his side's overall performance but was unhappy at the failure to make the most of their openings.

The former Simba SC midfielder revealed: "I think we were better than them in the 90 minutes, especially in the second half after they went one man

down."

"We created opportunities but failed to use them. I think as I said at the beginning, fatigue has been very cruel for us," he pointed out.

"We created chances but our finishers were not clinical. We got more than three chances, Saidi with only the goalkeeper to beat plus the substitutes. We were wasteful and at the end of the day we were knocked out," he remarked.

He added: "We went to a penalty shootout, penalties are a lottery and we lost to bow out of the Federation Cup."

That defeat means Simba are left with just the NBC Premier League title to compete this season following last week's CAF Champions League exit.

They lost to defending champions Al Ahly on a 3-0 aggregate score, losing both at home and away to the Egyptian giants for the first time in their history.

Simba SC coach demands sharpness in attack, shifts focus to NBC PL title race

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC's quest for the CRDB Bank Federation Cup trophy came to a disappointing end on Tuesday after conceding a 6-5 penalty shootout defeat to Mashujaa FC.

The final score remained deadlocked at 0-0 after a tense 90 minutes, forcing the penalty shootout to settle the tie.

Speaking after the match, Simba SC assistant coach, Selemani Matola, acknowledged their dominance in the second half.

"We were the better team for large stretches, particularly in the second period, however, credit must be given to Mashujaa FC for their defensive organization. They made it very difficult for us to break them down," he conceded.

Matola lamented the team's lack of success in the penalty shootout, noting it is a lottery that can go either way.

"We all know that penalty shootouts are unpredictable, anyone can miss, unfortunately, we weren't fortunate today, and this resulted in our elimination from the competition," he stated.

The missed opportunities during regulation time also came under scrutiny.

Matola pinpointed the profligacy of the attack, highlighting the shortcomings of key players.



Simba SC's assistant coach, Selemani Matola.

"Our attackers missed a significant number of chances, especially Saidi Ntibazonkiza and Pa Omar Jobe, while we controlled possession and created openings, our finishing let us down," he revealed.

This latest setback adds to Simba SC's woes, with their CAF Champions League cam-

paign already over.

Matola, however, urged the team to refocus their efforts on the remaining domestic competition.

"We're currently placed second in the NBC Premier League, and the race is far from decided, we firmly believe we have the potential to

fight back and win this championship," he remarked.

The 10-man Mashujaa FC advanced to the quarterfinals of the CRDB Bank Federation Cup following the victory.

The electrifying Round of 16 encounter, held at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma, shattered Simba SC's dreams of achieving a historic treble this season.

The match unfolded with a captivating start. Mashujaa FC, playing at home, seized the early advantage with a goal from Reliants Lusajo in just the fifth minute.

However, Simba SC refused to be subdued. The second half saw them respond with a determined effort, eventually equalizing through substitute Freddy Kouablan in the 51st minute.

The momentum shifted dramatically when Mashujaa FC was reduced to 10 men.

Despite the numerical disadvantage, they displayed remarkable resilience, weathering a relentless onslaught from Simba throughout the remaining half.

The score remained deadlocked at 1-1, forcing the outcome to be decided by a penalty shootout.

This penalty shootout proved to be a nerve-wracking affair. Both teams converted their initial attempts, but the tension escalated with each successful penalty.

Ultimately, Mashujaa FC held their nerve, converting six of their penalties. Simba SC, however, faltered when they went for their sixth attempt, handing the victory to the underdogs.

This defeat represents a significant setback for Simba SC. Their ambitions of securing a treble, having already been eliminated from the CAF Champions League competition, were dashed dramatically.

The victory propels Mashujaa FC to the CRDB Federation Cup quarterfinals, joining Ihefu SC, Tabora United, Coastal Union, Namungo FC, Geita Gold FC, and Azam FC.

This result serves as a testament to the team's fighting spirit and their ability to excel under pressure.

Simba SC will need to regroup quickly and address their attacking frailties if they are to lift the NBC Premier League trophy.

The pressure is on, and Matola's words hint at a team determined to salvage their season after a string of disappointing results.

Following the CRDB Bank Federation Cup encounter, Simba SC will proceed to face Singida Black Stars on Saturday, before engaging in the highly anticipated Dar es Salaam derby against their long-time rivals, Young Africans SC, on April 20.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

