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Clean cooking in African schools partnership

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Meat exports up by 70pc in three years

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Dar to host 2nd Tanzania-Uganda business forum

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Ministry to buy 450 boats with IMF extended facility credits

By Guardian Reporter

THE Livestock and Fisheries ministry intends to develop the empowerment of fishermen by purchasing 450 boats and fishing tools, using funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) extended credit facility (ECF).
Abdallah Ulega, the minister, unveiled this plan when tabling budget estimates of 460.33bn/-. In the National Assembly yesterday, noting that the ministry is to roll off the five-year Tanzania Climate-Smart Dairy Transformation Project (T-CSDTP).
It targets 600,000 people in the dairy value chain, he said, affirming that the major goal of the project is to transform the dairy value chain to improve livelihoods, increase food

safety and mitigate the dairy sector's impact on climate pressures.
The project involves procuring 17,200 modern dairy cattle, building 5,000 improved cattle sheds and rainwater harvesting innovations in 22,400 households, he stated, elaborating that it also involves installing 2,800 biogas plants and set up 950 milk collection centres.
It similarly envisages obtaining 929,000 doses of livestock vaccines and build 140km of all-weather roads in the project areas, he said, hinting at a "livestock guest house" at Mkata Ranch.
A training centre for stakeholders in the value chain on Juncao feeds is lined up, plus developing 20,000 hectares of grazing ar-

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured in Paris yesterday addressing a summit to which the International Energy Agency has invited global leaders to discuss Clean Cooking for Africa and of which she is Co-chairperson. Photo: State House

SPORTS

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Gamond guides Yanga to NBC PL victory, sets sights on continental dominance

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Duran Duran: Substitute bags two late goals in Villa thriller with Liverpool

Samia: Clean cooking energy financing vital

By Special Correspondent, Paris

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has called for a generous replenishment of the African Development Fund within the African Development Bank (AfDB) to include \$12bn for clean cooking energy access to unlock financing to realise clean cooking for all by 2030.
Addressing the Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa held at UNESCO headquarters here, she said that insufficient funding and a lack of awareness in economic

opportunities in the clean cooking industry hamper efforts to scale interventions.
Moreover, the development of the needed solutions is limited by insufficient research and innovation, the president affirmed, in a keynote speech for the attending global leaders co-hosted by the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).
The summit is intended to enable 2024 become a turning point for progress in ensuring clean cooking access for all, she said, pointing at over 900 million

Africans relying on unclean cooking solutions.
It is a fact which contributes to environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and related health hazards, she said, holding fort as co-chair of the summit and champion of clean cooking energy not only in Tanzania but also in Africa and globally.
The president said that current figures show that clean cooking access rates globally currently range from over 60

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Civil societies' umbrella, TradeMark Africa in 2.3bn/- trade inclusion drive

It will seek to increase trade opportunities for marginalised groups, collaborating with civil society organisations to address their needs, promoting environmentally friendly trade practices, and enhancing consumer protection

By Getrude Mbago

THE Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) and TradeMark Africa have signed a grant agreement for 2.3bn/- to implement an initiative for driving sustainable economic growth and inclusive trade practices tied to consumer protection.
Elibariki Shamy, the Trade Mark Africa country director, told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, that the three-year project seeks to integrate the

strengths of private sectors and civil society organisations (CSOs) to promote green economic growth.
Funded by the British government's Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), alongside Ireland and Norway, its major focus is to drive sustainable economic growth and inclusive trade practices.
Set up to address significant challenges in Tanzania's trade sector, the "Private Sector and CSOs for Inclusive and Green-

ing Trade" initiative is designed to leverage the unique strengths of the private sector alongside CSOs to enhance trade practices that are both inclusive and environmentally sustainable, he stated.
Recent studies underpin the substantial economic contributions that women can make when effectively integrated into national trade frameworks, he said, pointing at the prevalence of informal trading for women in Tanzania, encountering numerous barriers to optimal participation.
"This project is central to our strategic objectives to stimulate trade growth while ensuring that it is sustainable and inclusive. We believe that through strategic collaborations like this, we can make a significant impact on Tanzania's trade landscape. Empowering women is not

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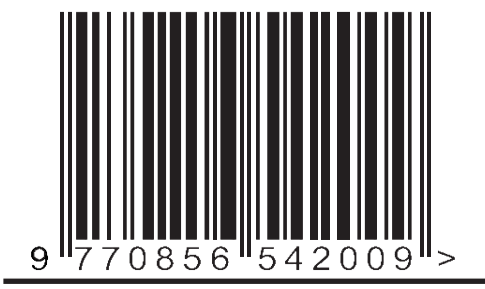
DPM roots for research to fight disease burden

NIMR gives first Mwele Malecela Award

By Henry Mwangonde

MORE research and innovation in the health sector is vital to counter the disease burden and foster development, the government has declared.
Representing Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, Deputy Prime Minister Dr Doto Biteko said at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) annual joint scientific conference that the government values research as a key to progress, as research gives meaning to plans.
Asserting that development is an output of research, he applauded innovative scientific research in the war against diseases, stressing that research should be conducted on a multi-sector basis.
Institutions such as NIMR must work to provide solutions to health challenges, build networks with other stakeholders in addressing health sector challenges, he said, while Dr Godwin Mollel, the sector deputy minister said the government has put in place various strategies to support research, including building research capacity.
"We need to train our people, empower them with the innovation capacity so they become world class scientists who contribute fully to the war against the burden of diseases," he said.
Prof Said Aboud, the NIMR director general, said the conference offers space for dissemination of research findings, while scientific conference provides a platform to recognize excellence in science and promote innovation among young researchers.
The national research agenda is embedded in the NIMR strategic plan which promotes the use of research to contain the disease burden, he stated, pointing at NIMR research during four decades as pivotal in the fight against malaria, HIV, tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
The NIMR research centre in Mwanza is

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Ministry to buy 450 boats with IMF extended facility credits

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areas at Msomera ward in Handeni District, Kitwai ward in Simanjiro District and Saunyi ward in Kilindi District.

The Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA) and the Livestock Training Agency (LITA) will be supported to implement an education and skills for productive jobs program-for-results (P4R) now in its second phase.

A regulatory body will be set up to supervise the development of fisheries resources and marine products, while the ministry oversees the completion of the modern fishing port at Kilwa Masoko, Lindi Region.

The facility is expected to boost revenues, employment and the blue economy, also supporting 300 women and youth groups in seaweed production, sea cucumber and crabs farming, he stated.

One FETA fishing training vessel is slated for purchasing, seven drones, and 60 buoys to identify fish spawning areas and fix a monitoring device for fishing vessels, he further explained, referring to buying 497 cages and putting up model farms for developing aquatic species in 20 district.

Ministerial efforts during fiscal 2024/2025 will focus on vaccinating all livestock, curbing farmers-herders conflicts, curtailing illegal fishing and boosting the production of animal feeds, he stated, pointing at reform measures including setting up a regulatory agency to supervise the quality of livestock products.

For the livestock and fishing sector to optimally perform, the economy must be inclusive in an environment rid of conflicts between

farmers, breeders and other stakeholders in the value chain.

Conflicts between farmers and herders will be tamed by allocating areas for the production of livestock fodder, he said, floating plans for agency collaboration for a general reform plan for the livestock, fishing and agriculture sectors.

This plan also involves reviving investments in deep sea fishing, as this sphere as well as lake fishing will be shifting to modern technologies to control illegal fishing. That is why the government is moving to buy drones, buoys to identify fish spawning areas, and installing a monitoring system for fishing vessels, he further noted.

The ministry will also expand the Building a Better Tomorrow-Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) to cover various regions, with eight new centres and beefing up 16 centres already set up in various regions.

The BBT project will be implemented at the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI)-Kongwa, involving commercial livestock keeping and fattening of 120,000 goats and sheep, plus irrigating 2000 hectares and building an animal feeds processing factory, the minister added.

The facility is expected to boost revenues, employment and the blue economy, also supporting 300 women and youth groups in seaweed production, sea cucumber and crabs farming

Civil societies' umbrella, TradeMark Africa in 2.3bn/- trade inclusion drive

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just a moral imperative but a developmental one. Integrating women into trade boosts economic diversity and lifts entire communities. Through this partnership, we aim to develop a trade ecosystem that is inclusive and robust enough to withstand the pressures of global trade demands," he asserted.

Justice Rutenge, the FCS executive director, said that consumer protection is crucial in today's global market, thus the initiative will involve strategic interventions across trading spheres, focusing on reducing environmental impact while linking women to the formal trade value chain, including clean cooking energy.

FCS collaboration with TMA is a game changer towards establishing fair and green trade practices in trade so that the benefits of trade expansion are shared by all, particularly the most vulnerable sectors of society, he said.

FCS would leverage their unique roles along with the private sector to address pressing issues of environmental degradation and social inequality, creating a trade environ-

ment that is inclusive and sustainable.

It will seek to increase trade opportunities for marginalised groups, collaborating with civil society organisations to address their needs, promoting environmentally friendly trade practices, and enhancing consumer protection, he said.

"TMA will support marginalised communities through smart-agriculture practices and market readiness programmes, contributing to their sustainable trade growth. Moreover, by advocating for sustainable trade practices, the project seeks to improve trade resilience to climate change, thereby contributing to the long-term viability of Tanzania's economy and environmental sustainability," he explained.

Innovative digital technologies such as e-learning platforms for smart-agriculture practices, enhancing market readiness and global competitiveness of Tanzanian products are among its ambitions, an illustration of how public-private partnerships can effectively address systemic challenges in emerging markets, creating pathways for more inclusive and sustainable trade practices, he added.

DPM roots for research to fight disease burden

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working on a study meant to shorten TB treatment from six months to four by enhancing adherence and thus improve outcomes, he said, while Dr Mary Mayige, the research, information and regulatory affairs director for NIMR, emphasised multi-sector collaboration to contain non-communicable diseases.

Prof Sylvia Kaaya of the Muhim-

bili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), credited with 141 publications during her career, was given the lifetime health research award during the conference.

Dr Doreen Kamori also of MUHAS was presented with the newly launched Mwelecelela Malecela Memorial innovative health award in honour of the late Dr Mwele Malecela, the third NIMR director general who died early February 2022.



Jenista Mhagama (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), pictured in Dodoma city yesterday chairing a virtual meeting on the impact of El Niño rains in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) zone. Photo: PMO

Samia: Clean cooking energy financing vital

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per cent in central and southern Asia, to over 80 per cent in eastern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

"On the contrary, Africa, the continent with the highest population growth rates, and with all necessary natural resources, ranks the least in access to clean cooking," she said, citing three major challenges facing

clean cooking in Africa.

They are the lack of access to adequate, affordable and sustainable solutions, lack of global attention to the problem and the absence of smart partnerships to ensure clean cooking access for all, she explained.

"Amidst these challenges, central to Tanzania's own commitment is delivering on our recently-launched ten-year clean cooking national

strategy, which aims to ensure that 80 per cent of Tanzanians use clean cooking solutions by 2034," she said.

Tanzania will also establish a fund to support clean cooking, with the prime minister providing high-level oversight of implementation of the strategy, she further noted.

"Given the disproportionate burden faced by women, Tanzania will continue to advocate for the African

Women Clean Cooking Support Programme (AWCCSP) to not only address the environmental and health impacts, but also empower women as agents of change within their communities," she elaborated.

World leaders need to make clean cooking a priority agenda for Africa for a just energy transition that can positively impact the people, the planet and the environment, she added.



Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye (L) checks the locations of telephone company towers in Kitemo District shortly after touring Kinua village in Namelock ward yesterday. Right is Albert Richard, director of operations with Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF). Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Govt mulls single basket revenue collection move

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government is preparing an integrated revenue collection mechanism covering taxes and various charges for businesses, eliminating the multiple channels of revenue collection at present.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Industry and Trade minister, hinted at this procedure at a meeting she conducted while on a regional tour, meeting with business sector representatives for Mbeya City and the region.

The public-private sector dialogue explored the best ways to resolve various challenges facing the business community, with the minister affirming that multiple channels of revenue collection was the brunt of complaints by business groups.

Businessmen and various stakeholders have for years stated that this procedure impairs the capacity to do business and drives away

entrepreneurs from setting foot in business, she said.

"We've already heard this outcry and the government is continuing with discussions to establish a single system to collect income," she said, elaborating that it will be collected in one basket and each institution will be allocated its share of the revenues.

This will reduce the inconvenience, she said, noting that the government and the US embassy had agreed to establish a chamber of commerce in the US to consolidate cargo and reduce the chain of transportation of various products.

She appealed to members of the public to be honest in business to avoid damaging international markets, as the US market opportunity is vital to protect, along with other international markets.

Turkish Airlines is also being engaged to start transporting local avocados to Turkey as it has a large

market, she said, while Dr Hashil Abdallah, the permanent secretary, said the ministry had initiated various inspection operations to arrest counterfeit goods from outside to protect local industries and the health of the people.

Recently conducted inspections in various regions pounced on some businessmen selling fake mobile phones, so the products were confiscated and the perpetrators arrested, he explained.

Institutions responsible for product quality management must take action against those who violate standards, to promote local industries and protect the safety of consumers.

Erick Sichinga, the Mbeya Regional chairman for the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) said the plethora of taxes has been causing misunderstandings between businessmen and the government.

Institutions that collect taxes and fees often work without involving people in the private sector to present their views, which breeds conflicts, he said.

Businessmen and industry operators cite the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA) for charging large sums in taxes and fees, respectively, thus hindering business.

Victoria Michael, a representative of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), said some district councils introduce various charges that conflict with the business environment improvement policy.

Elijah Simbeye, the TCCIA chief executive officer in Songwe Region, advised the government to solve tax problems, including removing the influx of taxes by putting them in one basket to remove inconvenience to traders.



Livestock and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega tables the ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2024/2025 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Clean cooking in African schools partnership set to make Tanzania a priority

By Special Correspondent

SUSTAINABLE Energy for All (SEforAll) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have announced an innovative partnership focused on bringing clean and efficient cooking solutions to schools in Africa with starting country being Tanzania.

The partnership was announced during the Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa yesterday in Paris.

The move helps them shift away from polluting and harmful cooking methods currently used for preparing student meals.

Transitioning schools to clean, affordable and reliable cooking solutions, such as electric cooking (eCooking), improves the health of students, teachers and cooks by reducing their exposure to air pollution generated in school kitchens.

It also improves wider economic and social outcomes, for example by eliminating time spent collecting firewood, while protecting the environment from emissions and deforestation from firewood use.

WFP has more than six decades of expertise providing and supporting school meals programmes, and SEforALL is dedicated to ending energy poverty and fighting climate change, so the two organizations saw a strong opportunity to further their respective missions by focusing on bringing sustainable energy to school meal programmes.

The partnership will first focus on implementing projects in Tanzania, where President Samia Suluhu Hassan has set a goal to deliver clean cooking solutions to 80 percent of the population by 2033.

SEforALL and WFP, together with the government of Tanzania and the UKAid-funded Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS)

programme, have already begun work on creating an eCooking programme in Tanzania that targets an initial 50 schools. These are primary schools with school feeding programmes that are connected to the national electricity grid, which offers an immediate opportunity to provide clean eCooking solutions that will feed more than 2,500 students.

Beyond the initial 50 schools, the partnership has identified more than 5,000 grid-connected schools in Tanzania for potential expansion of the programme, with more expected to join as electrification extension progresses. Using learnings from Tanzania, WFP and SEforALL will look to scale the programme to other countries as well. The partners have the ambition of reaching 10,000 schools and 5 million children globally in the next 3 years and are calling for an investment of about USD 100 million combined with carbon financing, to achieve this target.

“It also improves wider economic and social outcomes, for example by eliminating time spent collecting firewood, while protecting the environment from emissions and deforestation from firewood use

By Henry Mwangonde

Statistical master plan II falls short by \$30m, says Makinda

THE National Bureau of Statistics is looking for more partners to financially support the Tanzania Statistical Master Plan (TSMPII) to fill a budgetary gap of around \$30 million.

Anne Makinda, Commissar for the 2022 Population and Housing Census, said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the opening of a training workshop on capacity building to improve understanding of on quality of administrative data in Tanzania which is supported by the UK statistical office.

“We call for support for this plan and through various ways including this kind of approach of directly supporting some activities under the master plan,” she said.

The training workshop was part of TSMPII which span from 2022 to 2027 and outlines

a comprehensive strategy for development of official statistics across the country.

The plan also aims to establish a robust administrative records system in Tanzania, meeting 60 percent of statistical needs through advancements in information communication technology and physical infrastructure.

“As we embark on disseminating the results from the census, we have learnt that the demand for data is extremely high at all levels and some demand cannot be met by the census data despite the fact that this census was the most loaded in terms of the number of questions on the questionnaire,”

she said.

British High Commissioner to Tanzania David Concar said the UK and Tanzania are longstanding partners and friends who have supported each other and work together in a wide range of fields.

“UK businesses have invested in Tanzania and UK is the second largest provider of foreign direct investment. UK international finance experts have in the past worked alongside their Tanzanian counterparts on issues like debt relief,” he said.

The envoy said the partnership continues to grow from strength to strength as the two countries work together to boost economic growth

and human development.

“Excellence in statistics and demographic data underpin so much of what we do together. We are proud to have stood alongside Tanzania as you rolled out your census and delivered the demographic and health survey,” he said.

He said the UK statistical system has been using administrative data for a number of years for example for education, labour and crime statistics.

“The UK is currently exploring whether administrative data can be used in place of a traditional census to measure population in future decades.” He said.

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Goat breeding facility increases opportunities as exports of meat soar

By Guardian Reporter

MEAT sales abroad have increased from 1,774 tonnes in 2020/2021 financial year to 14,701 tonnes in 2022/2023, a push attributed to commercial cooperation with various countries.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said this on Monday during an inaugural ceremony and handover of Atimiza centre for commercial livestock meant for youth in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region. The centre is special for fattening goats and the project cost 1.6bn/-.

"Meat market has continued to increase to 12 countries and territories including Bahrain, Comoros, Hong Kong, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Vietnam," he said.

He added that goat meat has continued to lead in meat sales abroad where it has contributed to 70.1 percent of all sales.

"This confirms that this project we are handing over today has great economic benefits in our country because goat meat is in great demand both in this country and foreign market," he said.

Additionally, Majaliwa called upon youth to seize the opportunity of the presence of the centre for their benefit as it will also benefit the nation as a whole.

"The aim of the project being handed over today is to provide youth with practical skills which include education in construction of sheds, feeding, treatment and management of goat breeding as well as to provide business training on goat fattening business," he said.

The premier called on traders

and meat processors to cooperate with the centre to reduce the challenge of obtaining quality livestock for production of meat and its products.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega said that livestock sector is in great need of stakeholders, including breeders, traders, consumers and health service providers in order to increase efficiency and production.

He added that until April 2024, the increase in meat sales abroad reached approximately 100bn/-. He said that the ministry has planned to make Atimiza Breeding Centre in Kongwa a large facility for breeding and fattening goats in the country.

The centre was being managed by a non-governmental organization PASS but it has been handed over to the government and will be under the supervision of the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI).



Meat market has continued to increase to 12 countries and territories including Bahrain, Comoros, Hong Kong, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Vietnam

Minister, UNDP rep discuss investment in dynamic sectors

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCE minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has called upon the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other development partners to support government initiatives through investment in the productive sectors that generate income for citizens.

Dr Nchemba issued the plea in Dodoma yesterday when he met and held talks with UNDP Country Representative Shigeki Komatsubara on sustaining economic partnership between the two parties.

The minister said that the government and non-government institutions need to join forces in empowering citizens through productive economic sectors.

"The government needs serious investors in different sectors such as agriculture where women are most involved. Investment in sectors that accelerate productivity throughout the year can bring the change we need," he said.

He called upon UNDP chief to extend the message to other development stakeholders at a time when the government has set its focus on strengthening productive sectors.

According to him, the government will closely collaborate with UNDP in promoting investments that target creating employment opportunities for Tanzanians especially the youth, collaboration through the newly

designed National Development Vision 2050 and inclusive economy policy that targets leaving no one behind.

He asserted that the government hopes that the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2027 will strengthen cooperation between the two parties in terms of promoting people's development.

Komatsubara recommended the government's efforts in achieving middle-income status.

Komatsubara said that investments will enable Tanzania to step ahead as UNDP welcomes the government to collaborate with it in realizing its human and national development agenda.



The government needs serious investors in different sectors such as agriculture where women are most involved. Investment in sectors that accelerate productivity throughout the year can bring the change we need



Money vendors find relative comfort under umbrellas while in anxious wait for customers, usually most of them commuter bus conductors, at Dar es Salaam's Makumbusho Bus Stand yesterday. A 1,000/- banknote is normally exchanged for 700/- to 800/- in coins. Is it legal business? Well, well, well... Photo: John Badi

Councils land 144 filing cabinets for safekeeping of sensitive documents

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

THE Meru District Council in Arusha Region is among 25 councils in Tanzania Mainland that have received a total of 144 office cabinets for storing important documents, especially sensitive reports about special groups.

The office file cabinets were donated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the 'Brave Generation' north-eastern

project. Similar pieces of office storage furniture will be distributed to nine other regions.

The Arumeru District Commissioner Emmanuela Kaganda who officially received the consignment of office cabinets here yesterday said the society has moral responsibility to safeguard the rights and wellbeing of special groups including children.

"Likewise authorities also should take the responsibility to protect all sensitive information about children under special care," she said.

Associate director of USAID Kizazi Hodari north-eastern activity Theresia Christian said they realized that many of the files and printed reports in most public offices were being stored in normal boxes and stuffed on floors or tables.

According to Christian, in addition to being susceptible to damage, the files containing important and sensitive information may easily fall into wrong hands if not secured properly.

The Brave Generation activity works to transform the lives of orphans, vulnerable children

and homeless youth throughout Tanzania.

Some of the beneficiaries include HIV-Aids victims, orphans, neglected children and young people with no place to call home whose particulars are usually crucial and need proper storage and protection from wrong people.

Arusha Regional Social Welfare Officer Dennis Mgie said that there are over 1700 children who need assistance in Meru District Council alone who get special care under special programmes such as 'Kizazi Hodari,' project.



Assistant Inspector of Police Issa Omary (with microphone) briefs Home Affairs minister Hamad Masauni (2nd-R) during yesterday's hand-over of 12 fire tenders and six apartments for use by Fire and Rescue Force officers at Kikombo in Dodoma Urban District. Right is Fire and Rescue Force Commissioner General John Masunga. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

By Special Correspondent,

Johannesburg

AFRICAN countries should work together to improve air connectivity, which would boost tourism and economic growth, South African Minister of Tourism Patricia de Lille has said.

De Lille made the remarks on Monday evening during the African Tourism Ministers Dialogue in South Africa's port city of Durban.

African countries urged to boost connectivity to improve tourism

She said Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) will spend 21.7 billion rand (about 1.18 billion U.S. dollars) to develop airport infrastructure in South Africa.

"The rest of the world is poised to make travel more accessible, and essential source markets like China and India are set to increase; we must partner to make it easier to travel to and

in Africa," said de Lille. "Now is the time to rethink development strategies in the tourism sector and strengthen regional integration and cooperation. We have to encourage strategic public-private partnerships, promote investment in the tourism sector regionally, and refocus efforts to implement impactful projects," she said.

She urged African tourism

ministers to find concrete solutions to create opportunities to increase air connectivity in Africa.

Africa should share best practices and improve connectivity to encourage more tourists to visit Africa by making travel easy and comfortable, de Lille said. "It is simply that we want more tourists to travel and to make it easier for tourists to travel on the African

continent. It is also essential to examine how Africa can leap ahead using technological advances like digital booking platforms, biometric security systems, and sustainable aviation fuels."

The African Tourism Ministers Dialogue was attended by African tourism ministers, members of the diplomatic community, and airlines from Asia, Africa,

and Europe, who also shared their views on improving air connectivity. The meeting is part of Africa's Travel Indaba, which started on Monday and will end on Wednesday.

According to the International Air Transport Association's January 2024 report globally, in 2023, air traffic was at 94.1 percent of pre-pandemic levels.



This motorbike taxi rider chose to move around Mbeya city yesterday carrying five children while observing road traffic regulations at least by stopping at a Mafiati traffic lights intersection but not caring at all about the need for helmets. Need we say more? Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

EALA committee begins investigating former EAC secretary general Mathuki

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) has started investigating allegations facing the Kenyan Ambassador to Russia during his term as East African Community (EAC) secretary general.

Pending the committee's findings, Dr Peter Mathuki, the Nairobi envoy to Moscow may face legal charges of 'abuse of office and mismanagement of community resources, offences he allegedly committed during his term in Arusha as EAC secretary general.

"We have been meeting as members of the committee and gone through the file containing the report on charges against Dr Mathuki and afterwards each of us will go through the presented evidence before coming up with our own conclusion of the matter to see if the former EAC-SG has to be persecuted," said committee chairman, Mashaka Ngole yesterday.

When it eventually comes to that, according to advocate Ngole, the EALA will deliberate on whether to consult EAC leaders so that they may relieve Dr Mathuki of his diplomatic immunity.

"It is too early to say anything about the next step because as parliamentarians, we are not yet sure if Mathuki is guilty or not and this is what we are investigating now," said the committee chair.

According to Ngole, the former EAC secretary general may also be required to be brought back to Arusha and face the charges.

But as more people get probed by the EALA committee, it will also come a time when Mathuki will be required to state his case regarding the current accusations filed against him.

The matter against Dr Mathuki was raised to the house by Kennedy Mukulia Ayason, EALA legislator from South Sudan.

Ayason, who is chairman of EALA Committee on General Purpose, said here that he initially took upon himself to seriously investigate embezzlement of funds at the East African Community Secretariat.

"It took me over a year to investigate and compile tangible evidence against Dr Mathuki," he said, adding that he has a very long, well-connected and capable network of sources.

The South Sudan legislator is officially the complainant in the case against the now Ambassador Mathuki.

Some of the alleged charges facing Dr Mathuki include misuse of office, where he is said to have bypassed employment regulations and decided

to handpick staff, based on nepotism.

"Some workers were hired because they happen to be relatives, girlfriends or boyfriends of well-placed officials in the EAC," alleged Ngole without providing any evidence.

The other issue being investigated include alleged irregular auctioning of EAC assets such as vehicles and furniture reportedly sold against regulations without auction contracts.

Mathuki or people close to him are also alleged to have irregularly opened bank accounts into which community funds were being deposited without the approval of the EAC council of ministers.

There is also the misplacement of funds allocated for the EAC Peace Facility, specifically for the Democratic Republic of Congo peace process.

As far as the plaintiff Ayason is concerned, the total loss that the community incurred through the EAC secretary general office may amount to \$6.6 million.

President William Ruto appointed Dr Mathuki to be the new Ambassador of Kenya to Moscow this year before the envoy completed his tenure as EAC secretary general.

Ambassador Mathuki who took over the post in 2021, was the sixth EAC secretary general and the second one from Kenya.

It was after the re-establishment of the East African Community in 1999 when the EAC Treaty came into force and the first interim secretary general Francis Muthaura from Kenya was named in July 2000 and served for nine months until April 2001.

Since then there have been five other secretaries-general appointed by relevant heads of state. Both the secretary-general position and the chairman position are appointed on a rotational basis by the respective partner states.

After Muthaura, came an EAC secretary general from Uganda in the person of Nuwe Amanywa Mushenga who served the post from April 2001 to 2006.

Ambassador Juma Mwapachu from Tanzania took over the post from April 2006 all the way to April 2011. Mwapachu was succeeded by Richard Sezibera from Rwanda from April 2011 to March 2016.

After Sezibera, the EAC secretary general office in Arusha was handed to Liberat Mfumukeko from Burundi who served between 2016 and March 2021.

It was after Mfumukeko's tenure ended when Dr Mathuki moved in from April 2021 until his sudden and premature departure in 2024.

Million-dollar diamonds up for auction in Geneva

JOHANNESBURG

DIAMONDS might be a girl's best friend, but she will need deep pockets for this one.

Sotheby's estimates it will sell for between 5.6 to 6.5 million Swiss Francs (\$6.1M - \$7.1M).

Weighing over 100 carats, the Fancy Vivid Yellow Cartier diamond rooch was being auctioned in Geneva yesterday. It's known as the Allnatt diamond.

"I'm holding here is the wonderful Allnatt diamond mounted by Cartier in 1952. We call it the Allnatt because the first known owner of the stone was Major

Alfred Ernest Allnatt, a British sportsman, collector of old master paintings and philanthropist. He brought this stone to Cartier in 1952, where they put together this beautiful flower-inspired mount," said Catharine Becket, head of sales of Magnificent Jewels at Sotheby's.

The stone is believed to have been mined in South Africa more than 100 years ago.

It is of such importance that it has appeared in international exhibitions, including at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC. This is the first time it's been up for sale in almost 30 years.

"The stone itself weighs 101.29 carats, is

fancy vivid yellows, the very top colour, and is BS-2 clarity - so a high clarity. What's particularly notable about this stone is the high crown, as you may see it here, it's an older cutting style," said Becket.

The Allnatt is not the only big money jewel on sale at the Sotheby's Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels Sale.

An Internally Flawless, E colour diamond weighing 37.61 carats is expected to fetch between 1,460,000 CHF - 2,370,000 CHF (\$1.6M - \$2.6M).

In total, there are around 120 lots, many with six or seven figure estimates.

The auction was ongoing at the Mandarin Oriental hotel in Geneva.

Fires used as weapons in Sudan destroy more towns than ever before - new study

KHARTOUM

FIRES being used as a weapon in Sudan destroyed more villages and towns in the country's west in April than in any other month since the conflict began more than a year ago, an analysis by a UK-based rights group has said.

Sudan Witness, an open-source project run by the non-profit Center for Information Resilience, said on Monday that 72 villages and settlements were either destroyed or damaged by fires last month, bringing the total number of settlements hit by fire in Sudan to 201 since the conflict began in mid-April of last year.

"We've documented the patterns of numerous fires and the continuing devastation to settlements around western Sudan, large and small, since the conflict broke out last April," Anouk Theunissen, Sudan Witness project director, said in a news release.

"When we see reports of fighting or airstrikes coinciding with clusters of fires it indicates that fire is being used indiscriminately as a weapon of war. The trend is worsening and continues to lead to the mass displacement of Sudanese people," Theunissen said.

The number of fires surged particularly in the north and west of el-Fasher, the capital city of North Darfur state that

faces a threat of an imminent military attack.

Investigators with the Sudan Witness project examined the patterns of fires across the war-torn country by using social media, satellite imagery, and NASA's public fire monitoring data.

Since the conflict broke out, blazes have been set more than once to 51 settlements sheltering displaced people.

Fires in Sudan have often been connected to conflict, according to the group's analysis. In one instance,

Sudan Witness was able to verify fires that coincided with reports of Sudanese military airstrikes. Investigators with the project also identified the damage to buildings to be consistent with shrapnel.

Sudan has been engulfed by violence since mid-April 2023, when tensions between the Sudanese military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces broke out into intense fighting across the country. Clashes quickly spread to other parts of Sudan, including Darfur, which witnessed brutal attacks.

rikolto

A CONSULTANT IS NEEDED-Eco-Credit Technical Advisor

Rikolto, in collaboration with the Tanzania Microfinance Practitioners (TIMAP) and Ecosystem Equity, is implementing a three-year project under the Resilience for Environmental Degradation in Africa and Asia (REEDA) program, funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development (UKAID) and managed by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), which runs from March 1, 2024, to March 31, 2027.

Rikolto Tanzania is looking for an Eco-Credit Technical Advisor Consultant. All applications should be sent throughafrica.recruitment@rikolto.org by 31st May 2024.

For more information about the assignment please visit our Rikolto East African website Consultant needed-Community Eco-credit Technical Advisor | Rikolto in East Africa



NOTICE OF THE 24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF NMB BANK PLC

Notice is hereby given that the 24th Annual General Meeting of NMB Bank Plc shareholders will be held Virtually on Friday, 7th June 2024 at 10.00 a.m. The agenda will be as follows:

- 24.1 NOTICE AND QUORUM
- 24.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- 24.3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 2nd JUNE 2023
- 24.4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING
- 24.5 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023
- 24.6 DIVIDEND DECLARATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023
- 24.7 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION
- 24.8 RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS
- 24.9 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024
- 24.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. Shareholders who wish to attend the meeting should have their CDS numbers which are found on the shares' Depository Receipt/ CSDR Account Statement.
2. Shareholders who cannot attend the meeting are permitted to appoint their proxies to attend and vote on their behalf in accordance with the provisions of the MEMARTS of the Company. The proxy form must be filled and submitted to the Company Secretary office at NMB Head Office or online via email address Mwantumu.Salim@nmbbank.co.tz no later than 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 6th June 2024.
3. The meeting will be held online via a link that will be shared with the shareholders. Copies of the annual report and proxy forms will be available at NMB branches and on the NMB website (www.nmbbank.co.tz).
4. Directors propose payment of a dividend of TZS 361.18 per share, amounting to TZS 180.59 billion out of the 2023 profit.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Date of announcement of results: | - 15 th May 2024 |
| Shares trading cum div: | - 15 th May 2024 |
| Last day of trading cum-dividend: | - 05 th June 2024 |
| Shares start trading ex-div: | - 06 th June 2024 Onwards |
| Register Closing Date (Books Closure Date): | - 10 th June 2024 |
| Payment of dividend: | - On or before 19 th June 2024 |

Mwantumu Salim
Company Secretary
15th May 2024

NMB
Close to you

Antimicrobial resistance: It's shock as Bahi leaders taught

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

LOCAL leaders in Bahi District, Dodoma Region have expressed shock after realising possible health consequences of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), including death.

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.

Speaking yesterday during a capacity building seminar for local leaders on the problem organized by Roll Back Antimicrobial resistance (RBA) Initiative that operates in the region, the leaders expressed concerns that most residents of rural areas are not aware of antimicrobial resistance.

They were shocked on realization that the problem could be one of the leading causes of deaths in the area as residents unknowingly continue taking drugs without prescriptions.

In her presentation to the leaders in Mpamatwa Ward, Oliva Minja from RBA-Initiative noted that on average, over five million people were estimated to have died of antimicrobial resistance-related cases in 2019.

She said the initiative was engaging local leaders as key players in influencing positive behaviours that can slow the spread of AMR with the aim of increasing awareness and AMR understanding among them.

"We started providing such awareness meetings in Dodoma District and we are in the second district, Bahi, with the target to

reach all districts in the region" she said.

She called on the public to embrace health experts' guidance on the rightful use of drugs in effort to reduce the spread of AMR.

Speaking at the seminar, Mpamatwa Ward Health Officer, Edmond Njau, said he was pleased to have got the education on AMR, noting that the problem is common among families in the ward due to lack of awareness.

"Many people take drugs without doctor's prescription without knowing the effects, which in some cases have led to physical impairment" he said, adding that in his capacity as health officer, he would share the information in routine meetings with colleagues.

Mpamatwa Ward Executive Officer Rosemary Kaizilege promised that as a leader at local authority, she would help spread the education.

"As leaders we have realized the importance of spreading this knowledge to area residents to help reduce deaths and disabilities among other side effects of inappropriate use of drugs" she said.



We started providing such awareness meetings in Dodoma District and we are in the second district, Bahi, with the target to reach all districts in the region

African nations appeal for sanctions ahead of treaty linked to genetic resources

By Special Correspondent

A GROUP of African nations has called for a sanctions regime as talks have opened on a landmark treaty aimed at putting an end to "biopiracy".

The United Nations opened the debate on Monday in Geneva with a view to finalising the treaty, which aims to prevent the plundering of genetic resources and traditional knowledge surrounding them.

After more than 20 years of negotiations, the UN's World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) hopes to conclude an agreement that will protect such knowledge from exploitation by enforcing greater transparency in the patenting system.

The draft treaty text says patent applicants would be required to disclose which country the genetic resources in an invention came from and who the Indigenous people are who provided the associated traditional knowledge.

While natural genetic resources, such as those found in medicinal plants, crops and animal breeds, cannot be directly protected as international property, inventions developed using them can be.

"Negotiations will not be easy, WIPO head Daren Tang warned as the planned two weeks of talks opened. However, he suggested developing countries are on the cusp of a truly landmark agreement."

As the talks opened, a group of African countries called for sanctions to be applied on companies or countries that infringe the provisions of the treaty.

"Our group supports adequate sanctions to ensure the treaty is enforced," said Kenyan representative, speaking on behalf of group.

Because it is currently not mandatory to publish the origins of innovations, many developing countries are concerned patents are being granted that either circumvent the rights of Indigenous people or are issued for existing inventions.

Opponents of the treaty fear it will hamper innovation. However, proponents say additional disclosure requirements would increase legal certainty, transparency and efficiency in the patent system.

Disagreements persist, notably on setting up sanctions and the conditions for revoking patents.

Tang insisted there is no contradiction between incentivising innovation and responding to the needs of communities.

More than 30 countries have disclosure requirements in their national laws, including China, Brazil, India, South Africa, France, Germany and Switzerland.

However, these procedures vary and are not always mandatory.

"It is important to get beyond clashes that are too sterile" between the Global North and South, one diplomat told the Agence France-Presse news agency on the condition of anonymity.

"Several countries in the North have genetic resources, like Australia or France, and several countries in the South have very large laboratories and companies that use genetic resources, like India or Brazil," the source said.



Our group supports adequate sanctions to ensure the treaty is enforced



Malimi Kija (L, in blue T-shirt), chairman of Nyanza Group of Mirewani in Simanjiro District, presents an assortment of foodstuffs and various other items to Light In Africa orphanage matron Mariam Mkali on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Dar set to host second Tanzania-Uganda business forum

By Carlos Banda

TANZANIA is scheduled to host the second Tanzania-Uganda Business Forum on 23rd and 24th of this month in Dar es Salaam to improve and strengthen the economic and investment portfolio between the two neighbouring countries.

Gilead Teri, executive director of Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) said this on Monday in Dar es Salaam at a press conference, adding that Uganda is one of Tanzania's major business and investment partners.

He said the country has shown commitment to further strengthen its cooperation with Tanzania with priority sectors being agriculture, energy, tourism, financial services, oil and gas as well as logistics.

"Tanzania and Uganda enjoy a long-standing historical friendship. Through this relationship, we have

witnessed Uganda continue to bring investment projects to Tanzania. Various projects, including East African Crude Oil Pipeline and the Kikagati Power Generation Project along our border were established. Uganda has been a significant utilizer of our ports in Tanga and Dar es Salaam," he said.

"Uganda's investment projects in Tanzania include manufacturing, transportation, infrastructure, mining, agriculture, hotels, commercial buildings, banks and many more. From 2014 to December 2023, Uganda registered 26 projects with Tanzania Investment Centre amounting to \$68.06 million expected to create about 1,149 jobs."

Maj. Gen (rt) Geoffrey Muheesi, Deputy High Commissioner of Uganda to Tanzania said the forum holds special significance as it builds upon the success of the inaugural event held in 2019, which

laid the groundwork for enhanced economic cooperation between the two nations.

"Uganda and Tanzania share a long history of friendship and cooperation, and this forum presents a unique opportunity to build upon our existing bilateral relations. By leveraging each other's strengths and resources, we can unlock new opportunities for growth and prosperity, not only for our economies but also for our people," he said.

"As we navigate the complexities of the global economy, the objective of this forum remains steadfast to attract investments between Uganda and Tanzania. We have therefore set our sights on even greater achievements by prioritizing and highlighting opportunities in six sectors which include agribusiness, manufacturing, tourism, energy,

oil and gas among others. The potential for collaboration in these sectors knows no bounds."

The envoy said the forum is expected to provide a platform for networking and partnership building among key stakeholders, adding that through dialogue and cooperation, both parties can harness the collective expertise and resources of the two nations to address shared challenges and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

"The forum presents an opportunity to showcase the immense potential of Uganda and Tanzania as investment destinations. With their strategic geographical location, abundant natural resources and vibrant entrepreneurial spirit, our countries offer investors a unique proposition for long-term growth and profitability," he said.



Barrick North Mara Gold Mine manager Apolinary Lyambiko (R) briefs Mara regional commissioner Col Evans Mtambi (C) when the RC toured the mine in Tarime District on Saturday. Left is Tarime district commissioner Col Hassan Maulid Surumbu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FAO regional stakeholders discuss global forest transformation for people, climate

By Fatou Dem, Banjul

THE Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations sub-regional office for West Africa highlighted the challenges the sub-region faces due to the effect of climate change. He noted that Africa contributes only 1.8 percent to global greenhouse gas emissions.

However, he said the agricultural sector, which was crucial in the region, accounts for about 30 percent of greenhouse gas emissions and, along with forest exploitation, is one of the main drivers of deforestation.

Dr Robert Guei added that according to the FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2020, annual forest loss in west and central Africa was estimated at 1.9 million hectares between 2015 and 2020.

Moshibudi Rampedi, FAO country representative said the initiative serves as a beacon of hope, showcasing tangible solutions at the community level by effectively

supporting the cause. She stated that FAO in The Gambia is not only demonstrating its commitment to sustainable forest and land management but also fostering local ownership and resilience building.

Rampedi said FAO had programme priority actions and underscored a strategic alignment with key global objectives, particularly for environmental sustainability and agricultural productivity.

Rohey John Manjang, minister for Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources emphasised government's unwavering dedication and commitment to sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

Minister Manjang stated that deforestation and land degradation were a major environmental problem. However, she said through sustainable forest management efforts, they could improve the productivity of their agricultural

land and thereby enhance the food security of local communities and the attainment of the objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP).

Massandje Toure-Liste, ECOWAS Commissioner encouraged representatives of the Member States and local communities to continue to play their part in the project by developing and implementing operational synergies that reconcile ecosystem management and climate change mitigation.

Joachim Beijmo, head of regional development cooperation in Africa, Swedish Embassy in Addis Ababa emphasised the importance of initiatives that focus on sustainable forestry to benefit both people and the climate. He expressed satisfaction with the project's progress thus far conveying enthusiasm for the upcoming developments.



Expansion of the Dar es Salaam-Kibaha stretch of the Morogoro highway well in progress at the commercial city's Kimara Mwisho section on Monday, effectively ending all dreams of staying put in the area with whatever business they had been doing there. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Mwinyi, Brazilian ambassador talk investment opportunities

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has met and held talks with Ambassador of Brazil to Tanzania Gustavo Martins Nogueira. Dr Mwinyi met the envoy and his delegation here on Monday and their conversation touched on strengthening existing relationships in various aspects, including health sector, road infrastructure and construction of Pemba airport. They also spoke of strengthening business cooperation, tourism as well as investment opportunities in the oil and gas sector in Zanzibar. Dr Mwinyi informed the envoy that Zanzibar does not have a large area for agriculture. Instead, it is more focused on the tourism sector and the blue economy. He

said the two sectors are yet to be fully explored and hence need more investments. Dr Mwinyi said Zanzibar government will maintain its cooperation with Brazil, especially in sugar and rice trade to reduce inflation of prices of these products in the isles. He said Zanzibar is bestowed with beautiful and attractive islands of Unguja and Pemba with investment opportunities, urging the envoy to scan investment opportunities in the oil and gas sector where the government has directed its efforts for the time being. Ambassador Nogueira told Dr Mwinyi that cooperation in other areas will be considered but assured that Brazil will currently focus more on improving maternal

health in Zanzibar. On trade cooperation, Nogueira said that Brazil is one of the biggest sugar producers in the world and urged the Zanzibar government to collaborate with the country and address the sugar shortage in the Indian Ocean archipelago. Nogueira also assured President Mwinyi that Brazil will continue to enhance bilateral ties between it and Tanzania and see the possibility of bringing more investors as well as reinforcing Pemba airport to boost tourism. Diplomatic relations between Tanzania and Brazil began in 1970 and in 1979 Brazil opened its embassy in Dar es Salaam but later in 1991 it closed due to operational challenges but in March 2005 Brazil reopened its Dar es Salaam Embassy until now.

Britam With you every step of the way BRITAM INSURANCE (TANZANIA) LIMITED AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	Notes	31 Dec 2023 TZS'000	31 Dec 2022 Restated TZS'000	1 Jan 2022 Restated TZS'000
CAPITAL EMPLOYED				
Share capital	17(a)	2,289,000	2,289,000	2,289,000
Preference shares	17(a)	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Contingency reserves	17(b)	5,247,000	4,655,336	3,785,526
(Accumulated losses)/Retained earnings	17(b)	(653,902)	460,195	(2,112,282)
Shareholders' funds		11,882,098	12,404,531	8,962,244
REPRESENTED BY				
Assets				
Property and equipment	19	560,134	363,149	598,618
Intangible assets	20	353,172	468,860	641,654
Right of use assets	34(a)	892,159	491,881	594,440
Deferred income tax	27	1,051,658	1,172,945	1,255,363
Financial Assets at fair value through profit or loss	21(a)	383,883	161,266	137,519
Government securities and corporate bonds at amortised cost	21(b)	1,635,062	1,639,558	1,121,657
Reinsurance contract assets	22(c)	10,003,073	16,462,068	12,235,526
Current tax recoverable	16(c)	493,899	-	-
Other receivables	24	1,278,457	790,372	237,321
Deposits with financial institutions	31	27,728,031	28,623,478	26,962,602
Cash and bank balances	32	3,767,447	1,378,795	3,820,290
Total assets		48,146,975	51,552,372	47,604,990
Liabilities				
Lease liabilities	34(b)	1,010,699	504,763	555,573
Insurance contract liabilities	22	31,440,122	32,182,709	30,419,718
Due to related parties	33	1,053,076	832,888	3,883,985
Current Income Tax	16(c)	-	825,758	3,191
Other payables	28	2,760,980	4,801,723	3,780,279
Total liabilities		36,264,877	39,147,841	38,642,746
Net assets		11,882,098	12,404,531	8,962,244

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023	Notes	2023 TZS'000	2022 Restated TZS'000
Insurance service revenue	5	35,767,890	34,845,001
Insurance service expense	6	(25,754,989)	(25,663,017)
Net expenses from reinsurance contracts held	7	(10,165,949)	(7,172,884)
Insurance service result		(153,048)	2,009,100
Interest income and dividend income	8	3,098,879	2,746,772
Net unrealised fair value gain on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	10	222,617	16,434
Release/(charge) expected credit losses	13(b)	11,541	(152)
Net investment income		3,333,037	2,763,054
Finance expenses from insurance contracts issued	11	(1,463,460)	(1,274,927)
Finance income from reinsurance contracts held	11	739,170	678,485
Net insurance finance expenses		(724,290)	(596,442)
Net insurance and investment result		2,455,699	4,175,712
Other (expense)/income	12(a)	(72,617)	3,477,451
Other Finance Cost	15	(374,146)	(235,912)
Other expenses	13(a)	(1,222,354)	(1,139,485)
Profit before income tax		786,582	6,277,766
Income tax expense	16	(963,314)	(1,931,726)
Profit for the year		(176,732)	4,346,040
Other comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		(176,732)	4,346,040

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023	Notes	Ordinary Share Capital TZS'000	Preference Share Capital TZS'000	Contingency Reserve TZS'000	Retained Earnings TZS'000	Total TZS'000
Year ended 31 December 2023						
Balance at 1 January 2023 – as previously reported		2,289,000	5,000,000	4,655,336	1,155,125	13,099,461
Adjustment on initial application of IFRS 17	35	-	-	-	(694,930)	(661,118)
As restated		2,289,000	5,000,000	4,655,336	460,195	12,488,273
Total comprehensive income for the period						
Profit for the year		-	-	-	(176,732)	(176,732)
Other comprehensive income net of tax		-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year					(176,732)	(176,732)
Transfer to contingency reserve	17(c)	-	-	591,664	(591,664)	-
Transactions with owners:						
Payment of dividend		-	-	-	(345,701)	(345,701)
Total Transactions with owners					(345,701)	(345,701)
Balance at 31 December 2023		2,289,000	5,000,000	5,247,000	(653,902)	11,882,098
Year ended 31 December 2022						
At 1 January 2022 – as previously reported		2,289,000	5,000,000	3,785,526	(1,221,954)	9,852,572
Adjustment on initial application of IFRS 17	35	-	-	-	(890,328)	(890,328)
As restated		2,289,000	5,000,000	3,785,526	(2,112,282)	8,962,244
Total comprehensive income for the period						
Profit for the year – As previously reported		-	-	-	4,066,900	4,066,900
Impact of IFRS 17 application	35	-	-	-	(195,398)	(195,398)
Restated profit for the year		-	-	-	4,262,298	4,262,298
Other comprehensive income net of tax		-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year					4,262,298	4,262,298
Transfer to contingency reserve	17(c)	-	-	869,810	(869,810)	-
Transactions with owners:						
Payment of dividend		-	-	-	(820,011)	(820,011)
Total Transactions with owners					(820,011)	(820,011)
Balance at 31 December 2022		2,289,000	5,000,000	4,655,336	460,195	12,404,531

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023	Notes	2023 TZS'000	2022 TZS'000
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash generated from operations	32(a)	894,352	(716,781)
Interest on lease liabilities	34(b)	374,146	173,323
Income tax paid	16(c)	(1,587,043)	(1,110,453)
Net cash generated from operating activities		(318,545)	(1,653,911)
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Interest Received	8	3,095,868	2,739,458
Dividend Received	8	3,011	3,011
Purchase of property and equipment	19	(351,659)	(64,004)
Purchase of intangible assets	20	(23,367)	(196,678)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment		17,825	44,823
Movement in deposits with financial institutions		895,447	(1,660,876)
Maturity of government securities at amortized cost	21(b)	2,441,710	1,076,380
Purchase of government securities at amortized cost	21(b)	(2,396,416)	(1,559,013)
Net generated from investing activities		3,682,409	380,090
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Payment of principal portion of lease liability	34(b)	(629,511)	(347,633)
Dividend payment		(345,701)	(820,011)
Net cash used in financing activities		(975,212)	(1,167,644)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		2,388,652	(2,441,495)
Movement in cash and cash equivalents			
At start of year		1,378,795	3,820,290
Net increase/(decrease) during the year		2,388,652	(2,441,495)
At end of year	32(b)	3,767,447	1,378,795

The above extracts are from the annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirement of the Companies Act, No. 12 of 2002. The financial statements are audited by Price water house coopers, Certified Public Accountants and received unqualified opinion. The financials statements were authorised and approved for issue by the Board of Directors on 30th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Dr. Peter Munga, CBS Chairman
Mr. Mike Laiser Director

MIKA 25 YA KULINDA NDOTO ZAKO NA KUKUKINGA NA MAJANGA

Kata Bima Yako Leo!

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MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE
TANZANIA BUREAU OF STANDARDS (TBS)
ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Member of the International Standardization (ISO), Codex Alimentarius Commission (WHO/FAO), Agent for ISO and other National Standards Bodies

NOTICE TO IMPORTERS OF COILS AND ROOFING SHEETS

Dar es Salaam, 14th May, 2024

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) wishes to remind and emphasize to all importers of coils and roofing sheets to abide by the requirements of the Standards Act Cap. 130, Regulations and Standards during importation of the mentioned goods into Tanzania. Specifically, importers should ensure that such goods comply fully with all the requirements stipulated under applicable standards as shown below:

S/N	Goods	Applicable Standard
1.	Pre-painted metal coated steel sheets and coils	TZS 1477:2020/EAS 468:2019
2.	Roofing sheets and wall covering - Aluminium alloy corrugated and troughed sheets	TZS 1475: 2017
3.	Hot-dip aluminium-zinc coated plain, corrugated and troughed steel sheets	TZS 1476:2023/EAS 410:2021
4.	Hot-dip galvanized and corrugated steel sheets	TZS 353:2020/EAS 11:2019
5.	Metal roofing tiles	TZS 948:2017

Henceforth, all importers are advised to ensure the above-mentioned goods are inspected and tested at exporting countries through the Bureau's Pre-shipment Verification of Conformity to Standards (PvOC) scheme and issued with Certificate of Conformity to avoid chances of shipping substandard goods.

In case the imported consignments are not accompanied with Certificates of Conformity, they shall be inspected and tested by TBS upon arrival at ports of entry (destination inspection) and if found to be substandard, they shall be re-exported to the country of origin or destructed at importer's cost.

Issued by:

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African power pool strategy lacks a competitive outlook

IT was heartening hearing that coordinating officials from the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) and the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) were convening in a three-day workshop to set out a roadmap for an African electricity market.

It was an indication that synergies are gradually being generated for wider interactive power supply assurance, however less promising considering experience with the power pool idea and glancing at its potential.

In a word, the potential is there but chances of its being used are limited since there is no market compulsion for the key actors.

For a power pool to be optimally used, there needs to be conditions where power outages cost the power supplier the trust of clients and they can switch elsewhere, a rare scenario in many African countries.

There is hence an effort at setting up a power export system if it so happens that someone not only needs additional power but is ready to buy that power, and that presumes that blackouts are bad for business.

When this is not the case, it becomes a rather dormant market where each participant waits for an emergency at neighbours in order to sell the power - when in excess.

The sellers' market is noticeable, but not the buyers', as these power generation and supply firms are monopolies. The pressure to buy power from others in case of shortages is limited, principally as payments would have to be made in advance at current foreign exchange rates.

That is already a huge disturbance in their cash outlays, especially with mark-ups in the dollar value of late as at any rate there is no limit to power shedding.

Were it that there is a competitive electricity generation, transmission and supply environment, that would demand purchases to keep one's clients. That is a parameter of reality which narrows down options as

experts from 13 countries work on a legal framework meant to harmonise regulations enabling national power utilities to link up in the wider power pool.

With the non-competitive situation and the merging of power firms with state interest, plenty of market arrangements based on either client trust or payment track record is dispelled, with debts incurred by the power firm becoming debts incurred by the state.

It is often tedious to follow up such obligations as those delivering the service have no leverage on purchasers directly as commercial entities.

One example cited of the power pool arrangement was the Tanzania-Kenya link in the EAPP framework, where it is hard to hear that Tanzania has purchased power from across the border despite repeated power outages.

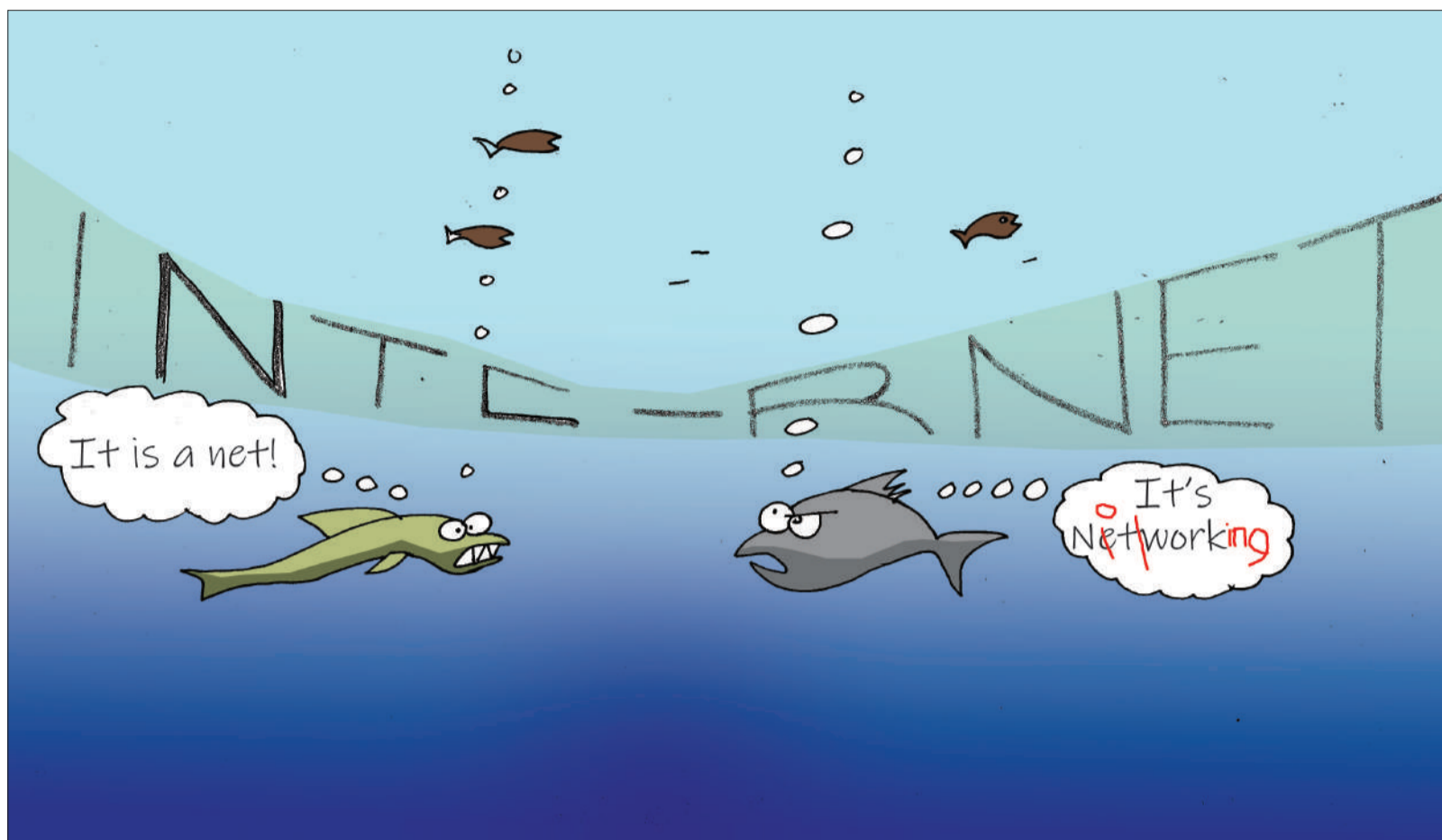
If any such purchases were made, public authorities would not hesitate to show their efforts in that direction - in which case it is also possible that the other side never had surplus generation.

The Julius Nyerere hydropower plant, now in the course of starting operations on its other plants, thus places state-run Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) in the position of a likely supplier.

What is also unclear is if there is the possibility of harmonising costs or sources of supply, as hydro-based power is less expensive than gas-fired power plants, while renewable energy calls for higher costs in installation and relatively low operational costs.

Just what margin the cross-border pooling mechanism adopts is at issue, as there will be different precepts on the buyer and seller sides of the matter.

How far those with surplus supply will be able to bring down quotations to win clients or eager importers when the need arises is also unclear, but that can be sorted out if payments are prompt enough.



Ghana's Movement for Change could break biparty democracy thanks to support from smaller parties

By Enoch Randy Aikins

FOR three decades, Ghana's political landscape has been dominated by two parties - the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and National Democratic Congress (NDC), each of which has won four presidential elections.

Instead of a multiparty democracy, the country is becoming a biparty democracy at the expense of smaller parties and independent candidates, whose share of votes in presidential and parliamentary elections has dropped. But momentum is building for a third force - the Movement for Change - to contest this year's December elections. Can it break the pattern?

In 1992, smaller parties and independent candidates combined garnered 11.3% of all valid votes in the presidential elections. Since then, their performance in presidential polls has consistently declined to a paltry 1.3% in the 2020 general elections. The number of small parties and independents in Parliament also fell from 11 in 1992 to zero by 2016.

Among the many reasons for this is the winner-takes-all system. The failure of smaller parties and independent candidates to unite, coupled with the increasing monetisation of electoral politics, has further derailed their chances.

Now Alan Kyerematen, who resigned from the NPP, has formed the Movement for Change, aka the Butterfly Movement, to contest the presidential elections as an independent candidate. Recent polls tip him to garner 7.5% of total votes - a small but significant achievement given that previous independents have barely managed 1%.

This isn't the first time politicians have broken away from parties to contest elections. In 1996 Charles Wereko-Brobby left the NPP to form the United Ghana Movement, and Goosie Tanoh left the NDC to form the National Reform Party before the 2000 polls. But their influence couldn't be sustained.

Also, before the 2012 elections, Paa Kwesi Nduom broke ranks with the Convention People's Party to establish the Progressive People's Party, which many thought would be a force in that year's polls. But it couldn't survive the duopoly's strength, and the euphoria around the party died off after the elections.

Kyerematen and his movement have an advantage that perhaps the others didn't. This is the first time a dominant figure from a major party



Ian Kyerematen resigned from the NPP to form the Movement for Change. Photo: Alan Kyerematen/Twitter

has broken away to challenge the duopoly. Ahead of last November's NPP presidential primaries, polls predicted that 54% of Ghanaians preferred him to lead the party into the general elections, showing his popularity.

As the longest-serving trade minister, he says his track record in public service, including his incorruptibility, will entice Ghanaians to vote for him. Also, his message of forming a government of national unity could be a selling point if properly communicated, especially since many Ghanaians are fed up with the divisive winner-takes-all system.

Moreover, with the two candidates from the NPP and NDC hailing from the north, Kyerematen can attract southern votes, which constitute the majority. This is especially true in his home region, Ashanti, which has the second-largest voting population in the country and is the NPP stronghold.

Furthermore, efforts to unite with smaller political groupings under the Alliance for Revolutionary Change could inspire confidence in the Movement for Change. So far, the proposed alliance comprises nine groups - the Movement for Change, National Interest Movement, Union Government Movement, Ghana National Party, Ghana First Coalition, Green Party of Ghana, Ghana Third Force Movement, Non-Aligned Voters Movement, and Crusaders Against Corruption Ghana.

The Movement for Change

also comes at a time when many Ghanaians have become disenchanted by the behaviour and performance of the two main parties, and want other options. Afrobarometer says over 70% of Ghanaians prefer multiple political parties, to give voters choice.

Finally, Peter Obi - who shook the foundation of Nigerian politics by presenting a strong Labour Party to challenge the established All Progressives Congress and Peoples Democratic Party - has inspired belief among Ghanaians that a third force can emerge.

Popularity and circumstance Kyerematen's biggest weakness is that he was part of the current administration, which many Ghanaians believe has underperformed. The nation's economic difficulties have necessitated an International Monetary Fund bailout and debt restructuring, and some critics say he cannot exonerate himself from the regime's ills after being trade minister for nearly seven years.

Also, many point to his dwindling popularity in Ghanaian politics. After winning 37% of the NPP's presidential primary votes in 2007, Kyerematen garnered only 10% in the 2023 special delegates conference. Some say he's too elitist and removed from the youth and ordinary people - although he insists his movement is all about young people.

The popular belief among Ghanaians that a vote for a party other than the NPP or NDC is a

wasted vote could also affect his chances. So too could the rate at which the two major parties use money to campaign and influence elections - meaning any credible alternative must raise substantial cash to compete.

To become a more formidable force and make an impact in the general elections, the Movement for Change must attract more smaller parties and movements. The Alliance for Revolutionary Change is a step in the right direction, but the party should ally with other groups, such as the New Force Movement and Economic Fighters League.

The Movement for Change should also target its message to youth and women, who comprise most of Ghana's voters. Recruiting more grassroots volunteers could help counteract the two dominant political forces and sell its message to ordinary citizens. More voter education on how an independent candidate can lead the country will also lessen the scepticism about Kyerematen's chances and overcome the electorate's fear of wasted votes.

Finally, the Movement for Change should leverage the power of social media to drive its key campaign messages, especially among the youth.

DM

Enoch Randy Aikins, Researcher, African Futures and Innovation, Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

Animal pasture cultivation plans hold promise, but doubts remain

PUBLIC enterprises which came into place in the wake of the (early 1967) Arusha Declaration will be clocking 60 three years from now.

Many of the later, including current, organisations stemmed from some initial umbrella entities governing sector-level growth - an example being the National Development Corporation for the industrial sector.

The Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) and its ally, the Tanzania National Ranching Corporation (NARCO), arose from specialisation in the livestock sector - in research and in ranching proper.

Much of their work focused on what could be done on the basis of natural conditions like rainfall and expansive grazing land, mixed breed cattle, etc.

Now there are some genuine changes, as the two organisations expect to embark on irrigation-aided animal pasture cultivation in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region.

It has taken nearly 60 years for research and administrative synergy, which includes the right subsidies in lieu of credit outlays, for the sister agencies to devise measures consonant with the fact that they need to sort out the pasture supply challenge during the dry season.

This challenge is by means new, but there has never been a confluence of circumstances to permit generating this alternative solution.

Top TALIRI officials say the initiative will likely involve 2,000 hectares of land also to be used for goat fattening, another indication that land use is starting to become more complex, as the breadth of activities in need of distinctive land allocation increases.

What was also interesting in that

regard is that the two public agencies hosted what would otherwise be a drive directed by the private sector, but which may have failed to find a proper anchor and opted to aid public sector initiatives with an impact on the desired sphere. It relates to a Denmark-supported incubation centre for youth in Kongwa.

It is not surprising that these initiatives are largely donor-dependent, with the Private Agricultural Sector Support Trust (PASS) standing as a go-between.

TALIRI has hinted on a loan from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for training 200 youths annually in commercial goat fattening and pasture farming.

While these initiatives are local, it is unclear whether it is the sector that is changing or it is donor engagement that is being widened, as a changing agri-business sector would be anchored in bank credit. Any issuance of credit in a competitive manner shows faith in its design and likely results.

How far donor funds will enable strong and modern irrigation infrastructure over 2,000 hectares of land to facilitate pasture farming standing on its feet thereafter is another matter.

It is similarly unclear how, based on that sort of donor support outside any viable commercial framework, how many such projects will be absorbed by donor agencies. It could easily be just a few experimental initiatives.

This sort of support makes expert consultations ambient and fruitful but is no magic wand for pasture farming or youth involvement in agriculture in a systematic way until land titles and banks come in.

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

BoT pins down bank rates to stabilise rising inflation



WEEKS ago, Members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Tanzania's central bank decided to increase its bank rate from 5.5 to 6 percent that is applicable effectively during the second quarter of the trading period which runs from April to June 2024.

The decision by MPC members is entirely based on the macro-economic forecast which requires an increase in the scope of monetary policy actions in order to curb the lingering inflationary pressures arising from global economic developments.

Economists describe a bank rate as an interest charged by Central Banks to other domestic banks while borrowing funds. This means that, nations charges their bank rates to expand or constrict a nation's money supply in response to economic changes.

It is a normal phenomenon to see that, more jobs and higher wages increase household incomes and lead to a rise in consumer spending, further increasing aggregate demand and the scope for firms to increase the prices of their goods and services.

When this happens across a large number of businesses and sectors in local communities, automatically the action leads to an increase in inflation.

Professional economists have highlighted in action some causes of inflation which includes increase in the price of consumable goods as well as raw materials, increase in taxes, decline in productivity, and increase in money supply. Inflation is measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and at low rates, it keeps the economy healthy. But when the rate of inflation rises rapidly, it can result in lower purchasing power, higher interest rates, slower economic growth and other negative economic effects. Whenever a registered bank which operates in the country has a shortage of funds, the Board and its entire management team as a whole can typically borrow from the central bank based on the regulations as stipulated in the monetary policy of a particular country.

The borrowing is commonly done in the rate at which the central bank lends short-term money to the banks against securities. This is more applicable when there is a liquidity crunch in the market.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Governor Emmanuel Tutuba said in a recent statement while announcing the newly imposed rates that: "By governing the cost of borrowing money, central banks can either raise interest rates to control high price rates or drop them to spur consumption and economic growth."

When central banks lower interest rates, monetary policy is easing. When they raise interest rates, monetary policy is tightening. The operations affect short-term interest rates, which in turn influence longer-term rates and economic activity.

The BoT Chief is of the view that, when the central bank raises interest rates, its goal is to slow down the economy. Raising interest rates will increase the cost of

borrowing because loans now come with higher interest rates. This makes the purchase of goods and services on credit more expensive. In the last report issued by the MPC members, it was noticed that Tanzania is faced with shortage of foreign exchange in the economy and recommended for strict measures to be undertaken in order to increase the supply of the US Dollar so as to stabilize the situation in the near future.

Foreign reserves remained high, an aspect that it has lowered down the local exchange rate which has depreciated by 1.8 percent in the quarter ending March 2024 compared to 1.6 percent in the preceding quarter.

The MPC members also found out that, "the price of crude oil fetched in the country within the period under review was stable, averaging US\$ 80 per barrel, but has recently increased slightly". The price of gold remained high at around \$ 2,071 per troy ounce. Zanzibar economy also performed satisfactorily, with real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth estimated to be more than 6 percent in 2023, mostly driven by tourism activity. Favourable economic conditions are expected to continue in subsequent quarters of 2024.

Inflation remained low and stable, averaging 3.0 percent in the first quarter of 2024. This is in line with the country target of not more than 5 percent and convergence criteria in regional

economic blocs in which Tanzania is a member.

Normally every central bank in the world conducts monetary policy evaluation by adjusting the supply of money in the country, usually through buying or selling securities in the open market. The Guardian contacted the Chairman of Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) Theobald Sabi for further clarification, he said: "The banking industry was satisfied with the reasons provided for the rise of the central bank's key interest rate as the details and reasons behind the decision are well articulated."

He said despite the increase in rates, the banking sector is currently faced with shortages of foreign exchange such as the US Dollar which are deteriorating in the market, but BoT has introduced stringent measures to harmonize the impending situation.

"I also want to echo the sentiment from across the banking fraternity on the support that we continue to receive on areas that have so far been challenging including the availability of foreign currencies," he affirmed when interviewed by the Guardian.

Economic analysts had this in mind when contacted for comments, "with this increment, money borrowers from various banks operating in the country are brooding over the likely impact on borrowing costs.

Clarifying over the matter, the BoT's Director of Economic Research and Policy Dr. Suleiman Missango, dismissed such claims

at a press conference held in Dar es Salaam recently.

He justified the MPC decision saying: "The BoT's projections showed there would be no risks for banks pulling back to lending to the private sector in favour of buying government securities by the central bank."

Instead, there will still be an appetite for lending to the private sector and this can be seen by strong private sector whose credit growth remained stronger averaging 17 per cent in the first quarter of 2024.

This is the same as in the preceding quarter, directed to agriculture, mining, transport and manufacturing activities as part of the measures to facilitate private-sector business and investment. Their performance is underpinned by public investment, particularly in infrastructure. Private sector investment also contributed to the estimated growth, because of the improving business environment in the country, as reflected by the high growth of credit to the private sector and the increase in foreign direct investment.

The last week's rise of central bank interest rate to 6 percent for the second quarter of 2024, has a significant milestone, and the move primarily aims to contain inflation within its target and boost Tanzania's economic growth.

The demographic money figures issued by other banks in other countries found within East African Community (EAC) shows that Tanzania has the lowest rates compared to other rates as endorsed by their Central Bank's members of MPC. This is also consonant with convergence criteria in EAC regional economic blocs in which Tanzania is a member that stability was due to prudent monetary policy which ensures adequate domestic food supply.

Available statistics from EAC partners states shows that, in January this year the Bank of Kenya raised its bank rates to 13 percent, Rwanda 7.5 percent, whereas in Uganda the rate stands at 10 percent.

According to the Bank of Burundi the benchmark interest rate has been fluctuating after it was last recorded at 12 percent. Interest rate averaged 9.22 percent from 2007 until 2023, reaching an all-time high of 16.24 percent in July of 2012 and a record low of 5.0 percent in December of 2022.

The duality of the education challenge in Africa: Historical imperatives and 21st century necessities

By Cristina Duarte

EDUCATION in Africa stands at a crossroads, confronting dual challenges related to the juxtaposition of existing deficits with the rapidly evolving demands of the Digital Age. Despite the work across several African countries to turn the tide, the number of out-of-school children across the continent remains stubbornly high. And with the rapid advancement of 21st-century technologies presenting new challenges, such as the increasing necessity for digital fluency, African educational systems must adapt swiftly to remain relevant and competitive.

The selection of education as the African Union's theme of the year presents a unique opportunity to create the necessary policy space for change. As we mark the start of "Africa Month," it is one of the reasons why the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser is co-organizing our flagship Africa Dialogue Series 2024 with the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations under

the theme "Education through Science, Technology and Innovation toward the Africa We Want." Echoing the call of Secretary-General António Guterres to end the business-as-usual approach, we aim to mobilize African policy and decision-makers to harness innovation and boost access to quality education in Africa.

To fast-track such transformation toward unlocking the continent's full potential for future generations, it is critical to consider the historical and contemporary challenges affecting education in Africa.

Historical imperatives from an existing deficit When Professor Wole Soyinka, the famed Nigerian Nobel Laureate and scholar, spoke on "Rearming the University Idea" at our Academic Conference on Africa 2023, he made it clear that the African educational system has been delivering high-calibre results for decades, citing the successes of African universities "from Makerere through Ibadan, Achimota all the way to Dakar." Alongside Africa's rich cultural heritage and traditional teachings that forged well-rounded individuals for many years, this has established the conti-

ment as an educational powerhouse for a period.

Unfortunately, political instability, conflicts, mismanagement, external shocks and other crises disrupted the system, leading to forced school closures, reducing access to safe learning environments and creating a shortage of quality teachers. These challenges impeded academic progress while depriving students of vital social and emotional support received from educational institutions. Over time, this change triggered a cycle of poverty and marginalization, hampering socioeconomic development and stability across African communities.

Despite recent progress, the data on the resulting deficit is sobering. Over 100 million children remain outside the formal education system in Africa, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Institute for Statistics highlighting that one-fifth of children between the ages of six and 11, one-third between the ages of 12 and 14 and nearly 60 per cent of young people between 15 and 17 are not in school in Sub-Saharan Africa. UNESCO also reports that the continent needs

more than 6 million teachers to achieve universal primary education by 2030.

However, there is an opportunity to reverse these trends and make significant gains by harnessing the multiplying effect of science, technology and innovation to deliver quality education in Africa.

Modern necessities from emerging technological demands

The continent has made strides towards digital transformation in the past decade. For example, as Sub-Saharan Africa experienced a remarkable 115 per cent increase in Internet users between 2016 and 2021, over 160 million Africans acquired broadband Internet between 2019 and 2022, facilitating access to various digital services, including online learning. The adoption of digital payment methods has also surged, with nearly 200 million more people completing digital transactions between 2014 and 2021. This reflects the growing significance of the digital economy and its impact in Africa.

This exponential growth in digital technologies and the advent of new fields, such as big data and artificial intelligence, presents challenges and opportunities for African educational systems. While digitalization could enhance learning outcomes, foster innovation, and expand access to academic resources, it amplifies existing disparities. The continent's recent technological boom, however, suggests Africa has the potential to harness this accelerating digital revolution and bring about change, including the transformation of its educational system.

To maximize the opportunities ushered in by this Digital Age, education systems in Africa need to leapfrog into modernity and equip the next generation of Africans for the future of work. This entails fundamentally reimagining educational approaches to cultivate the skills and competencies needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital landscape and succeed in the digital economy. It also needs to include initiatives to bridge the digital divide, which remains stark. According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Internet penetration in Africa was around 28 per cent compared to the global average of 51 per cent in 2019.

As we stressed in our 2023 report "Solving paradoxes of Africa's development: financing, energy and food systems," effective country systems must underpin these initiatives and be ready to invest in the needed infrastructure, skills development, and regulatory frameworks they require. With this impetus, Africa can transform its

educational system and unlock inclusive growth, prosperity and durable peace.

Integrated policymaking to address dual challenges

Addressing these dual challenges requires a nuanced policy mix that tackles existing deficits while addressing the demands of rapid technological advances. We must implement strategies that prioritize educational reform, infrastructure development, teacher training, and digital literacy.

Tackling root causes of crises: This component is essential in creating an environment of stability and durable peace where education thrives. This includes addressing political instability and conflicts to safeguard the right to education and foster sustainable progress in Africa.

The duality of Africa's educational challenges requires such a forward-thinking policy mix. This is a different approach aiming to address the root causes of underlying issues. It manages development instead of implementing band-aid solutions and projects that manage poverty. So, one of our key objectives at the Africa Dialogue Series this year is to foster an exchange that leads to innovative, implementable policy recommendations that centre on Africa's long-term progress.

Throughout this Africa Month, let us approach our engagements by leveraging Secretary-General António Guterres' message as our guiding compass. He said, "We can't build a future for our grandchildren with a system built for our grandparents." Let us work together to transform education in Africa by harnessing science, technology, and innovation.

This is how we build the Africa we want. The Africa the world needs.



By Sha Song

Green technology innovation pipeline: Lessons from China

ACCORDING to the most recent IPCC report, we have hit a global record for greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by pumping out 57.4 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent into the atmosphere. Last year, 2023, was the warmest year on record at 1.45 °C above the pre-industrial average. Rather than cutting emissions, we continue to move in the wrong direction – but that can change.

Food, construction, fashion, fast-moving consumer goods, electronics, automotive, professional services and freight supply chains account for more than 50 percent of global emissions. Decarbonization of the industrial value chain, therefore, offers a clear-win opportunity to cut emissions.

A successful transition demands a deep economic transformation, requiring the mobilization of private finance on a large scale. According to estimates, achieving net-zero carbon emissions will require additional global investments at least \$1 trillion in energy infrastructure by 2030 and \$3 trillion to \$6 trillion across all sectors per year by 2050 to mitigate climate change by substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A key enabler along the value chain is low-carbon technology, from upstream to downstream. Low-carbon technology at different stages requires tailor-made financial tools. Research and development phases need fiscal budget allocation and philanthropic capital. Commercially viable and near-commercial technologies will need a different source of capital.

How China is bridging the finance gap for low-carbon technologies

China is well placed to help deliver and scale up low-carbon technologies and foster innovation chains to emerging and developing economies (EMDEs).

China is the main trading partner of more than 140 countries and is one of the best-positioned countries to define the pace and speed of global supply chain green transition. In China, this work is already underway. More than 800 large Chinese companies have set carbon neutrality by 2060 targets. Especially across the ICT, textile and manufacturing sectors, businesses are seeking to reach carbon neutrality ahead of national climate targets.

By 2050, China needs roughly \$26 trillion green investment. China's 14th Five-Year Plan is expected to put \$6 trillion investment in climate change related and digital economy support. The People's Bank of China has established a special relending facility worth 500 billion yuan (about \$70.47 billion) to support sci-tech innovation, technical transformation and equipment renewal. The interest rate of the one-year facility stands at 1.75 percent.

Key stakeholders and technologies

Green technology companies operating in any market, including China, not only need to drive the industrial value chains that can best nurture technological advancements, follow sustainability reporting standards and set ambitious carbon reduction targets and strategies, but they also need to understand investors' language to ensure their financial position, performance and prospects.

Investors, for their part, need to understand the technologies and relevant opportunities and risks to their cash flow to become true enablers for scaling up green technology and avoiding greenwashing. Therefore, mutual understanding must be built between green technology companies and their investors.

Innovative financing mechanisms at play

Green procurement refers to the purchase of goods and services that cause minimal adverse environmental impact to provide opportunities for those with green technologies.

To this end, incubated by Alibaba, MYbank, a technology-driven internet bank, created a special financing platform for 6.23 million micro and small-sized enterprises. As at the end of December 2022, MYbank



China offers lessons in how to creatively fund the green technology innovation pipeline.

offered preferential interests on loans for 420,000 micro and small-sized enterprises, advancing their green development while providing them with easy-to-access inclusive financial services. MYBank included micro and small-sized enterprises in green supply chains in the coverage of its policies regarding green and inclusive finance. It also developed a range of new green finance products based on customer needs and formed a green and digital supply chain finance product matrix, including green procurement loans.

Banks are expected to continue to provide the majority of debt finance in China. This is so far taking the form of green loans (or "sustainability-linked loans") as innovative products suitable for green transportation projects. China CITIC Bank, for example, provided a leading battery company in the middle of the supply chain specialized in green technologies with a prepayment financing solution by leading the formation of a domestic medium-and long-term US dollar syndicate working capital loan.

This was a ten-year syndicated loan tailor-made to accurately match the term of the raw material supply contract, ensuring the stable supply of raw materials.

Another example is sustainability-linked loans that can be tailored for the operation stage of green technologies. Societe Generale China has completed the implementation of the sustainability-linked mechanism for the existing RMB 700 million (\$97 million) bank acceptance draft facility available to multiple Chinese subsidiaries of Forvia, a leading supplier of automotive parts. Following the signing of a sustainability-linked term loan facility in June 2023, Societe Generale acted as co-borrower and implemented a similar structure to transform the existing bank acceptance draft facility into a sustainability-linked one.

Typical product areas in China also include the green stock market to simplify the verification or filing procedures for initial public offerings of green enterprises and for the establishment of green channel mechanisms for green enterprises.

Chinese companies are also working overseas, for example in Switzerland's capital market. With the support of the China Securities Regulatory Commission and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, GEM successfully issued Global Depository Receipts and listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange, successfully raising \$381 million. This was invested in projects such as nickel resources in Indonesia and power battery recycling in Europe.

China's journey has clearly started, with commercially viable and early deployment of technologies, innovative green finance products and clear signs of shifting investor preferences.

Looking forward, common taxonomy and new public and private sources of capital, restructured through financing mechanisms that lower costs of capital, are the likely direction China will take to scale up its innovation chain and build out the broader innovation ecosystem.

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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

Chinese green business extending lifelong skills, income to Kenyan youth

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

WITH a confident swag, Moses Kimani chatted with clients at the entrance of Hanlin Africa New Energy Technology Company Limited (Hanlin Africa), a Chinese firm dealing with the assembly and sale of electric vehicles located south of Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

Besides his elevated confidence levels, the 27-year-old geography and environmental studies major is passionate about enlightening fellow compatriots why they should opt for green mobility, championed by his employer.

Kimani joined Hanlin Africa nearly two years ago, and his zeal for promoting electric vehicles and two- and three-wheelers (boda-bodas and tuk-tuks) locally is unrivaled, informed by a desire to revolutionize mobility in Kenya, tackle carbon emissions, and churn out green jobs for the youth.

"Electric mobility is helping the youth; it has a huge potential in the future. Our products have captured a lot of interest in the local market," Kimani said during a recent interview at Hanlin Africa's assembly line.

Hanlin Africa, a subsidiary of China Yilian International (Hong Kong) Co. Ltd. and a sister company of Zhongshan Hanlin Energy Technology Co. Ltd., commenced its Kenyan operations on March 9, 2023.

The company has more than 30 local employees, including over 20 frontline workers, and occupies an area covering 4,700 square meters that accommodates a production workshop, a research and development center, warehouses and an exhibition

hall.

Kimani and his youthful peers are proud to be associated with the Chinese maker of new energy vehicles, given the skills, exposure, sustainable income and career mobility it guarantees them.

Hanlin Africa has elevated green mobility in Kenya a notch higher through the assembly, marketing, and sale of affordable electric vehicles, he said.

Kimani, who is the head of marketing, said that in the course of his work, he has gained vital skills from his Chinese supervisors like client engagement, discipline and business acumen.

He noted that motorcycle riders, the majority of whom are youth, are enthusiastic about switching to electric models to cut fuel bills and aid the country's transition to clean mobility.

Irene Mutie, a 24-year-old sales and marketing major who is now a sales representative at Hanlin Africa, said that compared to her previous employers, the Chinese firm has an edge in passing technical skills to local youth.

Mutie admitted that before joining Hanlin Africa, she had a scant understanding of electric vehicles, but now, thanks to training and mentorship, she is now able to explain their benefits to clients eloquently.

One of the most outstanding aspects of Chinese new energy firms, she said, is their ability to improve their technologies and pass on lifelong skills and knowledge to local employees.

"The skills that we have gained so far are good. We are able to see how electric bikes are assembled. We have also learned the importance of discipline and respect for others," Mutie said.

She added that Hanlin Africa



Consumers try an electric vehicle at Hanlin Africa New Energy Technology Company Limited in Nairobi, Kenya, on May 2, 2024. Xinhua

has aligned its operations with Kenya's quest to become a hub for green mobility that promises a sustainable, richer, and more secure future for the East African nation.

Awareness about the benefits of electric vehicles among Kenyans has shot up, given the increasing number of visitors who troop to her employer's premises to survey and bargain for new energy-moving machines such as tuk-tuks, boda-bodas and bicycles.

Seorang staf merakit komponen dan suku cadang kendaraan listrik di gudang milik Hanlin Africa New Energy Technology Company Limited di Nairobi, Kenya, pada 2 Mei 2024. (Xinhua/Li Yahui)

According to Mutie, the majority of customers are people aged 18 to 30, who appear more enlightened about new energy vehicles, their low maintenance costs, and their environmental benefits.

Going forward, for the electric mobility revolution to benefit a critical mass of local youth, the government should enact supportive policies and legislation to encourage investments in that space, Mutie said.

One balmy morning, Isaac Ng'etich, a 38-year-old salesman in the construction sector, grinned as he tried his hand at a sleek electric motorbike at Hanlin Africa's exhibition hall.

Ng'etich said he would buy the electric bike, convinced that it would save him a daily fuel bill amounting to 500 Kenyan shillings (about 3.7 U.S. dollars), besides offering comfort on long road trips.

Initiated in early 2023, Hanlin Africa has quickly become a beacon for career and skill development for Kenyan youth, empowering them with

not just jobs but also vital skills and knowledge about green technologies.

Underpinning the importance of local participation in green businesses, Liu Huixiang, head of Hanlin Africa, emphasized the strategic focus of the firm's investments.

"We need to have local staff run the business, which keeps our investment meaningful and focused on local empowerment," Liu said, adding that this philosophy not only nurtures local talent but also ensures that the benefits of foreign investment are deeply integrated into the community.

Fresh battle to save declining African penguins

By Jenny Hill, Western Cape

EVERY year there are fewer African penguins and soon there may be none at all. Scientists say that the species is declining by around 8 percent every year.

As the ocean swells around the rocky shore of South Africa's Betty's Bay, penguins hop along the waterline, calling to one another in short raspy barks.

They are endearingly comical as they totter about but Alistair McInnes looks worried.

"This one near the water is quite skinny. You can see it hasn't got much fat on it."

Dr McInnes, a seabird conservationist for BirdLife South Africa, is part of the team monitoring the country's dwindling penguin colonies.

The African penguin - which is native to South Africa and Namibia - has lost 99 percent of its population over the last century.

"If the current rates of decline persist into the near future we could see the extinction of the species within our lifetime by 2035, so the situation is extremely urgent," Dr McInnes warns.

This is why BirdLife South Africa and the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (Sancob) are taking legal action against the government in the first case of its kind in South Africa.

Ministers have failed to adequately protect the endangered species, they argue.

"We cannot let a species go extinct on our watch," says Kate Handley from the Biodiversity Law Centre, which represents the groups. She adds that the government is constitutionally obliged to prevent such a scenario.

Almost all the surviving African penguins live in seven colonies along Africa's south-western coastline.

It is estimated that there are now just 8,750 breeding pairs left in the country.



The penguins draw tourists from all over the world who come to see the short, stocky birds with the distinctive black stripe running down the side of their bodies.

They seem unfazed by the people taking their pictures but, as they preen in the sunshine or watch over their eggs, they face a precarious existence.

They are vulnerable to natural predators - seals and certain types of gull.

But the real enemies are human beings. The now-discontinued practice of harvesting guano (accumulated bird droppings into which penguins would dig their burrows) damaged their habitat.

Climate change is exacerbating the problem - storms and flooding endanger their colonies and it is becoming harder for the birds to access food as ocean currents and temperatures shift.

And the sardines and anchovies on which the penguins depend are also a valuable commodity for the commercial fishing industry.

The South African government has tried to restrict the activities of so-called purse seine fishing vessels, which use large nets to catch great shoals of fish.

It is a volatile issue here.

Over the last 15 years there have been experimental closures of fishing grounds, protracted negotiations between the fishing industry and conservationists and input from an independent panel of international experts.

But penguin numbers are still declining. BirdLife South Africa and Sancob argue that current closures - under which fishing is prohibited around some colonies - are neither extensive enough nor in the right locations to fully protect the penguin population.

Their lawyers are demanding the immediate implementation of "biologically meaningful" closures.

But at the small harbours along the coast, as men unload their catch before heading back out to sea, there is concern and anger.

People here reject - fiercely - the accusation that they are to blame.

"We're a fraction of the problem," says Shamera Daniels, deputy chair of the South African Pelagic Fishing Industry Association, which represents many of those fishermen.

"There's predation - seals, sharks. We've got oil and gas exploration, noise pollution."

The current restrictions, she adds, have already cost the industry millions of dollars and hundreds of jobs. Further closures would, she warns, inflict more pain on an industry upon which many here rely.

Animal diseases increasingly becoming major global challenge

By Wandile Sihlobo



ABOUT a month ago, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state veterinary and public health officials released a report stating that they are studying an illness among dairy cows in various states.

This report came after the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (bird flu), which commonly affects poultry farms, was discovered in dairy cows and the subsequent infection of a dairy farm employee.

The virus has spread to more states over the past month. Recent reports suggest the virus has spread to 36 cattle herds across nine states (from six states at the beginning of April).

Concerns remain in the US about the subsequent transmission to humans and other livestock products. The scientists are currently studying this outbreak and have called for calm among the consumers. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention views it as "a low risk to the general public at this time".

There are also ongoing discussions about ways of containing its spread and tests of possible vaccines in the US.

Encouragingly, outside the US, we don't know of any cases where bird flu has transitioned into livestock and people. I have recently communicated with South

Africa's Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development leadership to understand if this matter is under monitoring, and the country remains safe. Indeed, South Africa remains secure and vigilant. This issue is primarily in a couple of states in the US.

Animal diseases are a major global challenge, and we will likely continue to see animal disease outbreak reports in the coming years. Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas are some regions that typically report disease outbreaks such as avian flu, foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever.

Therefore, South Africa must strengthen surveil-

lance to ensure an agile response from regulators when there are outbreaks.

As part of the long-term planning, South Africa's Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development should also increase its spending on animal health-related matters and build local capacity. This is essential to support the subsector, making up nearly half South Africa's agricultural economy.

Because South Africa has recently suffered the spread of animal disease, farming businesses and government officials arguably remain on high alert, which helps with surveillance in times of such high

risk of animal diseases globally.

The frequent occurrences of animal diseases also imply that some countries, like South Africa in 2021 and 2022, may occasionally lose access to export markets while they work to clear the disease.

During such times, the disease-free countries would potentially increase their volume of exports to markets. South African red meat and livestock product exporters should always be alert to opportunistic export gaps.

This is not a unique practice in South Africa; competitors typically increase their market presence when other suppliers are constrained.

In essence, animal diseases are increasingly a significant challenge globally. South Africa has undergone various cycles of foot-and-mouth disease in the cattle industry, multiple strains of avian influenza in poultry and the African swine fever in the pig industry. All these episodes were costly to farming businesses and distracted South Africa from its export ambition. Notably, there is always a risk of another outbreak as some of these diseases have become pervasive.

The news of the US bird flu transmission to dairy and humans reminds us of animal disease risks and uncertainty. Fortunately, South Africa remains safe. Still, the farmers, feedlots and regulators should remain vigilant.

Health and fitness: Things to eat so as to improve mental wellbeing

By A Special Correspondent

IT'S 2024 and we all know the importance of a healthy diet for physical health. But what about its impact on our mental well-being? Just like the rest of our body, the brain thrives on nourishment and the quality of that nourishment significantly influences our mood, cognitive function, and even our resilience to stress.

Dr Sifat E Syed Auna, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU),

shared, "Physical and mental health are not very separate in terms of food. What keeps you physically healthy will also help your mental health."

This simple statement holds a profound meaning. Auna emphasises how our regular intake of restaurant meals and ultra-processed food, disrupts the delicate balance of elements in our body and slowly but surely weighs on to our mental health.

"Dehydration, slowness, fatigue, migraine, unexplained increased heart rate, etc. are just some examples of what exces-

sive sugar, caffeine, artificial flavours and colours contained in these foods can do to our body," she explains.

Although there is nothing wrong with occasional indulgence, moderation is key.

Does that mean we are suggesting only leafy greens and cucumbers in the name of "healthy living"? Absolutely not! In fact, popular reels on YouTube for quick weight-loss are something experts strictly advise against.

Food for thought: Things to eat to improve mental health tangerine-newt-wc9j-



THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 105 -

By Felix Magezi: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

ACROSS:

- Capital city of Eritrea
- old-fashioned in a way that is intended to be attractively quaint
- endless plain in Tanzania
- Capital city of Egypt
- deviate from a straight line

DOWN:

- Capital city of Russia
- Second largest continent
- One
- a male roe deer
- change in character
- eat dinner
- an organ for hearing
- rubbed out
- the joint between the thigh and the lower leg
- the Christian Eucharist
- each of the two upper limbs of the human body from the shoulder to the hand
- a pub

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.

ALMPOND	SIREN	MINORS
ALLAH	OVEN: AIR	MOOD
DONOR	OYSTER	IVY:INN
FLEET	EROTICA	NESTLE
HAVOC	TIRE: INN	ONTIME

Yesterday's solution

KENYA	M	M	P	A	I	N	E	D					
ARA	U	A	S	I	A	U	T	T	E	R	M		
G	A	I	N	E	F	U	L	T	H	E	M	E	A
A	A	A	I	A	E	R	E	L					
M	A	D	I	M	A	M	A	N	A	S	A	Z	I
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A	S	S	S	R	I	A	R	E	A	T	E	R	
I	S	O	U	R	C	E	S	G	E	E			
O	L	A	F	N	H	E	H	O	T	E	L	X	

ceilznu-unsplash.jpg

According to Auna, the sudden drop in carb intake, which is often the main selling point of these diets, immediately affects our hormones, worsening our mood. Prolonged cut down on carbs and fat will, undoubtedly, reduce serotonin and dopamine levels in your body, linking it instantly to feelings of depression. On the other hand, home-cooked meals with moderate amounts of carbs, fats, and proteins are best for regular meals.

Now, there is no single "magic food" for mental well-being. However, certain dietary choices can provide a significant advantage. Foods rich in tryptophan, generating so-called "happy hormones" are essential. Think nuts, bananas, and even lean red meat.

Dr Auna highlights these options as potential weapons in the fight against primary depression and anxiety.

Omega-3 fatty acids are another indispensable nutrient for mental health. Often found in fatty fish, they have earned a reputation as memory enhancers and may even play a role in reducing symptoms of anxiety.

Vitamins A, C, D, and B complexes all play essential roles in brain function and overall well-being. Vitamin D deficiency, for instance, has been linked to an increased risk of depression.

The key to a healthy mind on a healthy plate lies in personalisation. As Dr Auna emphasises, "What works for one person might not work for another. Factors like body type, metabolism, and even family genetics play a role."

So, the biggest mistake we make here is jumping on a diet plan without consulting a nutritionist.

The message is clear: ditch fad diets based on fleeting trends. True change requires a holistic approach. Discipline, adequate water intake and quality sleep are all essential for a well-functioning mind. Chronic stress can also take a toll on mental health. Incorporating stress-management techniques like meditation or yoga, along with a balanced diet can be beneficial.

"We are often quick to say that children these days have unhealthy food habits," says Auna, "But remember, children are keen observers. We are the ones who should lead by example."

And truer words have not been spoken. If we can make children believe that healthy food is a recipe for an energetic and fun life, only then will they want to follow in our footsteps. Remember, we are what we eat, and a nourished body is the foundation for a nourished mind. The journey towards optimal mental health is unique for everyone and there is no single magic bullet.

While the future of food and mental health holds exciting prospects, the power to make positive changes lies within your hands. By embracing a mindful approach to eating, prioritising a balanced diet, and incorporating healthy lifestyle habits, you can unlock a world of mental clarity, emotional resilience, and overall well-being.

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

BUSINESS

Banks enhance branches' service capability due to internet outage

By Guardian Reporter

COMMERCIAL banks are enhancing the operational capabilities of their physical branches to accommodate the influx of walk-in customers, following the internet outage that has impacted alternative banking channels.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) chairman Theobald Sabi confirmed that the ongoing internet outage has disrupted various banking services delivery to customers.

"We are fully aware of the disruptions that the current internet outage is causing to our banking operations, especially affecting our alternative channels," Sabi said in a statement yesterday.

"Our priority remains ensuring the continuity of banking services to uphold our customers' experience."

Sabi said TBA is actively working with services providers to restore connectivity and return to normal operations as quickly as possible.

"In the interim, banks have enhanced the operational capabilities of their physical branches to accommodate the influx of walk-in customers who were otherwise served via the alternative channels," the TBA chairman explained.

Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda are facing poor internet connectivity due to what services provider say as 'faults' in the under-sea cables that connect the region to the rest of the world through South Africa.

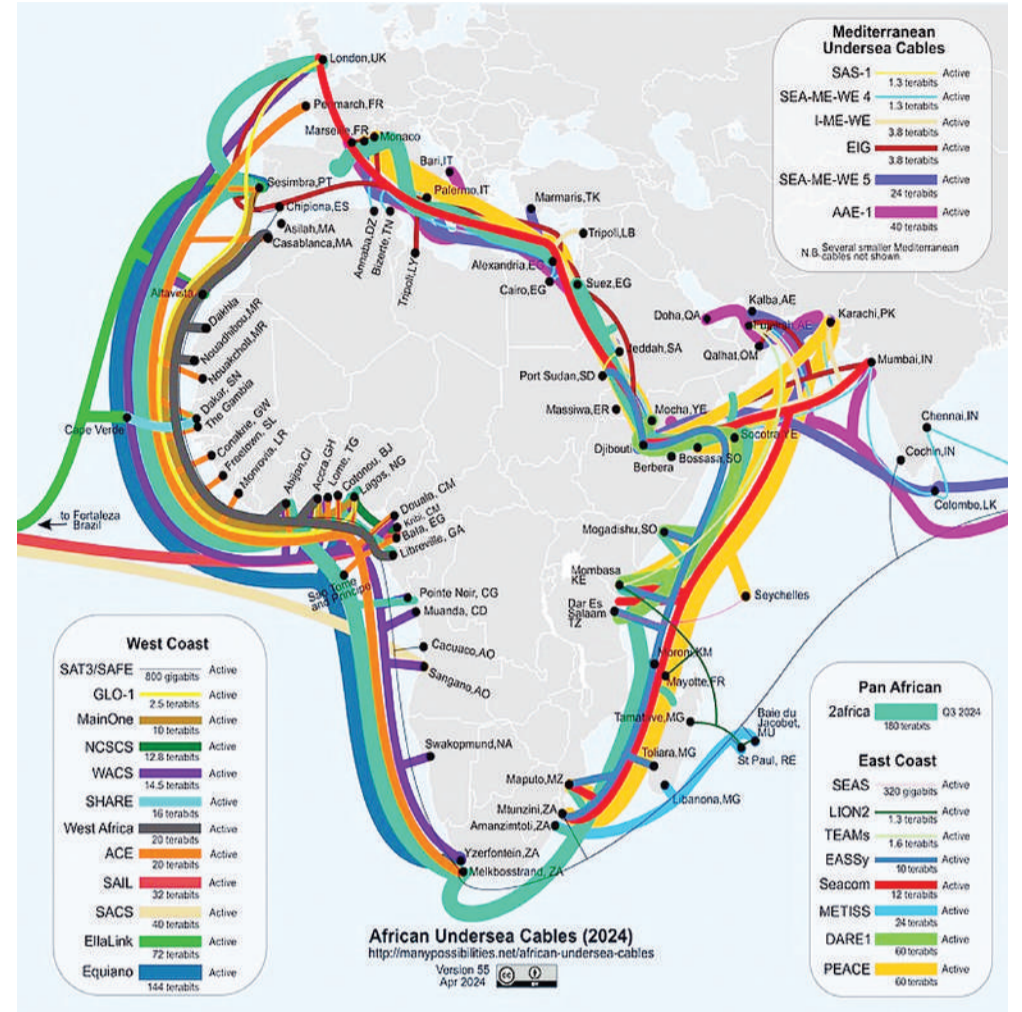
Tanzania is one of the worst-affected countries in the region, with internet traffic falling to 30 percent of expected levels.

Liquid Intelligent Technologies, pan-African technology company confirmed on Monday that one cable that runs alongside the coast of East Africa, known as Eassy, had been cut earlier on Sunday some 45km (28 miles) north of the South African port city of Durban.

EASSY is a 10,000-kilometre submarine cable system along the east and south coasts of Africa.

It is one of the highest-capacity systems serving the continent, linking South Africa with Sudan through landing points in Mozambique, Madagascar, the Comoros, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti.

Submarine cable faults have previously been attributed to human activities like fishing and harbouring in shallow waters near



the seashore, as well as natural hazards such as earthquakes and landslides.

On Sunday, May 12, the ESSAY and Seacom submarine cables again disrupted connectivity to East Africa, impacting a number of countries previously affected by a set of cable cuts, that occurred nearly three months earlier.

On February 24, three submarine cables that run through the Red Sea were damaged: the Seacom/Tata cable, the Asia Africa Europe-1 (AAE-1), and the Europe India Gateway (EIG).

It is believed that the cables were cut by the anchor of the Rubymar, a cargo ship that was damaged by a ballistic missile on February 18.

These cable cuts reportedly impacted countries in East Africa, including Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Mozambique.

As of this writing (May 13), reports have said these cables remain unrepaired.

Liquid Intelligent Technologies, pan-African technology company confirmed on Monday that one cable that runs alongside the coast of East Africa, known as Eassy, had been cut earlier on Sunday some 45km (28 miles) north of the South African port city of Durban

ICT generates US\$ 328m investments for 3 years

By Francis Kajubi

THE government has declared that developments in the information and communication technology (ICT) has prompted the growth of start-ups leading to creation of 89,509 direct and indirect jobs with investments pegged at \$328 million in the past three years.

Nape Nnauye, Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology revealed the figures yesterday in Dar es Salaam when he graced this year's Huawei Tanzania ICT Competition Award Ceremony held at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

He commended Huawei Technologies Tanzania Company Limited for its great contribution to nurturing new talents in the country.

"Huawei has been playing a critical role in the country's ICT sector which testifies China's commitment of long standing bilateral relationship built on strategic cooperation and shared aspirations for sustainable development," said Nnauye.

He said the government is in the process of establishing a new ICT policy which outlines comprehensive guidelines for the sake of sustainable development.

He said as the country joins the journey towards the fifth industrial revolution, ICT must be optimized, adopted and utilized in all major economic activities.

"The youth are at the forefront of driving innovation that addresses society challenges through transformative products and services;

Damon Zhang, Managing Director Huawei Tanzania said that the Huawei ICT competition for university students has been a stepping stone for young graduates to secure jobs in established Tech companies including Huawei.

He said in this year's competition almost 6,000 university students from the local universities have shown interest in

taking part in the ICT competition with over 2,500 of them participating in the ICT Competition in Tanzania. Tanzanian students are participating for the sixth time.

According to him, the competition involved six categories namely Cloud track, Computing track, Network track, Outstanding instructor award, Outstanding woman award and the Global finalists and instructor award.

"The global finalists will join their competitors at the upcoming Global ICT Competition awards to be held this month in Shenzhen. In the last four awards Tanzanian students took back home the second global prize," said Zhang.

Chen Mingjian, Ambassador of China to Tanzania said that China-Tanzania diplomatic and bilateral relations have grown even stronger as the two nations marks 60 years of friendship.

"Our relationship has crossed over different sectors including education as China played a major role in construction of the modern new library at the University of Dar es Salaam;

The Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment & Persons with Disability) Deogratius Ndejemi highlighted the significance of ICT in providing unique opportunities for employment and economic development.

He emphasized on to discuss the necessity of shaping the knowledge and skills of the youth so that they remain relevant in today's rapidly-changing world.

"Through targeted up-skilling initiatives, vocation training programs, internships, and partnerships with industry leaders like Huawei, we are working tirelessly to ensure our youth are equipped with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed," said Ndejemi.

With the competition, students from the University of Dodoma (UDOM) dominated the awards while those from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) won the global finalists and instructor award.

Natural gas consumption increases by 12.8pc

By Guardian Reporter

NATURAL gas consumption went up by 12.8 percent during the fourth quarter of last year ended in December, compared to similar quarter of 2022, fueled by expansion of demands by power generation plants.

Data by Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) show that power generating plants, which consume 85.6 percent of produced natural gas, consumed 18,524.8 million standard cubic feet (mscf) during the fourth quarter of last year, compared to 16,150.8 mscf consumed in Q4, 2022.

During the reported period, gas production amounted to 21,935.6mscf, an increase of 4.7 percent, compared to 20,948.1 mscf produced in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Production by Mnazi Bay fields, which accounts for 49.7 percent of total gas production in Tanzania, increased by 32 percent to 10,896.8 mscf from 8,257.7 mscf, while production at Songo Songo fields, which accounts for 50.3 percent of



Songo Songo natural gas plant

total production slowed by 13 percent to 11,038.8 mscf from 12,690.4 mscf respectively.

The increase in gas production was on account of a rise in demand by Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Ta-

nesco) for the generation of electricity.

Power generated by Tanesco increased to 2.2 million megawatt hour at the end of December last year, of which half is produced from natural gas, an increase from 1.9 million megawatts hour generated during the fourth quarter of 2022.

Natural gas is the cleanest-burning hydrocarbon, producing around half the carbon dioxide (CO₂) and just one tenth of the air pollutants of coal when burnt to generate electricity.

The TPDC statistics shows consumption by industries, which account for 14.2 percent of total natural gas consumption slightly increased by 1.7 percent to 3,064.2 mscf at the end of the fourth quarter of last year from 3,011.9 mscf consumed in Q4, 2022.

Vehicle consumption of natural gas, which account for 0.2 percent of total consumption, more than doubled to 41.9 mscf from 17.1 mscf respectively.

However, households and others consumption declined by 11.6 percent and 1.5 percent to 1.1 mscf and 3 mscf respectively at the end of December 2023, compared to 1.2 mscf and 3 mscf recorded at the end

of December 2022.

Tanzania's natural gas reserves stood at 57.5 trillion cubic feet, of which over 47 trillion cubic feet were to be found in offshore fields. That same year, natural gas production in the country amounted to some 57 billion cubic feet.

Despite of abundant gas reserves, the country accounts for 0.05 percent of global production, making it the world's 14th-largest producer. Plans are underway to construct the US\$45 billion Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant.

Tanzania targets 2028 for the final investment decision that will make it the region's LNG giant, with international oil companies Shell Plc and Norway's Equinor ASA as the lead partners and the participating interest from the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC).

The country has also developed the natural gas policy to provide guidance for the sustainable development and utilization of the natural gas resource and maximization of the benefits therefrom and contribute to the transformation and diversification of the Tanzanian economy"

Production of sunflower seeds for BBT's youth project starts

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

TANZANIA Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA) has entered into a contract with the farmers at the Building Better Tomorrow (BBT)'s Savings and Credit Co-operative (SACCOS) at the Chinangali II seed estate in Dodoma region for the production of at least 300 hectares of sunflower seeds.

BBT is the 2022-2030 initiative designed by the ministry of agriculture in partnership with key institutions, focusing to en-

hance the engagement of youth in the agricultural sector for sustainable and improved livelihoods.

Its further strategic objective is to inspire youth through diverse training, mentoring and coaching. At Chinangali II seed farm, a total of 260 young farmers, including males and females, are teaming-up to produce sunflower seeds.

Speaking during a special tour of the project, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ASA, Dr Sophia Kashenge expressed delight for the way the



Agricultural Seeds Agency CEO Dr. Sophia Kashenge (R) admires sunflowers at the Chinangali II seed estate in Chamwino district, Dodoma Region. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

project is fetching targeting results.

She observed that the development target to further cementing efforts by

the government to heighten production of the edible oil raw crop in the country.

Dr Kashenge unveiled that the state-

owned seeds Agency was keen to work in sync with the private sector in order to maximise production of the improved kernels for the economic cash crop.

"It's very encouraging to see how best the young farmers in this farm have so far managed to grow the sunflower seeds at the needed standards," Dr Kashenge expressed when visited the major farm.

She said the country was facing a tall shortage of sunflower seeds hence more efforts and strategies are needed to be implemented to help curtailing the situation.

"We have decided to cooperate with the farmers under the BBT program to ensure for improved production of sunflower seeds, and we're still mulling over available possibilities to engage more players in the private sector to venture into the side," she expressed.

On his side, the chairman of the Chi-

ningali II BBT's SACCOS, Dismas Massage said the sunflower seeds under the fields are flourishing successive.

He said the farmers engaging into the project are working round the clock to ensure for better results, unveiled that they're expecting to yield at least 100 tons from the project, if all goes well.

In general efforts to improve performance of the sector, the government is working to ensure at least 15,000 tons of improved sunflower seeds are produced by next year, the development which will significantly reduce pressure on cooking oil demand.

Total demand of sunflower seed in the country is around 5,252 MT while availability of improved seeds is less than 400 MT.

ASA has a role of promoting private participation in seed production and multiplication, whereby the Agency provides potential services to private seed companies.

\$2.2bn mobilised for clean cooking energy in Africa

PARIS

CLOSE to 60 countries, as well as companies and development institutions, gather in Paris to channel unprecedented resources towards addressing a challenge affecting huge numbers of women and children

The first ever high-level Summit focused on providing clean cooking access to the more than 1 billion people in Africa who currently lack it has delivered a breakthrough financial commitment for addressing one of the world's most persistent and deep-seated inequalities.

Co-chaired by the leaders of the governments of Tanzania and Norway, and the African Development Bank and the International Energy Agency, the Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa has mobilised US\$2.2

billion in financial pledges from governments and the private sector.

Close to 60 countries are taking part in the Summit, with over 1,000 delegates in attendance. President Emmanuel Macron of France is hosting a special session for heads of state and other leaders at the Elysée Palace on the occasion of the Summit.

The tools for enabling clean cooking access are readily available and affordable - and can have a profound impact on the lives of people across Africa and beyond. But progress in many African countries has significantly lagged what has been seen in other regions in recent decades.

The summit is the first time that such a large amount has been dedicated to clean cooking access at a single gathering, with the potential to make



President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Co-chair of the Paris high-level Summit on cleaner cooking energy

2024 a turning point on an issue that has been overlooked for too long.

The pledges made at the Summit come on top of other recent commitments including that of the African Development Bank at COP28 in Dubai.

Lack of access to clean cooking affects over 2 billion people worldwide. More than half are in Africa, typically cooking over open fires and basic stoves.

Using charcoal, wood, agricultural waste, and animal dung as fuel, they inhale harmful toxic fumes and smoke with dire consequences for health.

It is the second leading cause of premature death in Africa. Women and children account for most of the lives lost, the vast majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Opportunities for education, employment and independence are limited because women instead spend hours each day foraging for rudimentary fuels.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania said: "Ensuring clean cooking access for all in Africa needs adequate, affordable, and sustainable financing for appropriate solutions and innovations; adequate global attention; and smart policies and partnerships. Successfully advancing the clean cooking agenda in Africa would contribute towards protecting the environment, climate, health, and ensuring gender equality. This Summit underscores our commitment to advancing this agenda and providing a framework towards universal adoption of clean cooking fuels and technologies across the continent."

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre of Norway said: "Improving access to clean cooking is about improving health outcomes, reducing emissions, and creating opportunities for economic growth. With today's Summit, we have mobilized much needed support, and built a diverse partnership that together can make a real difference. Norway is a steadfast supporter of clean cooking, and I was pleased to announce today that we are committed to investing approximately US\$50 million in this important cause."

IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said: "This Summit has delivered an emphatic commitment to an issue that has been ignored by too many people, for too long. We still have a long way to go, but the outcome of this Summit, US\$2.2 billion committed, can help support fundamental rights such as health, gender equality and education while also reducing emissions and restoring forests."

African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi A. Adesina said: "At the African Development Bank, we are delighted to play a leading role alongside the International Energy Agency (IEA), Tanzania and Norway, to definitively tackle lack of access to clean cooking, that affects a billion people in Africa. In concert with countries, we will increase our financing for clean cooking to US\$200 million annually over the next decade, while also scaling-up the provision of blended finance for clean cooking through the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA)."

Deputy minister lays stress on expertise development

By Guardian Reporter

THE deputy minister of, Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disability) Patrobasi Katambi has stressed on the importance of manpower development by assuring the right cadre of professionals.

He was speaking yesterday in a graduation ceremony for 10 students from different higher learning institutions who graduated from an 18 months "Absa Leaders in the Making Graduate Engagement" Program aimed at creating an abundance of talent within the bank.

"This program is an exemplary contribution to manpower development in the country, critical for development, especially in the fast-changing workplace environments that demand graduates add on and fine-tune their skills," said Katambi.

The programme is also a blend of learning and development activities aimed at transforming gradu-

ates into high performing and skilled professionals within a short period of time.

"Skill imparting to would-be employees is a long and costly endeavor, yet measured by the graduates we are witnessing today, it is worth the investment," he said

The graduate engagement program aligns with the purpose of establishing this bank, which is Empowering Africa and Tanzania's tomorrow, together one story at a time, accelerated by the bank's new brand promise," said Katambi.

The deputy minister explained that the program also helps to create academy-industry linkages, a crucial issue as employers are always concerned about the employability of graduates due to their entry-level qualifications that sometimes call for on-the-job training.

Absa Bank Tanzania Managing Director Obedi Laiser said, "In our commitment to empower Africa and Tanzania's tomorrow together, one story at a time, we have invest-



The Deputy Minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disability), Patrobasi Katambi (2nd-L), hands over a trophy to Dorendaisy Lwakatara, one of ten students from different higher learning institutions who have recently completed an 18 months trainee programme. Right is Absa Bank Tanzania managing director Obedi Laiser. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ed in this program as a testament to our dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders".

Through 12 months of intensive training and mentorship, facilitated by professionals, the graduates have been equipped with the skills and tools necessary to thrive in their roles and contribute meaningfully to our organization, he said.

Laiser added, 'we believe in the power of individual stories. Each graduate today represents a unique narrative, and we are honored to be a part of their journey'.

"Everyone has their own story, graduates have their stories, our customers have their stories, women, youth, entrepreneurs, business-people, and even our nation has its own stories," Laiser said.

"We also recognize its sustainability and with resources invested and a commitment to ongoing development, we are confident in its ability to shape the future our organization, the industry and the country as a whole."

Government eyes single system of collecting tax

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government is preparing a single tax collection system for businesses to eliminate the nuisance of various institutions during collecting taxes.

Minister of Industry and Trade, Dr. Ashatu Kijaji said this in Mbeya during the meeting between the public and private sectors seeking to find solutions to challenges facing business community in the region.

Dr. Kijaji said that there have been many complaints by business community over increasing nuisances that have contributed to killing businesses and driving away entrepreneurs.

"By establishing a single system to collect taxes, each institution will get its share and thus reduce the inconvenience," said Dr. Kijaji.

She said the governments of Tanzania and the United States have established a chamber of commerce in the United States with the aim of facilitating business cooperation and reducing the chain of transportation of various products.

Likewise, he asked Tanzanians to be honest in business to avoid damaging international markets.

He said the ministry is continuing to negotiate with the Turkish Airlines to start exporting avocados produced in the country to Turkey where there is a large market.

Permanent Secretary, ministry of Industry and Trade, Dr Hashil Abdallah said that the Ministry has been cooperating with various agencies to conduct operations to arrest counterfeit goods imported into the country to protect local industries and the health of the people.

He said that they recently conducted inspections in various regions and found some businessmen selling fake phones and before taking legal measures including confiscation of the products and arresting the perpetrators.

He instructed the institutions responsible for product quality management to continue taking actions against those who violate it in order to promote local industries and protect the safety of citizens.

"We cannot let people import fake products into the country, these products are dangerous to our economy and to the lives of the people, so let me as-

sure you that we will continue to take action because the safety of Tanzanians is in our hands," said Abdallah. At the same time, the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) Mbeya Region, Erick Sichinga said the influx of taxes has been causing misunderstanding between businessmen and government institutions.

She said that some institutions that collect taxes and fees have been working without involving people from the private sector, to get their opinions, a situation that causing conflicts.

She said one of the institutions that have been complained by businessmen and industrial owners is the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) that have been charging them large fees.

The representative of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Victoria Michael said some councils and regions authorities have been introducing various charges that conflict with the Business Environment Improvement Plan (MKUMBI).

She said the aim of the program is to solve the com-

mercial problems faced by traders, but when new fees are introduced in the council, it creates new problems contrary to the aim.

Victoria, who is a policy analyst, said the private sector currently contributes equal share in seeking solutions to improve business environment.

The Executive Officer of TCCIA Songwe Region, Elijah Simbeye advised the government to solve tax problems, including removing the influx of taxes by putting them in one basket to remove the inconvenience to traders.



Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (R) has a word with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr Hashil Abdallah, at a meeting between the public sector and the private sector in Mbeya city. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PM Modi's show of strength in Varanasi; meets NDA partners after filing nomination

VARANASI

AFTER filing the nomination, Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday met the Bharatiya Janata Party's NDA partners outside the collectorate office in Varanasi, as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) showcased its strength.

Prime Minister Modi (pictured) filed his nomination papers from the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh. The Prime Minister is seeking a third consecutive term from the constituency and hoping to win with a record margin.

The PM was seen walking with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president JP Nadda, UP CM Yogi Adityanath, and other NDA leaders.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri asserted that under the leadership of PM Modi in the coming 2-3 years, India's economy will be at number three.

"We are the world's largest democracy. We are also the mother of democracy. Our third term will start on June 4. In the coming 2-3 years, our economy will be at number three," he said.

LJP-Ram Vilas Chief, Chirag Paswan, said that the entire NDA participated in the nomination process of PM Modi, adding that the NDA's strength was its unity.

"Our strength is our unity. Today the entire NDA participated in the nomination process of PM Modi. This unity will help us achieve our target of winning more than 400 seats," he said.

Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan called himself "fortunate" to be an NDA partner.

"I've been fortunate to be an NDA partner. I personally adore and respect Modi ji. Andhra Pradesh is a clean sweep for the NDA," Kalyan said.

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde termed the nomination of PM Modi "historic" and said that he will become the PM for the third time.

"Today is a historic day. PM Modi filed his nomination today. People are excited to vote for PM Modi. All records of 2014, and 2019 will be broken this time and PM will become the PM for the third time... Our mission (of winning 45 seats) in Maharashtra will be successful," Shinde said.

President of Rashtriya Lok Morcha, Uppendra Kushwaha, said that



the NDA will win over 400 seats and in Bihar, the party will win all 40 seats.

NCP leader Praful Patel said that people voting is a symbol of victory for PM Modi and the NDA.

"No matter what Rahul Gandhi or opposition leaders say, the happiness with which people are voting is a symbol of victory for PM Modi and NDA," Patel said.

Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) leader Jitan Ram Manjhi said that it was his "good fortune" that he had come to Varanasi on the auspicious occasion of the nomination of Prime Minister Modi.

"It is our good fortune that we have come here on the auspicious occasion of the nomination of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This time he will achieve the target of crossing 400 and become the Prime Minister of India for the third time," Manjhi said.

Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party chief Pashupati Kumar Paras said that the Prime Minister will win with a huge number of votes from Varanasi.

"Today is a very auspicious day. The Prime Minister will win with a huge number of votes and will take the oath as Prime Minister for the third time," he said.

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale said that the NDA will win more than 400 seats and that the party has great faith in the people.

PM Modi, the sitting MP and BJP's candidate, filed his nomination papers at the district magistrate's office. Varanasi will go in for polling in the seventh and last phase of the Lok Sabha polls on June 1. The counting of the votes will be held on June 4.

Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) president and Assam Minister Atul Bora said that he felt privileged and fortunate to be present during PM Modi's nomination filing.

"We came here last time also. This time the atmosphere is completely different, more and more people are supporting. I feel privileged and fortunate to be present on this occasion today," Bora said.

A total of 25 NDA leaders attended the nomination of the Prime Minister.

The Varanasi seat comprises five Assembly segments, including Rohaniya, Varanasi North, Varanasi South, Varanasi Cantt, and Sevapuri. Varanasi is the stronghold of the Bharatiya Janata Party and PM Modi. This will be the most anticipated contest in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

PM Modi won the constituency with a resounding majority in both the 2014 and 2019 general polls.

This time he is facing Congress candidate Ajay Rai, who is the opposition INDIA bloc's joint nominee against the Prime Minister. **ANI**

Putin to visit China May 16-17 – Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin will pay a state visit to China on the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Kremlin press service said.

"At the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin will pay a state visit to the People's Republic of China on May 16-17, 2024 in his first visit abroad after taking office," its statement reads.

The visit to China will be Putin's first foreign visit after his re-election as the Russian president, and, as Russian Presidential Aide Yuri Ushakov said earlier, will be a "reciprocal



step to the first official visit of President Xi Jinping which took place last year also following his re-election."

According to diplomatic protocol, a state visit is the highest-ranking among international visits. Moscow and Beijing are linked by ties of comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction while Putin and Xi in ad-

dition to their regular working relationship are also friends. Even during the pandemic they continued to talk via video link and the Russian president visited the opening ceremony of Winter Olympics in Beijing in February 2022.

All of this plays an important role in the development of bilateral cooperation. It is not by accident that on March 20-22 last year, merely 10 days after being re-elected for another five-year term, the Chinese president came to Russia on an official visit. In turn, President Putin was the guest of honor at the Belt and Road Forum held in Beijing in October 2023.

Agencies

King Charles hands military title to son William in rare joint appearance

LONDON

BRITAIN'S King Charles handed over a senior military role to his son Prince William at a ceremony on Monday, marking a rare joint appearance for the pair as the king steps up his return to public duties after his cancer diagnosis.

Charles presented William with the title of Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Air Corps, a position the 75-year-old monarch held for 32 years, in front of an Apache helicopter, and watched by service personnel at the Army Flying Museum in southern England.

"He's a very good pilot indeed," Charles said of his son, a former helicopter search and rescue pilot for Britain's Royal Air Force.

The visit was Charles' latest engagement since he returned to work at the end of April, almost three months after Buckingham Palace announced he was being treated for an unspecified type of cancer.



Britain's King Charles III officially hands over the role of Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Air Corps to Prince William, The Prince of Wales in front of an Apache helicopter at the Army Aviation Centre in Middle Wallop, England, on Monday. **AP**

William, 41, had also taken a break from official duties for several weeks in March and April this year, choosing to spend time with and care for his wife after she revealed she was undergoing preventative chemotherapy for cancer. He said on Friday she was "doing well".

At the handover ceremony, Charles said he was saying goodbye with "sadness" but the Army Air Corps would go from "strength to strength" under his son.

"Look after yourselves and I can't tell you how proud it has made me to have been involved with you all this time," Charles said.

The title transfer was announced last August after Charles' accession to the throne. William spent time with the Corps, viewing training, equipment and hearing from soldiers later on Monday.

Agencies

India sends USD 1 million flood relief assistance to Kenya

NEW DELHI

THE Government of India is extending humanitarian assistance to the government of Kenya in the wake of the devastation caused by the floods that have hit the country. 38 out of 47 counties have been affected. An estimated 267 people have died, 188 injured and over 2,80,000 displaced, the Ministry of External Affairs informed in a press release.

A relief consignment is being airlifted today on an Indian Air Force plane and comprises 22 tonnes of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief items (HADR), including tents, sleeping bags/mats, blankets, power

generation sets, ready-to-eat meals, basic sanitary utilities and hygiene kits, to provide immediate succour to the people of Kenya, the release added.

The consignment also contains about 18 tonnes of medical aid, comprising essential life-saving drugs and surgical equipment required for critical care and wound management. It also includes items required for baby food, water purification, menstrual hygiene, and repelling mosquitoes, along with malaria and dengue diagnostic kits, antivenom treatment and several types of testing kits that can be readily deployed on the ground, it also said.

The Indian Naval ship INS

Sumedha had earlier reached Mombasa on May 10 to extend immediate relief, comprising one HADR pallet and two medical pallets.

The assistance to Kenya is a reiteration of our strong and friendly relations with the country, in the spirit of South-South cooperation and our commitment to keeping Africa on top of our priorities, as spelt out by PM Narendra Modi.

India also extends deep sympathies to the government and people of the Republic of Kenya for the damage and destruction caused by the floods, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. **ANI**

Western strikes on Yemen have no excuse – Russia's ambassador to UN

UNITED NATIONS

THE Western coalition's strikes on Yemen violate the UN Charter, can have no excuse and only worsen the escalation of tensions in the Red Sea, Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN Vasily Nebenzya has said.

"The already difficult situation has become even more complicated due to the Western coalition's unjustified strikes on the territory of sovereign Yemen, undertaken in violation of the UN Charter.

Such actions, as well as the ongoing militarization of the water areas near Yemen in general, do not help at all to ensure the safety of shipping in the Red Sea. They merely increase the escalation," he said at a meeting of the UN Security Council.

Nebenzya (pictured) also noted the failure of attempts "to justify this aggression by Security Council Resolution 2722 or by references to the right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter."

"The failed experience of the US-led coalition clearly proves that the use of force against Yemen will not put the situation in the Red Sea on the right track. We need a comprehensive approach taking all regional aspects into account," he stated.

Following the escalation of the conflict in the Gaza Strip, the Ansar Allah movement warned that it would bombard Israeli territory and prevent ships associated with it from passing through the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait as long as the operation in the Palestinian enclave continued. Since last November, the Houthis have attacked dozens of civilian ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

In March, Ansar Allah leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said his supporters intended to attack Israeli-linked ships traveling across the Indian Ocean to the Cape of Good Hope. On May 3, the Houthis announced a "fourth phase of the escalation" and vowed to attack all ships bound for Israeli ports in areas they could reach, including the Mediterranean Sea.

In response to Ansar Allah's actions, the US authorities announced the formation of an international coalition and the launch of Operation Prosperity Guardian to ensure freedom of navigation and ship security in the Red Sea. Subsequently, the armed forces of Britain and the United States began to regularly attack rebel military facilities in various provinces of Yemen. **Agencies**



Trump authorised 'hush money' payment, testifies his former lawyer

NEW YORK

MICHAEL Cohen, the former lawyer of Donald Trump's hush-money case testified against the former US President on Monday in the New York City courtroom and admitted that he "lied and bullied" on behalf of his former boss, Al Jazeera reported.

"It was what was needed in order to accomplish the task," said Cohen, a key prosecution witness in the case on Monday, one of the most widely anticipated days in court since the start of the trial.

Prosecutors have accused Trump of falsifying business records related to hush-money payments made before the 2016 election, which he won.

The prosecution's case hinges on a USD 130,000 payment Cohen made to adult film star Stormy Daniels before the

vote, in an effort to keep her from speaking publicly about a 2006 sexual encounter she says she had with Trump, Al Jazeera reported.

However, the former president has denied any such encounter taking place. He also has rejected the charges against him as "politically motivated."

Trump continues to campaign seeking his return to the White House.

Cohen (57) testified that it was fair to describe his role as being a "fixer" for Trump, testifying that he took care of "whatever he wanted".

Rather than work as a traditional corporate lawyer, Cohen reported directly to Trump and was never part of the general counsel's office for the Trump Organization.

Cohen also told jurors that



Trump was "furious" that Daniels, the adult film star, was "shopping" a story about the

"This is a disaster, a total disaster. Women are going to hate me," Cohen testified. "Guys, they think it's cool, but this is going to be a disaster for the campaign."

This came during a critical moment for Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. An audio recording was leaked from the TV show Access Hollywood, in which Trump bragged about "grabbing women's genitals", according to Al Jazeera.

The tape left the Trump campaign scrambling to contain the damage only weeks before Election Day in November 2016.

Cohen also provided detailed testimony about the hush-money payment that he made to Daniels, which is at the heart of the prosecution's case.

Cohen said Trump urged him to delay sending payment to Daniels's lawyer until after the election, telling him that the story would no longer matter. In October 2016, with Daniels's story about to come out, Cohen said Trump told him to finally pay up.

"He expressed to me: Just do it," Cohen testified, saying Trump advised him to meet Trump Organization executive Allen Weisselberg and figure it out. But, since Weisselberg balked at paying, so Cohen decided to come up with the money himself, Al Jazeera reported.

"Ultimately said, 'OK, I'll pay it,'" Cohen testified adding that Trump promised him, "You'll get the money back."

Cohen testified that -- at a meeting in 2015 with Trump and David Pecker, then-pub-

lisher of the National Enquirer -- the trio discussed using the supermarket tabloid to boost Trump's candidacy while attacking his rivals.

According to the testimony, Trump told Pecker to let Cohen know if he became aware of negative press that might arise, and the three men agreed that Pecker would try to suppress any such stories.

Notably, Trump's defence team is expected to challenge Cohen's credibility during cross-examination later this week and paint him as a "liar who cannot be trusted", according to Al Jazeera.

Cohen pleaded guilty in 2018 to federal charges related to the hush-money payments, as well as for lying to Congress. He was sentenced to three years in prison. **ANI**

Stella Assange, wife of Wikileaks founder, vows to fight on ahead of crucial court date

LONDON

IN a week's time, WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange could be on a flight to the United States at the end of his years-long legal battle to avoid extradition. Whatever happens, his wife Stella vows the fight for his freedom will go on.

At a hearing at London's High Court on Monday which Assange plans to attend, judges are expected to give a ruling on whether to accept U.S. assurances which would pave the way for him to be sent across the Atlantic to face 18 charges, nearly all under the Espionage Act.

"It's impossible to really prepare for this moment. What I do feel is that anything could happen, that Julian could be very close to being freed, or he could be very close to being put on a plane and never seeing freedom ever again," Stella Assange told Reuters in an interview.

The High Court's decision could bring down the curtain on the Australian-born Assange's legal battles in Britain that have been going on for more than 13 years since WikiLeaks burst onto the world stage with details from what was the biggest security breach of its kind in U.S. military history.

If the judges agree to the extradition, only an intervention from Europe could block it.

"Unless the European Court of Hu-



Stella Assange, wife of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, releases a statement outside the Royal Courts of Justice, in London, March 26, 2024. AP

man Rights (ECHR) puts a stop to it, and they're able to act in time, and we're able to file in time - all these 'ifs' - then Julian could be on a military jet to the United States, a week from now," said Stella, who added she had "a lot of faith" in the ECHR.

As the clock ticks down to Monday's hearing, she said her husband was very stressed and had trouble sleeping, while it was a very difficult time for her and their family.

The video player is currently playing an ad.

"My heart is preparing for the win. But I have to keep my head focused on the fact that he's very close to being extradited," she said.

She said she had not told the couple's two children, now aged 7 and 5, about the extradition, saying she would not want to "inflict the uncertainty and the prospect of them losing their father forever".

"All they know is that he shouldn't be in prison and that we're fighting to get him out," said Stella, a lawyer who met her husband when she joined his legal team more

than a decade ago.

Bleak maximum security jail

Assange has spent the last five years in Belmarsh maximum security jail, a bleak modern prison in a remote area of south-east London, where the couple married in a 2022 ceremony attended by just four guests - two of whom were guards.

For the seven years before that, he was holed up in cramped conditions in the Ecuadorean Embassy in central London where he fled to avoid extradition to Sweden over sex offence allegations which were later dropped.

He had always argued that if extradited to Sweden he would then be sent to the United States over WikiLeaks' release of hundreds of thousands of secret documents and diplomatic cables.

After being dragged out of the embassy in 2019 and jailed for skipping bail, the U.S. did begin extradition proceedings.

The US authorities say his actions were reckless, damaged, national security, and endangered the lives of agents.

His many supporters say the prosecution is a travesty, an assault on journalism and free speech, and revenge for causing embarrassment to Western governments.

Stella would not be drawn on U.S. reports that a plea bargain deal was possible, simply saying the U.S. should drop the prosecution. Should he lose on Monday, her fight, as it has for the last decade, will continue.

"I'll do whatever I can, and our family is going to fight for him until he's free."

UK facing its 'most dangerous' time, Sunak says

LONDON

THE United Kingdom's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak warned voters on Monday about the growing dangers facing the country as he tried to persuade them to support him and his ruling Conservative Party at the next general election.



Sunak (pictured), who pollsters predict faces a heavy defeat in the election that must be held before Jan 28, attempted to convince people he would cope better than his rival, Keir Starmer, during the troubled years to come.

In a speech aimed at taking back momentum after the Conservative Party was trounced in local government elections earlier this month by Starmer's Labour Party, Sunak said the UK "stands at a crossroads", with "some of the most dangerous years" "it has ever faced laying ahead."

"I feel a profound sense of urgency because more will change in the next five years than in the last 30," he said. "I'm convinced that the next few years will be some of the most dangerous, yet most transformational, our country has ever known."

Pointing to threats from terrorism, irregular immigration, artificial intelligence, and what he sees as rival states, Sunak said he can best navigate the difficult decisions ahead.

Sunak added that "over the next few years" the UK's democracy, its economy, and its society will face "the hardest questions of war and peace". "Almost every aspect of our lives is going to change," he said. "How we act in the face of these changes, not only to keep people safe and secure but to realize the opportunities too, will determine whether or not Britain will succeed in the years to come."

With the party as far as 30 points behind the Labour Party in opinion polls and with at least 64 Conservative Party lawmakers choosing to stand down, rather than contest the next election, the party faces an uphill battle to secure reelection.

Foreign Secretary David Cameron has also been on the offensive, telling Sky News on Sunday the party has delivered on one of its key promises, by taking the economy out of recession during the first quarter, when it expanded by 0.6 percent.

But with two of Sunak's lawmakers having defected to the Labour Party in recent weeks, Starmer seems to be firmly on the front foot and he responded by saying: "Be in no doubt that this is the key choice at the next election."

Agencies

African countries urged to improve connectivity to boost tourism

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICAN countries should work together to improve air connectivity, which would boost tourism and economic growth, South African Minister of Tourism Patricia de Lille said on Monday.

De Lille made the remarks on Monday evening during the African Tourism Ministers Dialogue in South Africa's port city of Durban.

She said Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) will spend 21.7 billion rand (about 1.18 billion

U.S. dollars) to develop airport infrastructure in South Africa.

"The rest of the world is poised to make travel more accessible, and essential source markets like China and India are set to increase; we must partner to make it easier to travel to and in Africa," said de Lille.

"Now is the time to rethink development strategies in the tourism sector and strengthen regional integration and cooperation. We have to encourage strategic public-private partnerships, promote investment in the tourism sector regionally, and refocus efforts to implement impact-

ful projects." She urged African tourism ministers to find concrete solutions to create opportunities to increase air connectivity in Africa.

Africa should share best practices and improve connectivity to encourage more tourists to visit Africa by making travel easy and comfortable, de Lille said.

"It is simply that we want more tourists to travel and to make it easier for tourists to travel on the African continent. It is also essential to examine how Africa can leap ahead using technological advances like digital booking platforms, biometric security systems, and sustainable aviation

fuels."

The African Tourism Ministers Dialogue was attended by African tourism ministers, members of the diplomatic community, and airlines from Asia, Africa, and Europe, who also shared their views on improving air connectivity.

The meeting is part of Africa's Travel Indaba, which started on Monday and will end on Wednesday.

According to the International Air Transport Association's January 2024 report globally, in 2023, air traffic was at 94.1 percent of pre-pandemic levels.

Xinhua

Raising questions, UN agency cuts in half the number of women, children killed in Gaza

TEL AVIV

A United Nations agency tracking Gaza's casualty figures reduced by half the number of women and children killed in the Strip since October 7, raising questions about conflict's true death toll.

An infographic published by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on May 8 indicated that 4,959 women and 7,797 children have been killed in Gaza since October 7.

That was half the number indicated on a May 6 infographic which reported 9,500 women and 14,500 children had been killed.

Both infographics sourced the figures to "Gaza HMO" or Health Ministry officials. Gaza's Health Ministry is run by the Hamas terror group.

OCHA did not offer any explanation for the dramatic revision.

OCHA's figures are widely sourced by international leaders, diplomats, the media and humanitarian aid organizations.

Israel's war against Hamas is now in its eighth month and the casualty figures have not been independently verified.

Israelis have questioned the numbers, pointing out that the Gaza Health Ministry is run by Hamas, and has a record from previous conflicts of blurring distinctions between civilian and combatant casualties, or attributing natural deaths to Israeli operations.

More recently, critics have raised issues with statistical anomalies, pointing out that Hamas's claim that 70 per cent of the victims are women and children is statistically impossible.

On April 6, the Hamas-run Health Ministry announced on its Telegram channel that it

had "incomplete" data on one-third of the casualties. In response, experts told The Press Service of Israel that Hamas's announcement needed to be treated with skepticism, and that the true number of Palestinian civilians killed in the conflict may never be known.

"The idea in psychological warfare is to get the enemy always on the worrying side, to shake its confidence and power. The Palestinians have lied all throughout the conflict with Israel. They lie about the number of Palestinians living in the West Bank, they lie about the Palestinians living in Gaza, they lie as a system," Dr. Ron Schleifer told TPS-IL at the time.

Schleifer, who teaches communications at Ariel University said, "If you don't want to call them liars, they're inconsistent and dubious. But the idea is the same. You inflate your numbers

depending on what image you want. You can lie to show weakness when weakness is the winning argument. That's when they inflate the numbers of people killed. The inflated death toll is an element of psychological warfare."

The revised figures also raise questions about OCHA. On Wednesday, TPS-IL exposed how the agency is republishing Hamas propaganda through reports written by Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, whose current and former directors have been identified as Hamas operatives.

The reports, seen by TPS-IL accuse Israel of "genocide," organ theft, using banned thermal weapons, burying Palestinians in mass graves, massacring Palestinians in Gaza's Shifa Hospital, deliberately using Palestinians as human shields, and sexually assaulting Palestinian women.

These reports are published on Relief Web, an information portal overseen by OCHA and widely used by the international humanitarian community.

At least 1,200 people were killed and 240 Israelis and foreigners were taken hostage in Hamas's attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border on October 7. Around 30 of the remaining 132 hostages are believed dead.

ANI



The idea in psychological warfare is to get the enemy always on the worrying side, to shake its confidence and power

Xinhua

Monkeypox case detected in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

THE South African Minister of Health Joe Phaahla on Monday urged the public to be vigilant as the country has reported a laboratory-confirmed case of monkeypox disease, also known as Mpox.

The National Department of Health headed by Phaahla said the case involves a 35-year-old male, who resides in the Gauteng province and tested positive on May 9, 2024.

The patient had no recent history of traveling. The case was first tested by Lancet Laboratory, one of the leading pathology laboratories in the country, and then confirmed by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), which then alerted the department.

"We urge the public to seek treatment as soon as they see symptoms of monkeypox," health department spokesperson Foster Mhale told Xinhua.

According to the department, Mpox is a rare viral infectious disease in humans caused by the monkeypox virus (MPXV).

Xinhua

Persistent Brazil floods raise specter of climate migration

MUCUM

DEVASTATING and ongoing flooding in southern Brazil is forcing some of the half million displaced residents to consider uprooting their lives from inundated towns to rebuild on higher ground.

Two weeks after the onset of torrential rains, the Guaiba River running by state capital Porto Alegre is rising again, having passed the all-time high. In the state of Rio Grande do Sul, the streets of dozens of towns have turned into slow-moving rivers.

Just in the area around Porto Alegre, where four rivers converge to form the Guaiba River, researchers estimate nearly 3,800 square km were flooded. That is more than the urban footprint of the Washington

DC metro area, which includes 10 counties in two adjacent states.

With hundreds of thousands of families fleeing the floods, the disaster - which has killed at least 147 people, with 127 still missing - could touch off one of Brazil's biggest cases of climate migration in recent history.

Southern Brazil's location at the confluence of tropical and polar currents has fed periods of increasingly intense drought and rains due to climate change, according to scientists.

The record devastation in Rio Grande do Sul follows floods in the second half of last year, leading many of the 538,000 people now displaced from their homes to consider more extreme adaptations.

For the third time in seven months, businessman Cas-



Volunteers transport donated supplies through a flooded street after heavy rains in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil, on Sunday. AP

siano Baldasso had to remove wheelbarrows of mud from his home in Mucum, a small town 150 km upriver from Porto

Alegre, only to see the waters rise again. He says he has had enough

"I have no idea where I'm go-

ing, but it will be somewhere far from the river, where our lives will not be at risk," Baldasso told Reuters as he removed another cart of mud from inside the house.

Mayor Mateus Trojan said many of Mucum's 5,000 residents will have to relocate. His office is planning to rebuild 40 percent of the town elsewhere.

Baldasso had already saved his family in September by climbing onto the roof of their two-story house until they were rescued by the fire brigade in the middle of the night.

During that flood, just a few blocks away, Maria Marlene Venancio's house was swept away and she lost everything. This month, the rented house she had moved to was flooded 1.5 meters deep. She fears it is time to leave Mucum.

"I think the town will become a river one day, and it will be difficult for us to live here. People with money are all leaving," she said.

Governor Eduardo Leite has said initial calculations show Rio Grande do Sul will need at least 19 billion reais (\$3.7 billion) to rebuild from the disaster. The federal government has offered to freeze 11 billion reais of debt payments for three years.

On the streets of Mucum and other nearby towns, the slowly receding waters leave desolate scenes of furniture, clothing and appliances piled up in front of the houses.

Maria Ines Silverio has returned to her house, but she keeps her clothes in plastic bags for fear of the river rising again. She has a 30-year mort-

gage and says she cannot afford to leave.

"When we bought the house, this wasn't a flooded area. Now it is, and the river is going to rise more and more," she said.

Environmental experts warn that there is no alternative for some towns in the state but to relocate entire neighborhoods.

"We need to move urban infrastructure away from high-risk environments and return space to the rivers ... so they no longer impact cities with such magnitude," said ecologist Marcelo Dutra, professor at the Rio Grande Federal University.

"We can't oppose nature. We have to wake up to this force that is telling us we need to adapt and respect nature," he said.

Agencies

SPORT



Some of The Sparks players in a group picture.

Zanzibar Sparks return from France tomorrow

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Zanzibar women's football team, The Sparks, returns tomorrow from France where they competed at the Mondial Pupilles Plomelin Youth Tournament.

The team is under Women Empowerment Zanzibar (WEZA) and Petra Karume, who is the executive director and co-founder of the organization, described the tournament in France as very important to the development of women's football in Zanzibar.

She said despite being the first time for The Sparks team to compete at the international tournament they did well, adding that the team improved significantly in their last three matches.

"It was the first time that the Sparks were competing at an international tournament, but they did tremendously well. They got two trophies of Best Efforts and the most disciplined team also our player Felista Khakis Moh'd was named the player of the tournament," she said.

She said while in France, the Sparks players had a three-day educational and cultural excursion and study tour to Paris which offered them numerous significant benefits which include global exposure.

"By competing in an international tournament, the girls will have the opportunity to showcase their skills on an international stage, gaining exposure to different playing styles and strategies from teams around the world. This exposure can be invaluable for their personal growth as athletes.

"The educational and cultural excursion to Paris provides a unique opportunity for cultural exchange. Interacting with individuals from different backgrounds and experiencing new cultures fosters open-mindedness, tolerance, and a broader worldview.

"It also gave them educational opportunities by visiting iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel

Tower and Versailles Castle. It provided them insights into history, architecture, and art, complementing their academic knowledge with real-world experiences," she said.

Karume further said the France tournament was inspiration and motivation as seeing landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and visiting prestigious venues such as the Olympic Museum and professional sports training centers inspired and motivated the girls to pursue their athletic dreams.

"It also helped the players to build connections with coaches, trainers, and fellow athletes. This opened doors to future collaborations, mentorship, and potential pathways for advancement in sports. It was also for personal development as traveling to a foreign country and navigating new experiences promotes personal development and independence.

"The girls learned valuable life skills such as problem-solving, adaptability, and resilience, which are transferrable to various aspects of their lives and also more importantly was promotion of gender equality as it provided them with equal opportunities to excel in sports and access international platforms. It challenges stereotypes and empowers girls to break barriers, paving the way for greater gender inclusivity in sports," she added.

The co-founder further said the combination of sports participation and cultural immersion in an international setting offers a holistic learning experience that will have a profound and lasting impact on the girls from Zanzibar, fostering their personal, academic, and athletic development.

"Despite the encountering setbacks on the field, our Zanzibar Sparks girls' football team has earned considerable respect from other teams for their accomplishments. They have been greeted with kindness, camaraderie, and mutual support," she said

“

The girls learned valuable life skills such as problem-solving, adaptability, and resilience, which are transferrable to various aspects of their lives and also more importantly was promotion of gender equality as it provided them with equal opportunities to excel in sports and access international platforms. It challenges stereotypes and empowers girls to break barriers, paving the way for greater gender inclusivity in sports

SPORTS

Mtibwa Sugar and Zuberi Katwila in deep trouble

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE fight for survival in the NBC Premier League has taken several twists and turns in recent months. After the round 26 and 27's results, Mtibwa Sugar finds themselves in 16th place in the table, four points behind Tabora United.

The relegation is far from cut and dry, but many believe that this could be the season that ends Mtibwa Sugar's 27-year presence in the Tanzanian top flight.

Only Simba and Young Africans have spent more consecutive years in the top tier of the Tanzanian game than the Millers from Turiani.

Mtibwa Sugar finished in 10th place in the NBC Premier League last season, just two positions above the relegation zone.

They were four points clear of Mbeya City, who were relegated through the playoffs by championship side Mashujaa.

Mtibwa Sugar picked up six points from their final two matches of the 2022/23 campaign to secure their place in the top flight under the guidance of caretaker coach Awadh Juma.

Things were expected to improve at the beginning of the new season after making wholesale changes to the playing squad including hiring a new coach Habib Kondo.

It seems that Mtibwa Sugar's fate of returning to the Championship is gradually becoming more certain as their struggle in the NBC Premier League have persisted for a fourth season in a row.

Four defeats in a row at the business end of the season deepened Mtibwa Sugar predicament leaving them a sure candidate for direct relegation.

With three matches remaining, Mtibwa Sugar find themselves nine points from safety, having won only five of their 27 encounters this season.

On Monday afternoon, their hopes took another major blow when they lost 3-1 to champions

Young Africans. This disappointing outcome only added to their struggles in what has been a dismal 2023/24 season.

With only 20 points to show for their efforts and with just three games left to play, Mtibwa Sugar find themselves firmly anchored to the bottom of the league (16th) standings, a position underscored by their staggering 17 defeats and just five victories.

Their situation becomes more precarious as they trail 12th-placed Dodoma Jiji by nine points, with the latter having a game in hand against Simba tomorrow evening.

The team from Turiani has big factors against them in that their remaining three fixtures look really difficult on paper. The other issue is that the Millers' goal difference is the worst in the league.

It all feels like everything is against Zuberi Katwila and his team. With games against Namungo, Mashujaa and Mtibwa Sugar, they have to grind out wins and hope other results go their way.

I fail to see how Mtibwa Sugar can get out of this mess. The fixtures are certainly against the out-of-form team beating the drop to the Championship.

On paper, they probably have one game left all season that they might be favourites for and that is against a Namungo side that is yet to confirm safety.

Namungo are just one point from the dotted line. With only five points separating Mashujaa who occupy the last playoff spot, as many as seven sides are still in danger of falling into the relegation



Mtibwa Sugar head coach Zuberi Katwila (Agence)

playoffs.

Even their most optimistic fans do not seem confident that their team can pick up enough points to avoid the dreaded drop down to the Championship.

While the odds may seem daunting, there's still a glimmer of hope for Mtibwa Sugar to secure safety through the promotion/relegation playoffs.

This scenario hinges on Tabora United, Geita Gold and Mashujaa losing all their remaining matches while the Morogoro side will need to collect nine points from their final three fixtures, which would propel them into the playoffs.

In this playoff format, the 14th-placed team squares off against the 13th in a two-legged home and away tie. The aggregate retains topflight status with the loser facing another fighting chance with a two-legged tie against and a team from the Championship.

No doubt there are still plenty of twists and turns left in the fight for Premier League survival this season. At the

moment though, things do not look great for the Turiani outfit.

Though nothing is set in stone, it is a tough ask for anyone to back Mtibwa Sugar to escape the drop this season. Mtibwa Sugar and head coach Zuberi Katwila are indeed in deep trouble.

Katwila is facing the unwanted record of a second relegation in three years. He was in charge when Ihefu were relegated to the Championship in the 2020/21 season.

Jayson Tatum's 33 points help Celtics down short-handed Cavaliers 109-102 to take 3-1 lead in semis

CLEVELAND

EVEN when it's supposed to be somewhat easy, the Boston Celtics have a weird way of making things hard.

On Monday night, they nearly stumbled against an overmatched Cleveland team.

Jayson Tatum scored 33 points with LeBron James watching from a courtside seat and the Celtics beat the severely short-handed Cavaliers 109-102 in Game 4 to take a commanding 3-1 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Jaylen Brown added 27 for the Celtics, who can close out Cleveland with a win in

Game 5 on Wednesday night at home.

"It took us a little while to get going, and stop ball watching and play some basketball," Brown said.

Game 6, if necessary, would be back at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse on Friday.

The Cavs got pushed to the brink of elimination with two top players in street clothes on the bench, as Donovan Mitchell (calf) and Jarrett Allen (ribs) sat out with injuries. Their status going forward is uncertain.

It was nothing new for a Cleveland team that dealt with injuries all season, but it was a big ask for the Cavs to try and

survive without Mitchell, their All-Star guard who has carried the offensive load throughout the postseason, or Allen, their leading rebounder.

Still, the Cavs gave the top-seeded Celtics, who have shown a tendency to relax at the wrong time, all they could handle.

"They laid it all out there," Cleveland coach J.B. Bickerstaff said of his team. "They gave us everything that they had. They competed at a high level. They played the game properly. I'm proud of the guys, the way they went out and scrapped and competed and gave ourselves a chance."

Tatum had his second straight strong performance, adding 11 rebounds and five assists. Jrue Holiday had 16 points for Boston, which improved to 4-0 away from home in the postseason.

"There's no better feeling than winning a playoff game on the road," Tatum said. "Tough environment and the crowd was great. Now, it's time to go back to Boston and play well in front of our fans and give them something to cheer for."

Darius Garland scored 30 and Evan Mobley and Caris LeVert 19 apiece for the Cavs, who stayed connected with the Celtics and only trailed by

10 going into the fourth.

Boston went up 15 on a jumper by Brown, but Cleveland responded with a 10-2 run as Garland and Dean Wade made 3-pointers.

The Cavs were still within 102-97 when Max Strus missed a 3-pointer that would have put immense pressure on the Celtics, but Brown buried a 3 – after colliding with official Tyler Ford – with 1:08 left to give Boston some breathing room.

Brown said Ford nearly cost the Celtics dearly by getting in his way.

"I thought he had an effect on the play," Brown said. "You've got to be more aware.

But the shot went in, so it's a non-story."

The Cavs felt the discrepancy at the free-throw line – Boston attempted 24 free throws to Cleveland's seven – was a major element.

"That's ridiculous," Garland said. "It's tough to get just seven free throws. I know how many times I get hit and how many times my teammates get hit. It's tough."

James, who played 11 seasons in two separate stints for Cleveland, was back in his former home arena – a visit certain to drive speculation about where he might play next.

The NBA's career scoring

leader can opt out of his contract with the Los Angeles Lakers this summer, and James has said he's not made any firm decisions.

The 39-year-old sat across from Boston's bench in between his wife, Savannah, and agent Rich Paul. James got a monstrous ovation from Cleveland's crowd when he was shown on the scoreboard during a timeout in the first quarter.

Despite dealing with a left knee injury for months, Mitchell averaged 29.6 points in the first 10 playoff games – scoring 50 in a Game 6 loss to Orlando.

AP exclusive: Maradona heirs say his Golden Ball trophy was stolen. They want to stop its auction

PARIS

DIEGO Maradona's heirs will launch a lawsuit to try and stop the auction of a trophy he was awarded after the 1986 World Cup won by Argentina, their lawyer told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The Golden Ball trophy rewarding the best player of the tournament had been missing for decades after it disappeared in unclear circumstances and only recently resurfaced. It is set to be auctioned in Paris next month, the Aguttes auction house said last week.

Maradona, who died in 2020 at age 60, captained Argentina in its 3-2 win over West Germany in the 1986 final in Mexico City. Before that were the "Hand of God" goal and the "Goal of the Century" in a 2-1 win over England in the quarter-finals.

Maradona's heirs say the trophy was stolen and claim the current owner cannot be entitled to sell it.

Gilles Moreu, a lawyer working with Paradox Lawyers firm, said he will throw an urgent request to the president of the Nanterre judicial court near Paris to have the Golden Ball withdrawn from the auction. He told the AP he will also request a judicial sequestration of the trophy and file a complaint for theft and concealed theft.

Aguttes said the trophy reappeared in 2016 among other lots that were acquired from a private collection at auction in Paris.

Maradona received the award in 1986 at a ceremony at the Lido cabaret on the Champs-Élysées. It subsequently disappeared, giving rise to rumors.

Some say it was lost during a poker game or sold to pay off debts, Aguttes said. Others say Maradona stored it in a safe in a Naples bank

that was robbed by local gangsters in 1989, when he played in the Italian league. Maradona's heirs believe it was stolen from the bank.

Moreu, who represents two daughters of Maradona, say the heirs found out only recently that the trophy had been stolen. According to the lawyer, Maradona's family wants the sale to be banned because it believes the Golden Ball belongs to them.

Moreu said he was contacted by an Argentine colleague after the two daughters discussed the matter with the other heirs, who gave their approval to the legal action.

The auction house's argument is the person who bought the trophy years ago was not aware it had been stolen.

"If the owner of an object can claim ownership under French law, it is on the obvious condition that his or her good faith cannot be called into question," the Paradox Lawyers firm said in a statement to the AP. "This cannot be the case for the owner of a trophy that was famously stolen from Diego Maradona and whose heirs can legally claim ownership."

Moreu said, "It doesn't appear that the seller contacted Diego, which wasn't that complicated."

The auction house said it expects the trophy "to fetch millions due to its uniqueness."

Bidders will be asked to make a deposit of 150,000 euros (\$161,000) to participate in the June 6 auction.

The Hand of God goal came when Maradona punched the ball into England's net. Four minutes later, he weaved through England's midfield and defense and past goalkeeper Peter Shilton for what FIFA later declared the greatest goal in World Cup history.

Duran Duran: Substitute bags two late goals in Villa thriller with Liverpool

BIRMINGHAM,

SUBSTITUTE Jhon Duran was a late savior for Aston Villa on Monday, scoring twice in the last five minutes against Liverpool to grab a remarkable 3-3 home draw and edge his team closer to next year's Champions League.

Watched by Villa fan Tom Hanks, who was in the ground in a claret tracksuit top, Villa played its part in a thrilling match in front of a packed house that Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp described as "rocking."

A win would have confirmed a place in the English Premier League top four for Unai Emery's side and a place in the European Cup for the first time since 1983.

But the home side went behind in the second minute with a bizarre own goal from goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, and although Youri Tielemans equalized soon after, goals from Cody Gakpo and Jarell Quansah put Liverpool in the driving seat.

Until Duran's appearance after 79 minutes.

The Colombian scored in the 85th and 88th, the second an astonishing lob executed on the run that sent Villa and its supporters wild with joy.

"We created chances but we didn't score," Tielemans told broadcaster Sky Sports. "We got the draw and fought right until the end and that's the most important thing. Unfortunately, we couldn't score more, we felt like we deserved more in the first half. It's unlucky but we'll take the draw."

Villa remained in fourth place, five points ahead of Tottenham.

Villa has one game left to play and



Liverpool's Jarell Quansah scores their side's third goal of the game during the English Premier League soccer match between Aston Villa and Liverpool at the Villa Park stadium in Birmingham, England, Monday, May 13, 2024. AP

Tottenham has two, starting with Tuesday night's visit by league leader Manchester City.

The top four qualify for the Champions League. Liverpool was third, 14 points clear of Villa.

The atmosphere was electric at kickoff but the power was quickly sapped for the home side when Liverpool had the ball in the back of the net after just 62 seconds. Harvey Elliott's cross from the right took a deflection and the wrong-footed Martinez fumbled the ball into his own net.

It took the home side just 15 min-

utes to recover. Ollie Watkins did well on the left flank and cut the ball back for the unmarked Youri Tielemans to slam home from around 16 meters.

Liverpool regained the lead but only after a lengthy VAR review. Luiz Diaz fed Joe Gomez on the overlap and his low ball across goal was turned in by Cody Gakpo.

Jarell Quansah made it three early in the second half when he headed home a cross from Elliott to bag his first league goal.

And then it was Duran Duran when the Colombian slotted home from just outside the box and then scored that

astonishing lob.

"Jhon Duran is a special player," Emery said on Sky Sports. "He was very clinical and today was important for him."

The Aston Villa players will tune into Tuesday's Spurs-Man City game. Anything other than a Spurs win means Villa are into the Champions League.

"There's some of us that have never been close to the Champions League in our life," Villa captain John McGinn said. "We'll have our Man City tops on tomorrow."

The absurd truth behind Arsenal's title challenge and why Mikel Arteta has already overachieved

By Miguel Delaney

THE contrast said almost as much as the numbers on the table. In the final minutes of Arsenal's win at Manchester United, Mikel Arteta was "nervous". How couldn't he be? This was the title. This was the last chance. It was not a pretty victory, as the manager also admitted, but that's almost predictable at this point. You don't go as deep into a title race like this without enduring wins that are just about getting through it. That ensured the feeling in the dressing room afterwards was one of relief, and release.

"They're all buzzing in there," Arteta said. "We really wanted to live the moment." The squad had said as much in the dressing room before the game, that they had to "earn it".

It now marks a contrast with virtually every Arsenal season in this generation. This squad go to the last day of the season with the title still alive.

They haven't been so close since 2004 when they, of course, won it, but even that wasn't this. That's because Arsene Wenger's invincibles were so good they inevitably had it wrapped up early. This is something else, that Arsenal haven't felt since 1998-99. Arteta's squad have actually surpassed that team 25 years ago and not just because they have already won eight more points with a game to go. That Arsenal lost their penultimate game of the league, away to Leeds United, to decisively cede the advantage to Manchester United.

This Arsenal beat United in their second-last fixture, to put pressure back on Manchester City for Tuesday at Tottenham Hotspur. It is still the Gunners needing a favour as they go up against a treble team, sure, but from a totally different vantage point.

It also makes the next few days a different experience for almost everyone at the club. There are few left who will remember that week in 1998-99 - or indeed 1988-89 - but they will doubtless be consulted. The old stories are perfect to alleviate the pressure.

That is one thing that Arteta has been conscious of throughout this challenge. As suffocating as a week like this can feel, the Spaniard wants his players to enjoy it, to feel it. This is what they play for, to be in conten-



Mikel Arteta

tion when it matters.

"That's part of our journey, to have a big chance of winning the Premier League," he explained. "We wanted to experience that. We're going to have a normal preparation week to try to be in the best space to compete and beat Everton and then live the occasion as well."

That has also been the message throughout this title challenge, going right back to January - to play, to relish it.

It was one reason Arteta beamed about his pride for the team. There is of course another element. One that the Arsenal manager is unlikely to ever really address given that he was Manchester City's assistant manager before this.

That is the sense that Arsenal are up against the near-impossible. It is now likely that Arteta's side will get to 89 points and that still won't be enough to win the title. There was a hint of defiance about that subject in the manag-

er's comments after the United victory.

He spoke of how they had "no margin for error since January - we have to keep winning and winning and winning in any context". That's pretty much what they have managed, bar one defeat to Aston Villa. In the 17 games since the turn of the year, Arsenal have won 15 and drawn one, a draw at the Etihad that so few have managed.

They have had to be close to perfect and pretty much have been. That run has contributed to 27 league wins this season, which is a club record. Arteta was keen to bring that up, too.

"It's the most in the history of this club in 130 years," the manager said. "That's not progress, that's history." This was a line that stood out in the manager's post-game press conference, and there's undeniably a significant element of self-service to it.

There's also a deeper truth. Arteta is right that it's history, but not in the way people think. Put bluntly, and as Liver-

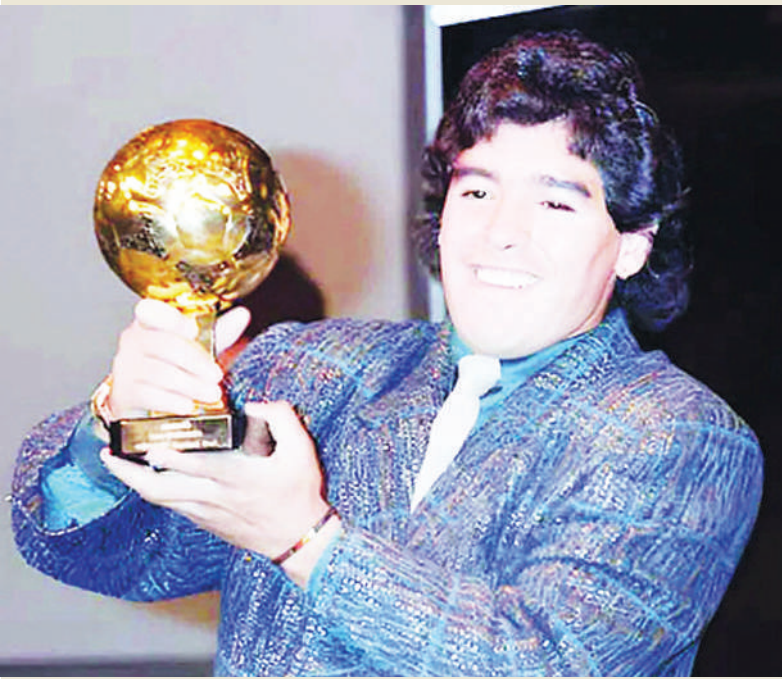
pool repeatedly found, it is absurd that a team can get that many wins and that many points and not win the title.

It has been a growing issue, stemming from the Premier League's financial disparity, for over two decades but City have taken it to extremes. This has been the level required. Even if Pep Guardiola's side won't get to the 100, 98 or 93-point marks of previous title victories, the challenge of just keeping up with them in any context is immense. Teams really have to push themselves and it is exceptionally difficult to sustain, as Jurgen Klopp has found.

The German's departure also touches on how this is a point worth stressing: to just keep up with City until the final day is a massive achievement. That is essentially what Arteta was getting at. People will snipe, but it's true.

Others will point to that defeat against Aston Villa or the expenditure as reasons they should have won this title but they're wrong. One defeat in the final 17 games shouldn't knock a team out of contention in this way. Such setbacks should be a normal part of the run-in, that actually enrich the football. Twists and turns and responses are usually what make title races.

It has already been remarked that, for all the pace of this run-in, it hasn't so far felt that entertaining. That is because of the knowledge that City are highly unlikely to slip up. They're too good. There's too much long-term power and strength. Perhaps the greatest manager of all time has been put in almost perfect conditions, with little expense spared, so he has this team almost exactly as he wants it. That is the scale that Abu Dhabi's City have been able to work to.



Champions League final to be refereed by Slavko Vin i of Slovenia

NYON, Switzerland

SLOVENIAN referee Slavko Vin i will officiate the Champions League final between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund, UEFA said Monday.

The 44-year-old Vin i, who also worked the 2022 Europa League final when Eintracht Frankfurt beat Rangers, will be in charge of the June 1 game at Wembley Stadium.

It continues a good run for Slovenian referees in major European games.

This will be the fourth UEFA final handled by a Slovenian referee since Damir Skomina was picked for the 2017 Europa League title game. Dutch and Spanish referees are next best with three men's finals in that time.

Also Monday, UEFA picked English referee Rebecca Welch for the Women's Champions League final, István Kovács of Romania for the Europa League final and Artur Soares Dias of Portugal for the Europa Conference League final.

Vin i has handled five Champions League games this season without awarding a penalty kick or showing a red card. Among his games was Dortmund's 4-2 win over Atletico Madrid in the second leg of the quarter-finals.

He also refereed two games at the 2022 World Cup, including eventual winner Argentina's 2-1 loss in its opening match against Saudi Arabia.

Kovács also will work his second European final. He refereed the inaugural Europa Conference League final in 2022 when Roma beat Feyenoord.

All three men picked Monday are on UEFA's team of match officials for the European Championship that starts June 14 in Germany.

The Europa League final between Bayer Leverkusen and Atalanta is in Dublin on May 22.

The Women's Champions League final between defending champion Barcelona and Lyon is on May 25 in Bilbao, Spain.

The Fiorentina vs. Olympiakos final of the Europa Conference League is in Athens on May 29.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Duran Duran: Substitute bags two late goals in Villa thriller with Liverpool

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Kagera Sugar's attacker, Mbaraka Yusuph (L), seeks to outfox Simba SC's left fullback Mohamed Hussein when the clubs took on each other in this season's NBC Premier League clash that took place in Kagera last weekend and ended in a 1-1 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAGERA SUGAR

Mgunda issues wake-up call to Simba SC players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER witnessing Simba SC fail to move to the second place in the NBC Premier League, the squad's interim head coach Juma Mgunda has disclosed the 1-1 draw with Kagera Sugar at Kaitaba Stadium in Kagera has given him and his players a wake-up call.

Simba SC failed to come out victorious in last weekend's tie, after having gone 1-0 up via a goal scored by winger Ladaki Chasambi, as Kagera Sugar equalized through forward Obrey Chirwa in the second half.

The Msimbazi Street-based Simba SC is still positioned third in the standing after collecting 57 points from 26 matches with four games to play before the end of the campaign.

Mgunda pointed out that with four games left, his outfit needs an assessment of why it failed to convert chances in many decisive games this season.

The race for securing participation in next season's CAF Champions League is still ongoing, with second-placed Azam FC having established a three-point gap with Simba after defeating Kinondoni Municipal Council 2-1 at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam the same weekend.

The gaffer stated: "With four games left in the league, we have received a wake-up call on why we create many chances but fail to score, we are at this position today because our players are misfiring in front of goal, but we won't stop working as a team."

Mgunda expressed optimism over his club's forward Freddy Kouablan - who missed clear chances to score goals against Kagera Sugar - and disclosed that the technical bench plans to ensure the players convert chances.

"Kouablan is a Simba SC player, we rally behind him. We make sure he trains the right way, and we should also analyze with the player and know why he keeps on missing these chances. We understand that no player is born a goal scorer, the difference is how you position yourself in goal-scoring spaces," the gaffer pointed out.

Mgunda called on his players to add focus and understand the task at hand - namely qualification for next season's CAF Champions League.

"Focus had to be added in the remaining games. We will next take on Dodoma Jiji FC. Our focus has to lie on the upcoming game, we can't afford to make more mistakes in this game because our close rivals are winning, we have to keep up with the pace," the tactician disclosed.

The coach stressed: "I know the end of the league will justify our journey in general but amends have to be made now. I am pleased with what I see in my players since I took the reins and we will keep on working together to ensure we finish (in one of the) top two positions in the league log."

With last weekend's outcome, Simba has witnessed long-time rivals, Yanga, lift this season's NBC Premier League trophy following the club's convincing 3-1 drubbing of Mtibwa Sugar at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro on Monday.

“

Focus had to be added in the remaining games. We will next take on Dodoma Jiji FC. Our focus has to lie on the upcoming game, we can't afford to make more mistakes in this game because our close rivals are winning, we have

Azam FC now pursues goalkeeping improvement, seeks Manula's signature

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AZAM FC is fervently pursuing the return of former star goalkeeper, Aishi Manula, to the club as the outfit seeks improvement ahead of the next season.

Manula (pictured), renowned as one of Tanzania's top goalkeepers in recent years, left the Chamazi Street-based team in 2017 and joined Simba SC but is now being targeted for a comeback, according to sources close to the club.

Reports suggest that Azam FC is considering parting ways with current goalkeepers Ali Ahmada and Abdulai Iddrisu, both of whom are lately nursing injuries.

The potential departure of the two keepers would pave the way for Manula's return, aiming to provide support to loanee goalkeeper Mohamed Mustafa.

Efforts to bring Manula back to Azam FC have been ongoing, with negotiations initially stalling due to disagreements over player exchanges with his current club, Simba SC.

However, recent developments indicate that Azam FC officials have been closely monitoring Manula's recovery from a hip operation to facilitate his return to full fitness.

While neither Simba SC nor Azam FC have officially confirmed the potential transfer, sources reveal that direct communication between the two clubs regarding Manula's availability has taken place.

The player has reportedly expressed his desire to join Azam FC at the end of the season, adding fuel to the speculations.

Azam FC's Chief Executive Officer, Abdulkarim Amin 'Popat', refrained from commenting on the ongoing rumours but assured that the club would provide updates through official channels when necessary.

"We adhere to our protocol of disseminating all official information through our club's established channels. As such, I prefer not to comment on rumours at this time," Amin remarked.

The official noted: "Our loyal fans can rest assured that they will receive all relevant updates once our deliberations are concluded."

Similarly, Simba SC's Media and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally hinted that decisions regarding player movements at the club would be made after the season conclusion.

The official remarked: "The decisions regarding the players' future will be disclosed once the season concludes. However, as club leaders, our priority is to retain all our top-performing players."

Manula, often hailed as 'Tanzania One' for his stellar performances, boasts an impressive track record with Simba SC, having clinched multiple league titles and personal accolades.

Despite enduring a challenging 2023/24 season marked by injuries, Manula's potential acquisition by Azam FC signals the outfit's ambition to strengthen the squad ahead of future campaigns.

Azam FC has already begun preparations for the upcoming season, securing signings such as central defender Yoro Mamadou Diaby and attacking midfielder Franck Tiese.

The acquisition of these players, alongside the potential addition of Manula, underscores the club's commitment to achieving success in domestic and continental competitions.

As the transfer saga unfolds, football enthusiasts eagerly await official announcements from both clubs regarding Manula's future.

Should the deal materialize, it could mark a significant milestone for Azam FC as the club strives to reclaim its spot among dominant forces in Tanzanian football.

Gamond guides Yanga to NBC PL victory, sets sights on continental dominance



Young Africans SC players celebrate after their NBC Premier League match against Mtibwa Sugar at Manungu Stadium on Monday. Yanga won 3-1. Photo: Courtesy of Yanga.

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans Sports Club (Yanga) secured a significant victory with a 3-1 win against Mtibwa Sugar FC at Manungu Stadium last Monday.

This win not only sealed their triumph in the match but also solidified their status as the 2023/2024 NBC Premier League champions, marking their third consecutive title and their 30th league championship overall.

Reflecting on the victory, Yanga's head coach, Miguel Gamond, expressed his joy, stating: "As a coach leading this team to be champions, I am very happy. My players, technical bench, leaders, and fans for Young Africans made it look this way today, but it was not easy. The league is very tough, each team is fighting."

Gamond further praised his team's performance throughout the season, adding: "I am very happy with the kind of football we played. Not only because we won the title, but I am very happy that what I train my players on the training ground is what they deliver in matches."

Addressing the pressure of taking over a team that had won the previous season's title, Gamond remained composed, stating: "I

had no pressure at all. I was calm, knowing that in football, pressure can't be avoided. Sometimes moments like that make you think and come up with an idea to win. To me, pressure is a responsibility."

Looking ahead, Gamond outlined his plans for the club, expressing his ambition to elevate Young Africans SC to be among the top five best teams in Africa. He revealed discussions with the club's president, Eng Hersi Saidi, to strategize for the upcoming season, expressing optimism for even greater success in the future.

The match against Mtibwa Sugar saw Yanga facing a challenging first half, with the Millers taking the lead with a goal in the 32nd minute, scored by striker Charles Ilimfy.

Despite Yanga's efforts, the first half ended with the hosts maintaining their 1-0 lead.

The 30 times champions came back strong in the second half, making strategic substitutions that changed the course of the game.

Goalkeeper Djigui Diarra was replaced by Aboutwalib Mashery, followed by three simultaneous changes, bringing in Nickson Kibabage, Clement Mzize, and Pacome Zouzoua.

These changes injected pace into Yanga's attack, resulting in an equalizing goal by striker Kennedy Musonda. However, Yanga surged ahead once again in the 66th minute, with Mtibwa Sugar defender Nasri Kombo scoring an own goal against the run of play.

Undeterred, Yanga continued to press

forward, ultimately securing victory with Mzize's goal in the 81st minute, following an assist from skipper Bakari Mwamnyeto.

Despite their spirited performance, Mtibwa Sugar's inability to capitalize on scoring opportunities and defensive lapses proved costly, allowing Yanga to emerge victorious.

Yanga's strategic changes in the second half proved pivotal, as they increased the tempo of their attack, overwhelming Mtibwa's defense and sealing their triumph in the match.

Mtibwa Sugar find themselves entrenched at the bottom of the table, embroiled in a battle to stave off relegation. Out of the 27 matches contested, they've garnered a mere 20 points, clinching victory in just five encounters, drawing five, and succumbing to defeat in 17 matches.

The upcoming trio of fixtures holds immense significance for their survival bid, necessitating a haul of all nine points to evade relegation.

Their itinerary includes a crucial home clash against Namungo FC, followed by an away encounter against Mashujaa FC, culminating in a decisive face-off with Ihefu FC away.

With their fate hanging in the balance, these concluding matches will determine whether Mtibwa Sugar can escape the perils of relegation or succumb to the challenges that lie ahead.

Each fixture presents a pivotal opportunity for them to secure their status in the league and defy the looming threat of demotion.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

AFRICAN
Revolution

