

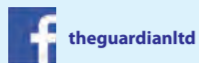


**BUSINESS** Tanzania's foreign direct investments flow up by 35 pc in 2021, says UNCTAD

Supply and demand imbalances push up commodity prices

**Money supply growth hits roof of 2021/22 monetary policy's target**

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## HEALTH



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## GOVERNANCE



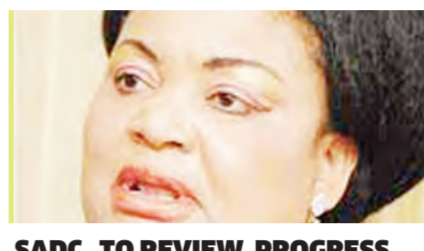
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## 'Youth more susceptible to drugs, as one million need help'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE war on the production, trafficking, distribution and use of illicit drugs is proving tough for the authorities as amounts seized in operations increase along with the number of users. George Simbachawene, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination), told reporters yesterday that amounts of cannabis seized last year increased by 72 per cent with the youth being the main users of illicit drugs. Addressing journalists here yesterday shortly after



**DCEA is setting out investigation on the reports, and if this is verified to be the case, the agency will advise the government to suspend its usage by reviewing current legislation**

submitting a report on the 'State of Illicit Drugs for 2021' in the National Assembly, the minister said a total of 22.74 tonnes of cannabis were seized last year, far too high

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# Samia mourns 20 people killed in bus-truck crash



Grief, shock and disbelief all over as people look on helplessly at the wreckage of a passenger service vehicle that was involved in a collision with a truck along Changarawe slope at Mafinga in Mufindi District, Iringa Region, yesterday. Twenty people were confirmed dead and seven injured in the crash by the time we went to press. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

By Guardian Reporter

**P**RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has sent messages of condolence to Iringa regional commissioner Queen Sendiga following the death of 20 people in an accident in the early hours of yesterday at Changarawe area in Mafinga town.

A Coaster minibus with registration numbers T 542 DQV from Dar es Salaam heading to Mbeya hit an immobile lorry near Changarawe, Mafinga in Iringa Region.

Iringa Regional Police Commander Allan Bukumbi said the lorry was parked on the roadside after a breakdown, but another lorry emerged which overran the injured and those who were rescuing survivors of the first accident.

In her message, the president called upon security organs to intensify issuance of education especially to drivers on road safety. "I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families during this trying time and may their souls rest in peace," the message read.

Earlier, the chief medical officer for Mafinga town hospital Dr Victor Msafiri confirmed receiving 19 bodies and nine injured people. Hospital staff were progressing well with the body identification exercise, he said.

Police were investigating the matter to identify the cause of the accident, the RPC noted, while Iringa referral hospital in charge Dr Alfred Mwakalebela confirmed receiving two people who were injured during the accident.

The hospital was hosting medical specialists camping at the referral hospital and they have been helpful in the provision of emergency care to the injured, he stated, with RC Sendiga affirming that bodies were preserved at the Iringa referral hospital as the Mafinga facility had no ability to take in so many bodies at a time.

She urged drivers travelling at night "to ensure that they do not pass Iringa until the sun rises," directing the regional traffic police commander to implement that directive.

Back in April, at least six people

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## PM: Hidden hand suspected in Loliondo relocation agitation

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has said some people are behind resistance to well-meant efforts to peacefully relocate residents of 14 villages surrounding the Loliondo wildlife corridor in Ngorongoro District, Arusha Region.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa told the National Assembly here

yesterday that there are groups of people who have been spending their time inciting and fuelling conflicts between the government and residents, incidents which the government cannot accept.

He made the remarks after the Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson asked the government to explain contents of a video which went viral on social

media showing residents of Loliondo protesting against a government plan to relocate them.

Men with drawn swords were saying that the government wants to remove them from the villages and they were not ready to go, to which the premier reiterated the government's position that no one will be forcefully removed from the area.

The ongoing exercise to place beacons in the areas was intended to facilitate sustainable conservation of the corridor, he said, elaborating that the government was implementing an initiative in Loliondo that aims to relocate residents in the 14 villages

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## Hajj travel favours youths, deters elderly

By Correspondent James Kandoya

COORDINATORS of this year's Hajj have appealed to capable youthful

**Our people need to know the importance of the Hajj and discount wrong notions unavailable in Scripture,**

Muslims to register for travelling to Saudi Arabia for this year's annual rituals, as part of Covid-19 restrictions still extant in that country during the

pilgrimage season. Saudi authorities have explicitly barred the elderly from the pilgrimage this year, on the basis of remarks by Haidari Kambwili, the director of Hajj and Umrah at the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA). He said in an interview yesterday that limiting travel age to 65 and below has led to slow registration so far, thus appealing to younger

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan cuts the ribbon yesterday to inaugurate Jami Ul Istiqama Mosque in Bukoba municipality, Kagera Region, yesterday. With her are, among others, the Istiqama community's chairman in Tanzania, Seif Ali Seif (3rd-R), Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally (6th-R), Oman's acting Ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Salim bin Saif Al Harbi (7th-R), and Istiqama community (Tanzania) member Nassoro Ali Seif (to the president's right). Photo: State House



## 'Youth hooked to drugs, nearly one million seek help'

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compared with the amount enforcers intercepted in 2020. Drug abuse was affecting the country's workforce as those found using them are aged between 15 and 40 years, he stated, pointing out that last year 905,902 drug users turned out to receive treatment at district and regional hospitals. This shows how big the problem has become but at the same time it is an indication that awareness among youths has increased. That is why they are visiting health centres for assistance, the minister noted, affirming that 9,474 suspects were arrested in relation to cannabis, its production, supply and use. Law enforcers also intercepted huge amounts of the chewing drug, khat, reaching 10.93 tonnes, with 1,395 suspects arrested, while in 2021 a total of 1.13 tonnes of heroin was seized, three times the amount seized in 2020, he further noted, elaborating that a total of 811.30 grams of cocaine was seized in the same period.

"For the first time in the history of the drug war in the country, a large shipment of 430.77kg of methamphetamine-based drugs was seized last year, involving nine Iranian suspects. The government was monitoring the trend of importation and use of methamphetamine as well as the dangerous chemicals used in the manufacturing of these drugs," he stated. The scope of treatment for drug addicts was being expanded where as of December 2021 addiction treatment services were available at 15 heroin treatment centres (MAT Clinics) which collectively registered 11,650 addicts, he said, affirming that the centres are located in eight regional centres on the Mainland, namely Dar es Salaam, Coast, Tanga, Mbeya, Songwe, Dodoma, Mwanza and Arusha.

There are also 44 sober houses in the country set up and run by civil society organizations, with the government developing guidelines for more affordable sober houses accessible to more drug users, he said.

Gerald Kusaya, the commissioner general for the Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) underlined that the war against drugs was still a big challenge, but the agency in collaboration with other law enforcement bodies were strengthening efforts in that combat.

Launching more crackdown exercises on the cultivation of cannabis, destroying farms as well as bringing suspects to court was envisaged, he said, explaining that policing the coastline was a big challenge, but in collaboration with the police force and the army, patrols were being strengthened.

Ports and airports are among major gateways for drug importation, with the abuse. We have a big challenge in fighting drug importation through the ocean, this is an area in which the authority has invested much effort in collaboration with other institutions," he asserted.

Farms which will be found with cannabis will henceforth be nationalised, the commissioner intoned, asserting that 'shisha' was said to be mixed with hard drugs, but discounted that information as unproven.

"DCEA is setting out investigation on the reports, and if this is verified to be the case, the agency will advise the government to suspend its usage by reviewing current legislation, he added.



NBC Bank managing director Theobald Sabi (L) updates Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdallah (R) and Zanzibar House of Representatives Speaker Zubeir Ali Maulid on the bank's operations during a visit to Zanzibar on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Hajj travel favours youths, deters elderly

FROM PAGE 1

people to take up those unfilled opportunities, as Tanzania has been allowed to send 11,000 people to Hajj this year.

As of yesterday, only 2,700 bona fide travellers had completed the procedures, with the first batch is scheduled to leave in two weeks, he said, discarding as

false the idea that performing Hajj is for the elderly. "This is why there is low response this year," he stated. Capable, youthful Muslims need to register so that the numbers allocated to the country do not go to waste, he urged, elaborating that council leaders are working on a special initiative to educate Muslims on the importance of the Hajj as one among the five pillars of the faith.

This initiative is expected to increase the number of Muslims pilgrims travelling for the pilgrimage annually as the kingdom has permitted 11,000 pilgrimages from here, he asserted.

"Our people need to know the importance of the Hajj and discount wrong notions unavailable in Scripture," he said. The council has informed prospective pilgrims to receive Covid-19 vaccines recommended by the Saudi Ministry of

Health to secure entry permission, with the first batch leaving for Medina on June 23 and the second batch a week later, followed by another batch on July 3.

Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam and must be undertaken by all Muslims having the means, at least once in their lives.

On April 9, the Saudi authorities stated that one million international and domestic pilgrims will be given permission to perform the Hajj 1443H, with each country allocated

a quota of pilgrims to make the trip. About 2.5m people participated in 2019, the last Hajj before the coronavirus outbreak, whereas barring overseas pilgrims caused deep disappointment among Muslims worldwide, who typically save for years to take part.

Pilgrims from outside the kingdom must submit a negative Covid-19 result taken within 72 hours of the time of departure to Saudi Arabia, the ministerial authorities underlined.

## GFF expresses readiness to improve maternal and child healthcare services

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

THE Global Financing Facility (GFF) has expressed its readiness to provide Tanzania with US\$ 25 million (57bn/-) to improve maternal and child healthcare services.

Ummu Mwalimu, minister for Health said recently during the 14th Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescent Health (GFF) conference that was held in Paris, France.

Mwalimu said that in the 2015/2016 financial year, GFF donated 40bn/- in support of the government efforts to improve provision of health to mothers and children.

She said Tanzania has made strides in offering services to mothers and children adding that there are

good indicators showing a dropping trend in maternal and child mortality.

"Tanzania has a long history of improving primary health care services; this was also championed by former President Jakaya Kikwete," she said.

She said concerted efforts are needed to ensure people get quality healthcare services, calling for stakeholders to continue collaborating with the government towards improvement of health services.

Mwalimu added: "We call upon stakeholders and donors to continue supporting the government in improving maternal and child healthcare especially at this time when Tanzania has a female President—Samia Suluhu Hassan.

GFF was launched to accelerate progress towards

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through scaled and sustainable financing for Reproductive, Maternal, and Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH-N) outcomes.

Its objective was to estimate the potential impact of increased resources available to improve RMNCAH-N outcomes, from expanding and scaling up GFF support in 50 high-burden countries.

On May 19 this year, it was reported that GFF and PAI announced a new collaboration to further strengthen civil society and youth engagement in GFF partner countries to help deliver better health for all women, children and adolescents, as part of the GFF civil society and youth engagement strategy.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday commenting on social media reports on developments in the Loliondo reserve area in Ngorongoro District, Arusha Region. Photo: PMO

## Samia mourns 20 people killed in bus-truck crash

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died and 19 others were injured after their vehicle overturned, descending the sharp corners of the main highway at Kwamdulu area in Korogwe district, Tanga region.

In March, 22 people were

confirmed dead and 32 others injured in a head on collision at Malela in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region, involving a lorry and a passenger bus.

The truck with registration number IT 2816 traveling from Dar es Salaam with transit goods to the DRC collided with

an Ahmeed bus, T732 ATH travelling from Mbeya to Tanga.

President Samia at that time sent a message of condolence to the bereaved and wished the injured a quick recovery, urging road users to ensure they adhere to road safety regulations.

## PM: Hidden hand suspected in Loliondo relocation agitation

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surrounding the area.

This is necessary for the sustainable conservation of the wildlife corridor, and what is being said in the video was misplaced, intended to mislead the public and incite chaos, creating bad image of Tanzania globally.

"This is unacceptable; he emphasised, noting that since the issue of Ngorongoro and Loliondo emerged early this year, the government has conducted a number of awareness meetings and rallies to educate the public on

the importance of better land use within the area.

"We have met residents, discussed and advised them that we want to ensure that the areas are sustainably conserved," he said.

The Loliondo area is in a natural corridor where wild animals cross while roaming between the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park. It is bordered by 14 scattered villages where the nearest village is 8-km away from the conservation area. The area is used by residents for pasture, he elaborated.

Due to its significance, the government promised the residents that it would prepare better land use plans for its sustainable conservation and development, he reaffirmed, insisting that the residents should not worry on the government putting up signs. This aims to distinguish the area and make it more visible for conservation purposes, he stated.

Putting the signs doesn't affect the daily activities of residents in the areas, so people should not worry as the exercise is only meant to protect the area and fa-

cilitate conservation, he said.

"After the signs are placed, the government will engage the local leaders and villagers to start implementing an improved land use plan for sustainable conservation."

There are also projects to improve water availability where a number of wells have been built, he said, urging residents to ignore those who have been fuelling chaos in the areas.

A total of 1,497 people from 293 households in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) have voluntarily agreed to relocate to

Msomela area in Handeni district, Tanga Region, he recalled.

This follows agreement between conservation stakeholders, residents and the government in meetings held in Loliondo and Ngorongoro divisions of Ngorongoro district.

Building residential houses and putting up other services in the new area were going apace, with 103 houses built at the area, each house provided with three acres of land, he stated.

Animal pasture areas have been set aside, plus dips, farming areas and adequate water

sources, as well as a primary and secondary school, a dispensary and many other supporting infrastructure to ensure that the families live well and smoothly upon shifting, he emphasised.

Once the relocation exercise is commenced, the government will cover the cost of relocation by sending buses and trucks to carry people and their belongings, compensating the residents for houses they are leaving in Ngorongoro, he further noted.

The increase in population in the NCA, environmental degradation and increase of livestock

threaten the national park sustainability, thus the government come up with the relocation exercise.

The Speaker asked the government to take stern measures on any person, group or organizations fuelling conflicts in the Ngorongoro and Loliondo reserve areas.

"We should make these people or organizations accountable as they are making Tanzania look bad to other people and countries. If we remain mum without taking stern measures these incidents will continue," she added.

## Help us create awareness on census, Samia tells clerics

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has appealed to religious leaders to use their places of worship to help the government sensitize the public about the national population and housing census slated for August this year.

Speaking when launching the Jami'ulistiwa Mosque in Bukoba district, Kagera region said religious people speak to the majority of people hence their voices can reach huge masses.

She said it is through census that the government will be able to plan and execute development programmes but also map how to allocate resources among various groups in the country.

"We need to understand that this coming exercise is of paramount importance to the country and the government alone cannot afford to sensitize the public, therefore we call upon religious leaders to help us," she said.

President Samia told religious leaders that the world was going through a turbulent period of Covid-19 saying this was the right time for the clergy to sensitize their believers on the need to get vaccinated against the disease.

"If we continue to hold up to our principles, we will maintain the peace that we have currently but also keep it for our generations to come," she said.

The head of state urged all Tanzanians to get counted on the census day, saying the population and housing census was aimed at enabling the govern-

ment to put in place plans that will help it provide services to the people.

Tanzania's Mufti Shekh Abubakar Zubeir said Islamic books sensitize about census saying this was an important exercise in nation building.

"There is nothing that can be done properly without planning, therefore it is this exercise which will facilitate availability of data on what should be done to improve the country's economy," he said.

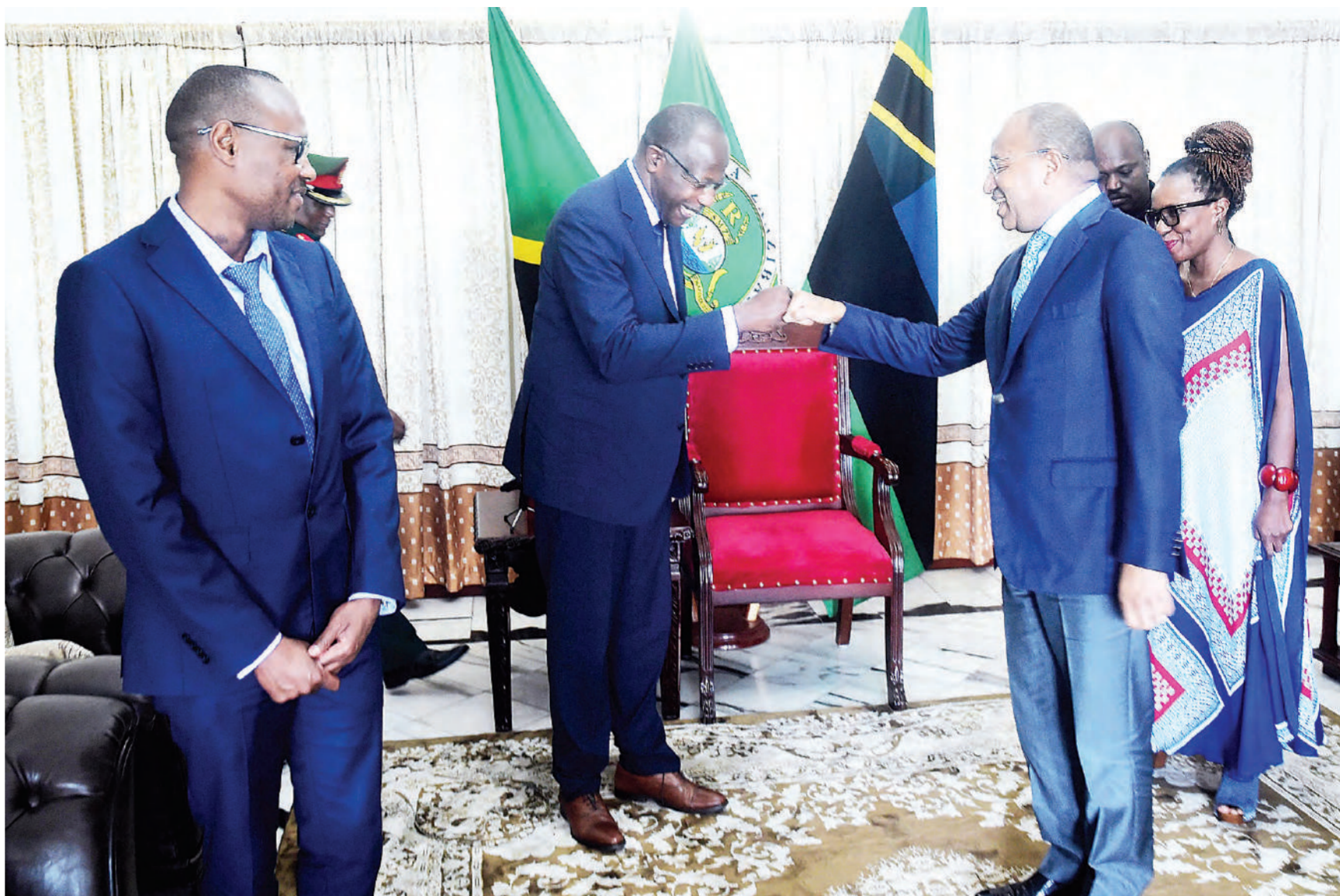
Mufti Zubeir used the opportunity to condemn the rise in killings in the country which he said was a result of moral decays saying the clergy has a role to play in ending the malpractice.

"The government can hardly plan for development without having correct statistics of its people," he said.

The last population and housing census was conducted in Tanzania in 2012. It is estimated that Tanzania has nearly 60 million people.



**We need to understand that this coming exercise is of paramount importance to the country and the government alone cannot afford to sensitize the public, therefore we call upon religious leaders**



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured yesterday bidding farewell to Linden Morrison, Head of the High Impact Africa II Department of the Geneva-based Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and members of his delegation. That was shortly after talks at Zanzibar State House. Photo: State House

# Locally made nutritional mixing machine launched in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

THE government in collaboration with nutrition stakeholders and the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) have managed to make a nutritional mixing machine 'Kinyunyizi' to facilitate fortification of maize flour.

Creation of the machines is part of government's efforts to curb malnutrition challenges whereas they will be massively distributed to flour millers across the country.

Speaking at the launch of the

nutritional mixing machine at DIT workshop in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Celestine Mgoba, from the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) underscored the need to continue innovating and developing local industries.

She said such innovations would greatly contribute to reduced importation costs as well as strengthening the health of Tanzanians through fortification.

"I would like to commend DIT and other stakeholders including the Global Alliance for Improved

Nutrition (GAIN) for coming up with this machine as it will help the government to save money," the official stated, adding the machine has been completed by 80 per cent.

Mgoba said the government has been importing the machines at a cost of 7m/- each while the locally made machine will be sold at a reasonable price of 2m/-.

Food Safety officer from the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Rhoda Kidolezi said the government's purpose is to curb malnu-

trition problems in the country.

She called upon other technological colleges to also come up with similar machines to support the government food fortification initiative.

"We want to start with millers at grassroots level as there are a good number of people using maize flour. We will provide them with the nutritional mixing machines to ensure a health nation," said Rhoda.

GAIN project manager, Food Fortification Programme, Ar-

chard Ngemela said launching of the machine is in line with the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP) (2021/2022-2025/2026) that aligns with national, regional and global priorities.

"We aim at incorporating small and medium millers with the national nutritional plan as well as the school nutritional guidelines," he asserted.

He said most of the small and medium millers can afford to import the machines, hence deci-

sions to produce them locally to support efforts to increase food fortification in the country.

The prevalence of chronic malnutrition in the country is still categorised as "very high", with stunting at 32 per cent.

GAIN also works with the Prime Minister's Office, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Tanzania Food Nutrition Centre (TFNC), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), regional secretariats and regional nutrition committees.

'Over 20 district councils have helped 88 youth groups register with PPRa

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 24 out of the 184 district councils in the country have identified and enabled 88 youth groups register with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) by May, 2022, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), Dr Festo Dugange told the lawmakers that the move is part of the plan to empower local contractors.

He was speaking in response to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Anastazia Wambura (CCM), who had wanted to know which law requires 30 percent of procurement allocated to local companies, especially those owned by women at the district councils.

"Which law states that at least 30 percent of procurement budget at district councils goes to local contractors, especially women?" she asked.

In response, the deputy minister said the PPRa Act, 2011 states that all procurement entities set a side at least 30 percent of the procurement budget for youth, women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

"The law states that local groups or company must be registered with PPRa in order to get tenders," he said calling on the district councils to empower the mentioned groups.

He said it is the government commitment to empower local companies, especially those owned by the special groups of people.

The government has always reiterated the pledge to set aside enough funds that will be used to build capacity to local contractors by granting them construc-



**CONSULTANCY**

**TOR Midterm review of Rikolto's Agri-connect project**

Rikolto is an international network organisation with over 40 years of experience in partnering with food chain stakeholders in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. We build bridges of trust and trade between the food industry, governments, research institutions, financial institutions and farmers' organisations around one central question: 'What will we eat tomorrow?'

Rikolto in East Africa is implementing a 4-year European Union funded project, **"Building Inclusive and Competitive Horticulture Businesses in Tanzania's Southern Highlands"**, which aims to improve and increase market competitiveness in the horticulture sector. The project started in June 2020 and will end in May 2024 covering the regions of Iringa, Katavi, Njombe, Mbeya and Songwe in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania,


We are currently looking for a **consultant(s) to conduct the Mid Term Review** to measure the progress and lessons learnt for programme adjustments during the remaining 2 years of programme implementation. The consultant will work under supervision of the Rikolto evaluation team to collect data that measure the progress of relevant indicators included in the project log frame from farmers through desk reviews, individuals' interviews, focus group discussions and some key informants in each region, such as extension officers, traders, other value chain actors, district authorities, ministry agriculture, EU Technical Advisory Team (TAT) and European Development Fund (EDF) support unit at the Ministry of Finance.

The full Terms of Reference (TOR) is available via **Consultancy: Mid Term Review of Rikolto's AGRI-CONNECT project | Rikolto in East Africa**. Send your proposal via email to [eafrica@rikolto.org](mailto:eafrica@rikolto.org) by **23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022** and indicate the source of advertisement and the title of the survey in the subject line.

216897401

**TENDER No. CAM/06/2022 /2023**

**Supply of the Professional Camera**



WaterAid is an International Non-Governmental Organization, with a vision of ensuring Safe Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for Everyone, Everywhere by 2030. WaterAid has had its operations in Tanzania since 1983 under the name "WaterAid Tanzania" which is registered as Non-Governmental Organisation in The Republic of Tanzania (NO.SO.7557). WaterAid Tanzania (WAT) operates as a Country Programme and functional office of WaterAid UK; within East African Region. The head office is in Dar es Salaam, Rufiji Street, Plot No.1469, Masaki Area within Kinondoni District.

Water Aid Tanzania invites bids/quotations from interested suppliers to supply the following: -

Qty	Description
1	Canon EOS 90D DSLR Camera with 18-135mm f/3.5-5.6 IS USM Lens
1	Canon EOS 5D Mark IV Full Frame DSLR Camera (Body Only)
1	Canon EF 70-300mm f/4-5.6 IS II USM Lens
1	Canon EF 50mm f/1.4 USM Lens
1	Sigma 16mm f/1.4 DC DN Contemporary Lens for Canon EF-M
1	Tamron AF 90mm f/2.8 Di SP A/M 1:1 Macro Lens for Canon DSLR Cameras
1	Godox V1 round head Flash for Canon
1	Yongnuo YN 300 II Variable-Color LED On-Camera Video Light
1	BOYA BY-PVM3000L BOYA Supercardioid Microphone
2	SanDisk 128GB Extreme PRO UHS-I SDXC Memory Card
2	Pisen SD Card Reader USB 2.0
1	DJI Ronin-M 3-Axis Handheld Gimbal Stabilizer
1	Godox XPro C TTL Wireless Flash Trigger for (C) Cameras
2	Canon LP-E6N Lithium-Ion Battery Pack (7.2V, 1865mAh)

Following documents should be submitted:

- Company profile that includes legal documents (Valid licenses and legal documentation to operate in Tanzania e.g. incorporation certificate, business license and relevant tax certificates,
- A list of recent performed contracts of similar nature including the names and addresses of the employers for verification.

Eligible interested bidders should send their bids to WaterAid Tanzania Office before **27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 by 10:00am** East African Time; through [ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org](mailto:ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org), Cc [NicombolweKidagho@wateraid.org](mailto:NicombolweKidagho@wateraid.org). Bids shall be addressed to: "Country Director - WaterAid Tanzania, P.O. Box 33759 Plot No.1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsular, Dar es Salaam: Tanzania." and clearly marked **"Bid for the supply of the Professional Camera**. The bids Opening will be on **27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 from 10:30am** at WaterAid Country Office.

**Note:** WaterAid has a Mandatory Operating Procedure (MOP) and therefore for those who will visit our office for, submission or tender opening will not be allowed to enter office premises without properly wash their hand and wearing masks

216896901

# Call to journalists: Unite on recommendations of media law amendments

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA-BASED journalists have been encouraged to unite through Mbeya Press Club (MBPC) in order to discuss challenges and various requirements in order to come up with views and recommendations for the proposed amendments to 2016 Media Services Act.

The call was made here yesterday by the country's veteran journalist, Jesse Kwayu, who was the facilitator of the training to empower Mbeya Region journalists to identify various sections of the media law and their responsibilities, organised by the Tanzania Chapter of Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA-Tanzania).

Kwayu said MISA-Tanzania has continued in building the capacity to journalists in the country to understand various media laws, as well as spelling out their needs for submission to the Information Ministry as per directive of its Minister, Nape Nnauye.

In the circumstances, he said MBPC should immediately to monitor the views and that after processing they should be submitted to the minister.

"The Minister had directed that by September this year views and recommendations in regard to the new media law have to reach him to enable him go through and

process," said Kwayu.

For his part, MPPC chairperson, Norbert Msokwa said the issue will be dealt with as quickly as possible and that all Mbeya based journalists will work together in order to come up with recommendations and views on the amendments to the media law.

Msokwa also thanked MISA-Tanzania for organising the forum, and appealed to them to provide journalists with frequent education in regard to media laws and their responsibilities.



**The Minister had directed that by September this year views and recommendations in regard to the new media law have to reach him to enable him go through and process**



Harriet Lwakatatare (2nd-L), Vodacom Tanzania Plc's customer service director, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday showing the Best Customer Care Telco Company award her firm was recently awarded by Serengeti Bytes through its Tanzania Digital Awards. The mobile phone service provider was feted for excellence in the provision of digital customer services resulting mainly from massive investment. With her are Vodacom's director of digital services, Nguvu Kamando (L), and Serengeti Bytes operations officer Michael Mallya (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# New Japanese sweet potato varieties benefiting farmers

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Kibaha has released two new sweet potato varieties which are suitable for mid altitude and warm semi-arid agro ecology.

The varieties were approved after all required verification procedures were conducted.

TARI Kibaha participated in the official introduction and field

survey evaluation of the five elite sweet potatoes varieties from Japan. They are Tamayutaka, Koganengan, Annouimo, Izumi 13 and Taihaku.

These varieties were in advanced yield trials for seasons, and the best performing varieties were the Tamayutaka and the Koganengan.

The two varieties were proposed for evaluation in National Performance Trials (NPT) by the

Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) whereas two varieties Tamayutaka (TARI SP7) and Koganengan (TARI SP8) were officially released by Variety Release Committee under TOSCI for multiplication and use by the public.

The verification process was supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with two Japanese companies—Terunuma Co.,

Ltd and Matoborwa Co. Ltd based in Dodoma through JICA's survey scheme 'Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies.'

The three years' JICA survey project (2017-2020) has verified the effectiveness of the Japanese sweet potato varieties, the efficient cultivation techniques for sweet potato production, and the saccharification methodologies of sweet potatoes through storage.

All of those can contribute to increasing and stabilizing farmers' income, building new food processing business, and creating employment in Tanzania.

The target area of the said survey was Dodoma, and its main beneficiaries were sweet potato farmers and processors.

By using the two new sweet potato varieties and adopting new cultivation methods from Japan, farmers will be able to produce

sweet potatoes with a higher market value.

Sweet potatoes' saccharification technology will also add value for processors. These activities are ultimately expected to increase and stabilize farmers' income.

The said Dodoma-based food processing company, Matoborwa, will utilize the Tamayutaka (TARI SP7) and the Koganengan (TARI SP8) to produce even more tasty dried sweet potatoes.



Construction of a new government hospital for Musoma District - at Kwikonero near Suguti-Nyambui - began over a year ago. Correspondent Sabato Kasika was at the site earlier this week and caught up with masons working on what is meant to be the Emergency Medical Department building.

# Govt to promote organic farming

By Getrude Mbagu, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said that the government is to invest heavily in promoting organic farming by advising farmers in some parts of the country to not necessarily use industrial fertilizers and pesticides.

Majaliwa told the National Assembly yesterday that the strategy is meant to help the country's agriculture shift to organic farming and get rid of using industrial inputs for sustainable development.

"We have seen how organic farming is doing well in various crops such as maize, coffee, tea and others. So we are going to ensure that we strengthen organic farming and attract more farmers to take this as their sustainable activity to transform their incomes and lives," he said. The premier's statement came in response to a question raised by Special Seats MP, Asha Abdullahi, who said many countries in the world have started preventing the use of industrial fertilizers and pesticides instead are focusing more on developing organic farming, but Tanzania was yet to follow that direction.

The lawmaker claimed that Tanzania has continued to use industrial fertilizers and pesticides which are not safe for people's health and soil but without providing any evidence.

"For instance, a country like France has a special ministry responsible for supervising and developing organic farming. So, doesn't the government see that it is now the right time to have a special department for developing organic

farming in order to protect the health of Tanzanians and the soil?" she asked.

Prime Minister responded that the government continues to implement available agriculture development strategies while the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) continues educating farmers on the importance of organic farming.

He said the government will also introduce a special department in the ministry of agriculture for supervising and motivating farmers to engage in organic farming.

"In areas where there is no need to use industrial fertilizers, the farmers are encouraged to embark on organic farming and I have witnessed a number of coffee and tea growers reaping big from the crops only by using organic methods," Majaliwa added.

He assured the MPs that all imported industrial fertilizers and pesticides are being checked and verified by the government in ensuring that such inputs meet standards and do not affect health of the people and soil.

He said relevant institutions check quality of the inputs in relation to the types of soil available in the country because the application of pesticides and fertilizers depends on the kind of soil to avoid any effects.

"So, the government will strengthen efforts with stakeholders to ensure that we invest in educating farmers and communities on natural and affordable agriculture so as to promote sustainable production of organic crops for sustainable development of our country," he said.

# Put in place practical measures to address climate change, govt told

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

THE government has been advised to put in place practical measures to address climate change caused by environmental degradation in Morogoro—one of the national food basket regions.

Residents in the area have been affected by climate change which has largely been contributed by human activities such as mining and farming.

Prof Japhet Kashaigili, a renowned expert in Water Resources, Hydrology, Wetland ecosystems, Applied Remote sensing and GIS, and Climate change at the Sokoine University of

Agriculture offered the advice yesterday when speaking at the Kilombero Cluster Green Reference Group (K-GRG) three days conference.

The conference was organized by the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), WWF Tanzania, and Morogoro regional authorities.

Prof Kashaigili highlighted the need for responsible authorities to prioritize ecosystems in the Kilombero cluster and make sure they contribute to local socio-economic development like agro-ecosystem, forests, wetlands, and settlements.

"This ecosystem has to be restored through

innovative agricultural practices, improving livestock, farming practices, water, forest and law enforcement on environmental issues," he said.

He stated that the K-GRG has the best ways to protect the ecosystem and create a national sustainable economy and people's livelihoods.

Morogoro District Commissioner, Albert Msando said experts will help the government in ensuring proper implementation of strategic development projects including the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHP) which depends on water flows from southern highlands where SAGCOT is operating.

An expert from SUA Prof Pantaleo Munishi cited lack of agricultural areas as one of the challenges contributing to change of ecosystem saying agriculture expansion takes 34 per cent followed by grazing pressure at 18 per cent and bushfires which contributes to environmental degradation by 5 per cent.

He said: "Between 1995 and 2018, a total of 80,678 hectares of forest was transformed to cultivated land and about 87,022 hectares of woodlands was transformed to cultivated land. A total of 94,513 hectares of wetlands were converted into cultivated land."

CARE-WWF Alliance Manager Dr Abubakary

Kijoji said apart from running agriculture, the study showed that about 93 interviewed small-scale producers reported using agrochemicals, and that majority does not use protective gears thus exposing themselves to a number of health risks.

He said despite efforts to educate people on the negative impacts of using chemicals, most farmers have continued to use them.

"Majority prefers pesticides for an immediate result on the field but they are dangerous to human health and have been classified as highly hazardous by the World Health Organization (WHO).

## UNIDO, Tanzania team up to tackle inefficient biomass

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) fight to end the inefficient use of biomass has seen some impressive strides since its launch in 2020.

The move by UNIDO to battle the use of inefficient biomass has seen over 10,000 bioethanol cook stoves assembled in Tanzania and sold to Dar es Salaam based households.

UNIDO Deputy Representative, Gerald Runyoro said in Dar es Salaam recently that the five-year project aims to reduce the use of inefficient biomass, mainly charcoal and wood, which degrade the environment and aggravate climate change and its effects.

"UNIDO wishes to clarify that this project has started with a good foot supplying over ten thousand stoves. This is not a small achievement considering that it needed a lot of awareness-raising interventions because it is a new product in the country," he said.

He said the project promoting the use of bioethanol for cooking, initially targeting to distribute 500,000 stoves in Dar es Salaam region has been a great milestone.

The project is facilitated by UNIDO in cooperation with the Vice President's Office and the Ministry of Energy to promote green energy against the use of firewood and charcoal

which exacerbate deforestation.

He added that the intervention is receiving increasing political support and the private sector is demonstrating interest to invest in bioethanol production, assembling and later manufacturing the bioethanol cooking stoves in the country and demand by households for this clean and renewable energy cooking technology is increasing.

Runyoro also spoke on mobilising bioethanol fuel production by small and large scale producers as well as its safe bottling to reach customers.

"On this, the project has reached out to potential bioethanol producers and enlightened them on how sufficient the prospective market was and this aims at making them produce this important product".

The value chain of using bioethanol for cooking has enormous potential for creating decent employment opportunities, improving enterprises' cash flows and broadening the economy.

Initially, the project was funded by Global Environment Facility which is headquartered in Washington DC. New stakeholders are participating in promoting the use of bioethanol for cooking, including the European Union which is also funding some of the undertakings being implemented by UNIDO and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).



TUNZAA company customer manager Maryam Baba (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday briefing Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollel (2nd-R) during the latter's visit at an exhibition held at the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University in tandem with the Hubert Kairuki Scientific Conference. Right is HKMU vice chancellor Prof Yohana Mashalla. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Govt gives 4bn/- to NIMR for more research on pandemic diseases

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has given 4bn/- to the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) to facilitate researchers to look for vaccines for pandemic diseases.

This was stated yesterday in Dar es Salaam by Deputy Minister for Health, Dr Godwin Mollel, when opening the Scientific Conference that was organised by Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU).

The theme of this year's conference is 'Strengthening health systems perfor-

mance and resilience in responding to public health emergencies: How is the future?'

Dr Mollel said science is the eye of every nation, and that the government will continue to invest in it to produce a good number of scientists who can help the nation in fighting health challenges.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan promised to inject 6bn/- and as am speaking today she has already provided 4bn/- to facilitate research works towards finding our own vaccines. We cannot continue to rely on vaccines form foreign countries," said Dr Mollel.

Either, the Deputy Minister commended the founder of Kairuki Health Education Network (KHEN), the late Professor Hubert Kairuki for his vision to be the first Tanzanian to own a private hospital and a health university.

He said the investment which was done by the late Kairuki in the health sector is huge and Mikocheni Hospital has helped to reduce congestions in public hospitals by accommodating many patients.

He said KHEN has been of great importance in health care services provision and (HKMU) has been instrumen-

tal in producing medical doctors and nurses who are currently working in public and private hospital across the country.

"Science is the eye of every nation; the government will continue to invest heavily in this sector to ensure production of more health workers. We are proud of your contributions and we promise to support your endeavours," said Dr Mollel.

He said scientists must put in places strategies to fight pandemic diseases like COVID-19, adding that there is a threat of viruses in the near future

which needs competent scientist to fight them.

HKMU Vice Chancellor, Prof Yohana Mashalla said communicable diseases are a big threat to many developing countries.

He said the COVID-19 pandemic is a clear testimony that the country need to have proper health care systems to fight various pandemic diseases in the future.

"We need to strengthen our health care systems to be ready to fight pandemics such as COVID-19 because it is not the last pandemic as many more

will come, hence the need to have good health systems," said Prof Mashalla.

President of the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University Student Association (HKMUSA), Nimrod Matungwa said disease outbreaks and health emergencies can push health systems to a breaking point, especially fragile systems. He said building resilient and responsive health systems is an imperative for the global health community and there is an important opportunity to address health systems strengthening activities during outbreak response.



Martine Massawe (L), NMB Bank Plc's head of bancassurance, and Jubilee Insurance relationship manager Desta Mdoe unveil a plaque in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch a JI package dubbed 'Pamoja Afya' which will not call for any cards, while health services will be available at both government hospitals and hospitals run by religious institutions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## SADC ministers for gender and women's affairs set to review progress on regional gender and development programmes

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTERS responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states yesterday met in Lilongwe, Malawi to review progress on the implementation of the gender and development programmes in the region.

Patricia Kaliati, Minister for Gender from Malawi, chaired the meeting in her capacity as the Chairperson for SADC Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs.

The Ministers tracked the progress

in implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, through the review of the 2022 SADC Gender and Development Monitor on Women in Politics and Decision-making, focussing specifically on Article 12 on Representation, Article 13 on Participation, and Article 5 on Special Measures of the Protocol.

As part of implementing, the SADC Regional Multi-dimensional Women Economic Empowerment Programme (RMD-WEEP) 2020-2030, the ministers reviewed the progress on the SADC Industrialisation and Women's Economic Empowerment Project (IWE

Project), a project aimed at increasing women-owned businesses' and female entrepreneurs' participation in value addition for selected sectors and regional value chains (RVCs).

The ministers also reviewed implementation of the SADC Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing Gender-based Violence (GBV), including through the assessment of the status of GBV in the SADC region.

The meeting of Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs was preceded by the Meeting of SADC Senior Officials for Gender and Women's Affairs on June 7th and 8th 2022.

By Guardian Reporter

THE government of Germany has expressed commitment to support Tanzania in strengthening partnerships between marine research institutions from Africa and Germany to ensure future policy decisions are based on better information.

The funding will go through the MeerWissen Initiative - African-German Partners for Ocean Knowledge, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and facilitated by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Speaking at the opening event, Dr Katrin Bornemann Head of German Development Cooperation from the German Embassy said his country was committed more than ever to the protection and conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity.

"Indeed, biodiversity is our biggest sector in Tanzania, and we have been at the forefront protecting biodiversity here since more than 60 years," he said.

According to him the forum focuses on sharing lessons learned and discusses ways in addressing political needs and expectations towards Marine Sciences with participants from 16 MeerWissen partnership projects from 10 African countries.

The forum goes back to a meeting of about a year ago of BMZ representatives, Germany envoy Regine Hess with Zanzibar president Dr Hussein Mwinyi.

He expressed his wish for Germany to expand its engagement in the sector of biodiversity to the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity.

The high-level forum was officiated by Minister Suleiman Makame of the ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries of Zanzibar and Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Fisheries United Republic of Tanzania Dr. Rashid Tamatamah who officiated.

## Germany bolsters marine sciences in Africa by helping research projects

"As we all know, our marine biodiversity stands under constant threats through climate change, diverse forms of pollution, overfishing, and unsustainable tourism," the PS said in his speech.

The PS said it is the responsibility of everyone to find innovative and sustainable ways to protect and conserve coastal and marine biodiversity not only for Tanzanians but the generation to come.



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

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1	TZ_VEHO000085	MC812BER	BAJAJ BOXER BM150 (Red)	2016	Dar es salaam- SGS Office, Kinondoni	Anna Moshy - 0756454968
2	TZ_VEHO000084	MC913BEN	BAJAJ BOXER BM150 (Red)	2016	ECO Bank a/c # 7045002612	
3	TZ_VEHO000078	T997DFR	TOYOTA RAV4 (COLOR BLACK)	2005	SGS Superintendence	
4	TZ_AAVEH0015	T724AEY	MTSUBISHI PICK UP, DC, 4X4	2003	Mwanza-SGS Office, Mkuuni	Alex Nairo - 0755754882
5	TZ_AAVEH0042	T609APK	MTSUBISHI FUSO TRUCK	1995	ECO Bank a/c # 7045002609	
6	TZ_AAVEH0045	-	CRANE	-	African Assay	
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Bids should be submitted, not later than 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 by 10.00 AM.

For more details please contact us via +255 756454968 for Dar es salaam / 0755 755754882 for Mwanza or alternatively e-mail us at TZ.Procurement@sgs.com



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Pindi Chana (3rd-L, foreground) pictured on Thursday inspecting a water project at Msomera village in Handeni District, where the government preparing permanent residences for pastoralists being relocated from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Others include Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima (2nd-R), Tanga regional Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) manager Upendo Lugongo (in black headscarf) and Handeni district administrative secretary Mashaka Boniface Mgeta (R). Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

## Police urges rickshaw drivers to observe law on passengers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Police Commander Martine Otieno has said police will take stern action against rickshaws (bajaj) drivers who will be found to carry more passengers than those allowed.

RPC Otieno's warning comes a few days after an accident involving a rickshaw and a motor vehicle near the University of Dodoma (UDOM) area that claimed the lives of three students and the rickshaw driver.

In the fatal accident, the rickshaw, carrying nine passengers rammed head on with a Toyota RAV4 car.

Those injured are hospitalized at the Benjamin Mkapa zonal referral hospital in Dodoma for treatment.

Speaking to The Guardian yesterday, RPC Otieno said rickshaw drivers must abide by laws and regulations governing safety on the road to protect themselves and passengers they carry.

He said drivers who will be found to overload passengers, will be severely dealt in accordance with the laws.

"I call upon drivers to adhere road traffic laws

and regulations, the rickshaw is not a "Noah" vehicle, it cannot carry more than three passengers including the driver," he stressed.

He added that the police will continue to educate on road safety to drivers of various means of transport to ensure road traffic laws are followed.

He called members of the public to be careful with passenger transport vehicles, saying they should not board a vehicle that is already full of passengers than the number allowed.



**I call upon drivers to adhere road traffic laws and regulations, the rickshaw is not a "Noah" vehicle, it cannot carry more than three passengers including the driver**

## Govt: School heads must respect guidelines on public funds

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has issued a warning to some heads of schools over misuse of public funds insisting them to follow the guidelines and procedures.

Following the situation, it has instructed school quality assurance officers across the country to monitor the schools and ensure accountability of school heads in managing funds pro-

vided by the government for construction of new schools.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka, issued the directive yesterday when closing a working session of school quality assurance officers at district and zonal level, held in Dodoma.

Prof Sedoyeka said there have been concerns of poor management of funds by some school

heads, resulting in failure to properly implement the intended projects.

"The government has issued funds for improvement of learning and teaching environment at each of the schools; some schools have not been using the funds properly. We want the money to be accordingly to end the various challenges facing our pupils including poor latrines and classrooms," he said.

The Permanent Secretary urged the supervisors to follow the rules and procedures for quality control of the school.

"Monitoring the quality assurance process by conducting an accurate assessment of quality standards, evaluating teaching and learning quality will help in ensuring that teachers are provided with professional support to improve their teaching," he added.

He emphasized the need to assess the quality of the curriculum to determine the needs of students by ensuring that the national curriculum is analysed and reflects local needs or context.

He said to improve the quality of education delivery in the country the government has continued to improve the education sector through provision of free education to in-

crease children's access to basic education.

He said the working the session was important because its deliberations would help the government in attaining its national and international standards in provision of education as well as enhancing the quality of schools.

"When you evaluate and identify the challenges in all aspects of quality standards;

you must also involve the community in finding solutions and putting in place strategies to improve the situation. Improving the delivery of quality education would result in better learning outcomes," said the PS.

One of the School Quality Assurance Officers from Chemba District, Amon Lembao said they will make sure they properly manage the project funds.



Stakeholders from the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), the Tanzania Bureau of Standards and the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre view a machine meant for the storing of nutrients in maize flour. It was during an inspection tour they made at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology yesterday. The machine was designed by Lucas Sabule, a student at the institute, in line with a call by the Prime Minister's Office to colleges of technology in the country to do their utmost in the war on malnutrition. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## NGO to provide sanitary pads to 100 school girls with disabilities

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 100 girls with disabilities from eight schools, both primary and secondary in Mbeya city are expected to be provided with sanitary pads from Empower Youth Prosperity (EYP) - a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) under the health and menstrual hygiene project.

The project aims to help girls to enable them study in a calm atmosphere even if they happen to be in their menstrual periods.

EYP Director Ipyana Mwakysusa yesterday said they are concentrating in educating the community, in particular parents and guardians to ensure the issue of buying sanitation pads becomes part of the budgets.

He said in doing so parents and guardians will help their girls whenever they enter their menstrual periods, to have confidence and study earnestly.

"We established this safe menstrual hygiene project with the aim of building in them confidence, especially those in puberty age to regard it as a normal occurrence.

"Menstruation must not be an obstacle for girls to realise their life dreams hence our organisation, in collaboration with various stakeholders will continue providing sanitary pads in schools, as we did recently when we handed out pads for 1,000 schoolgirls," said Mwakysusa.

He added that the organisation also has aims to empower girls living in difficult surroundings to get essential requirements including reusable sanitary pads.

He said EYP believes that the issue of menstruation is crosscutting hence men should also be involved to make the girls realise their life dreams.

"According to the 2018 research by both UNICEF and UNFPA under programme to enhance maternal health, 17 per cent of schoolgirls miss lessons during their menstrual periods," he said.

## Using technology to return green cover in Dar es Salaam

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TO increase green space in the city of Dar es Salaam, university students are using cutting-edge technologies to map trees with a high level of accuracy.

Trained by Tanzania's Resilience Academy - an initiative of the Tanzania Urban Resilience Program (TURP) - students and data scientists have developed a novel tool using a computer algorithm to quantify tree cover in the city.

Rebeka Mponjeja, a data scientist, said her team was developing data to aid city planners to know about the existing vegetation. She said the tools not only map the existing tree canopy but

also record air quality, tree loss from disease, and the nature of the neighbourhood.

"When new trees are planted in such areas, we hope that the vegetation will flourish, clean and cool air and improve the health of the people most in need," she said.

She said the tools backed by artificial intelligence have helped them to identify real and perceived tree cover in city landscapes with a high level of accuracy.

Lilian Lymo (23) is among dozens of university students who have been recruited to map the city's tree canopies using artificial intelligence.

"Trees have a lot of benefits such as reduc-

ing air pollution and absorbing water that can cause destructive floods," she said.

She said that in the densely populated Tandale, which has less natural vegetation and tree canopies residents have repeatedly suffered from extreme heat as there is a green cover to provide shade or absorb run-off from sudden rainfall.

According to her, the use of technology and detailed satellite imaging has made it easy to identify areas with less tree canopy cover and alert policymakers to make appropriate decisions.

As one of the fastest-growing cities in Africa, Dar es Salaam is a major driver of cli-

mate change, responsible for the emission of hazardous gases into the atmosphere which increases air pollution and causes heat stress extremes, environmental experts said.

Experts say, while policymakers routinely encourage tree planting, the low-tech strategy has not yielded the results.

Applauding the move, Joseph Kuzilwa, professor of urban economics at the Mzumbe University, said the move to map trees will help to restore the lost urban tree canopies which have led to increasing temperatures to dangerous levels.

"Policymakers need to prioritize urban tree canopies in their projects to increase the live-

ability of the city and reduce the urban heat island effect. City planners too should identify the best tree species to be planted in the city center" he said.

Through this initiative, young people are using their strong digital skills to quickly identify barren areas in the city's neighbourhoods.

Omari Kumbilamoto, Mayor of Dar es Salaam city, said the project has allowed city authorities to initiate tree-planting campaigns properly.

"I am very impressed by these young people. They have been able to collect useful data on city trees, which we use for development purposes," he said.

## 'AfCFTA has opportunities to unlock trade on the continent'

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) has opportunities to unlock trade on the continent and redesign the architectural framework of its economic systems, the East African Community (EAC) Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki has stated.

Dr Mathuki was speaking at the 2nd coordination meeting of the heads of regional economic communities (RECs) held at the EAC headquarters in Arusha. The overall objective of the four day meeting that started on 4th June, 2022 is to enable the RECs to build consensus around common positions critical to the continent's success at creating an African Economic Community.

The Secretary General said that AfCFTA has a market of around 1.3 billion consumers and a GDP of \$3.4 trillion.

He said that with the implementation of AfCFTA, trade facilitation measures will cut red tape, reduce tariffs, simplify customs procedures, boost intra-African trade, and build a foundation for long-term sustainable development in Africa.

Dr. Mathuki disclosed that Africa is one of the world's fastest-growing economies; however, trade in goods and services accounts for an estimated

3% of global exports and imports on average.

"The share of Intra African trade remains low: on average, 13% for intra-exports and 20% for intra imports, while Extra African trade accounts for more than 80% of the total trade. Africa's exports to the rest of the world consist of raw materials, such as oil, gas, minerals, and agricultural commodities, with little to no value addition" he added.

The Secretary General singled out factors why intra-Africa trade is low including differences in trade regimes (8 AU recognised RECs), inadequacies of trade-related infrastructure (poor intermodal connectivity), trade finance and trade information.

Other constraints according to Dr. Mathuki were customs, administrative and technical barriers, limited productive capacity, lack of factors of market integration, and inadequate focus on internal market issues.

He noted that the efforts to address binding constraints are currently underway through the AfCFTA and AU's Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT) action plan.

"If well-resourced and fast-tracked, these two initiatives will drive economic growth, industrialisation and development across Africa," added Hon Mathuki.



Morogoro district commissioner Albert Msando (L) briefs environmental stakeholders from the Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), World Wide Fund and the public sector in Morogoro municipality earlier this week on how changes in the ecosystem have affected smallholder farmers engaged in paddy farming within 60 meters of Ruvu River. Photo: Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Livestock Training Agency (LITA) has appealed to the government to consider allowing students who are affiliated with its colleges to benefit from the Higher Education Student's Loan Board (HESLB).

It has been unveiled that the state-owned agency is experiencing some student's drop-out at its different campuses due to failure by some students to manage fees payment, the negative move which calls for government's interventions.

The agency's head of quality assurance, Mohamedi Mbwana, underscored the need for the government to roll-out fee support towards their students, a move he observed will play vital role in help support smooth

## LITA wants students to benefit from HESLB

metamorphosis of the key sector in which the national economy hinges.

"The agency is responsible to mould useful human power for the general improvement of the country's livestock sector, but it is disconcerting to see some devoted students are being compelled to drop their lessons due to financial constraints," he expressed.

Moreover, he added that the key agency was also facing a shortage of key professionals, particularly engineers for handling departments such as agriculture and laboratory.

"Absence of such experts weakens the agency's capability to impart the

beneficiary students with the much needed theoretical and practical skills," he unveiled, adding: "We're kindly appealing to the government to mull over assisting us to get such officials," Pamela Kusolwa, the campus manager for LITA's Mpwapwa College, said the agency was currently implementing a key strategy to empower local pastoralists with practical skills on pasture production.

"We've developed a viable outreach programme through which we're using our best students to train the nearby pastoralist communities on how to cultivate recommended pasture in order to improve their cattle's health

and milk production," she said.

Apart from that, she added that LITA was also imparting the pastoralist with best knowledge to manage cattle's housing, feeding as well as animal health management practices.

"Animal health management is vital which includes, among others, provision of good quality nutritious feed, clean water, comfortable clean environment and reliable veterinary services. These are essential for increased animal productivity due to reduced animal morbidity and mortality and for safeguarding public health by reducing exposure to zoonotic pathogens," she observed.

As part to fuel the performance of the sector, LITA is also contemplating to implement a special incubator programme.

An occupational incubator is a place which accelerates and systematizes the process of creating a successful enterprise by providing them with a comprehensive and integrated range of support, including space, business support services, clustering and networking opportunities to address their needs and develop their business ideas.

"We are planning to embark on establishing the incubation centers after conducting a special survey which

established that most of the livestock graduates in the country are failing to employ themselves in different livestock projects due to lack of practical competencies," she expressed.

She detailed that at the envisaged incubator programme centers, the prospective students will be equipped with employability skills as an additional 'softer' skills as part to complement their academic achievement towards self-employment, including practical experience.

LITA-Mpwapwa was established by Germans in 1930 as part of the then Veterinary Research Station founded in 1905. In 1961, the institute was transferred to Tengeru (Arusha), where training in animal husbandry courses was conducted to the end of 1967 before it was reintroduced in Mpwapwa.



On Spot Centre eye care specialist Seif Mohammed (L) attends to Dar es Salaam resident Abdallah Hassan during a free health promotion campaign dubbed 'Afya Check' held at the city's Mbagala Zakhem grounds earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## UWT wing in Mbeya out to spend 48m/- for building house for rent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

CCM Women Wing (UWT) in Mbeya Region is expected to spend more than 48m/- to construct the first home for rent that will be part of the organisation's investment projects.

This was revealed here Wednesday by Mbeya Region UWT secretary, Mary Mwasengo when receiving 3,000 bricks as assistance from the director of Dar es Salaam based Patrick Mission School and Mbeya's Paradise Mission school.

She said the houses are to be built in their plot at Forest Mpya area and they will start by building a two family house.

She added that the land plot is of 3,000 sq metres and that they will also build a house for the organisation's secretary general for Mbeya region.

She said the bricks provided will ensure the house will be completed in time, as they already had sand and cement and pledged to engage workers who have been engaged in projects for her various schools.

"To complete this project, we have decided to make contributions starting at grassroots, ward level, and we members of the secretariat.

"Those at the grassroots will part with 3,000/- each, while 5,000/- will be contributed by those at the ward level while members of the secretariat will part with 20,000/- each," said Mary.

Handing over the bricks, Mwaizela the director of Patrick Mission School, who is one of develop-

ment stakeholders in Mbeya region said in addition to bricks; they will also meet the cost of the foundation and walls.

He said earlier he pledged to contribute 10m/- but due to various reasons, he instead decided to provide building materials, and added that he will make sure their value comes to the pledged amount of 10m/-.

He also praised UWT for inventing the project saying it will assist the organisation economically and will no longer be asking for money from other sources.

The chairperson of UWT financial committee for Mbeya region, Edna Mwaigomole thanked Mwaizela for the assistance and beseeched him to continue assisting the organisation in future.

He also appealed to other able stakeholders to help the organisation saying it still does not have other investments to finance its projects.



**To complete this project, we have decided to make contributions starting at grassroots, ward level, and we members of the secretariat**

## UN says terrorism deaths down globally, but is up in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE number of deaths from terrorist attacks is down globally but increasing in Africa, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

"Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 48 per cent of deaths attributed to terrorist groups globally last year," he told a meeting of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

Terrorist groups like al-Qaida, the Islamic State and their affiliates are continuing to grow in the Sahel and make inroads into central and Southern Africa, he added.

Terrorist groups exploit power vacuums, longstanding inter-ethnic strife, internal

weaknesses and state fragilities, Guterres said.

In conflict-affected countries like Congo, Libya and Somalia, terrorism intensified cycles of violence, fuelling further instability, undermining peace efforts, and setting back development goals, Xinhua news agency reported.

However, he added that such groups also seek to exploit and manipulate grievances in society and mistrust in governments in largely peaceful countries such as Mozambique and Tanzania.

The UN chief is optimistic following a visit to Borno State, Nigeria, once a Boko Haram stronghold, now on the road to reconciliation and reintegration.

"I met people eager to restart their lives, including children who were once associated with Boko Haram, and women who are committed to ending the cycles of violence and discrimination under which they have suffered for so long," he said.

"The United Nations family is standing with them and we will continue our support as they rebuild their lives, and work to renew the social contract between people, communities and government."

Guterres said the Nigerian government's strategy is to re-establish trust with the people, creating conditions to dismantle Boko Haram's recruitment mechanism. He added that many former Boko Haram fighters are even reintegrating into society.

The people themselves undermined the work and terrorist actions of Boko Haram, he added.

But he warned that terrorism cannot be effectively addressed without tackling the conditions conducive to its spread. Weak institutions, inequalities, poverty, hunger and injustice all provide fertile ground for terrorist recruitment and violent extremism.

The Secretary-General said an integrated and holistic approach is essential to the United Nations' counter-terrorism strategy.

He called for investing in health, education, protection, gender equality and justice systems accessible to all and creating truly democratic systems and processes so that every person can have a voice in the future

of their communities and countries.

"Upholding human rights is critical to tackling some of the world's most complex problems, and must be at the center of our counter-terror efforts," Guterres said.

"This is our duty, our legal obligation, and our strategic imperative."

He added that the compact must continue to support member states in their counter-terror efforts, from technical assistance and capacity-building to helping build people-centred institutions. It must be grounded in human rights and the rule of law.

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact brings together partners in combating terrorism, UN agencies and member states of the world body.

## International Albinism Awareness Day: Tanzania very much at centre of things

GLOBAL and local activists mark the International Albinism Awareness Day on June 13 each year, one of the more recent international days, adopted by the General Assembly on December 18, 2014. An online entry declares that this historic resolution confirmed the global focus on albinism advocacy, with a North American organization, the National Organisation of Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH) playing a significant role in raising awareness and readiness to set out the need for commemoration. Other agencies and activists around the world joined, and the case was built.

The UN chronicler salutes the late Somali Ambassador to the United Nations offices in Geneva, Yusuf Mohamed Ismail Bari-Bari, as having led the effort to pass the resolution in cooperation with Under the Same Sun, an organization that promotes and protects the rights of people with albinism, particularly in Africa. In the early days marking the day, Ambassador Bari-Bari narrated having shared a story with Pope Francis in which he informed the Pontiff of the atrocities committed against people with albinism in Africa. As the Vatican added its voice in the United Nations as a country, its humanist appeal was clear.

UN delegations from Italy, Israel, Canada and the United States, along with the United Nations Special Representative on Violence against Children, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and several key individuals in the global albinism community participated in the formative event, building the consensus for its becoming a worldwide commemora-

tion day. In its thematic focus this year, the main organisations emphasise the feeling that including voices of persons with albinism is essential to ensure equality, setting up the hashtag '#Inclusion4equality.' They similarly underline that there is more visibility of persons with albinism in all domains of life, which means that positive inclusion is rising.

For one thing, it is hard to say how widespread was the violence against people with albinism in the country at the time that these organisations were working to set up this day of reflection and exchange of experience as to how much has been achieved. Those attacks were mostly tied with ancient beliefs in human sacrifice to make things work, not in tribal shrines that colonialism had closed but a random act of criminality for instance by cutting off arms of people with albinism. Some media savvy individuals started talking about 'trade' in albino organs, which actually doesn't make sense.

Those living with albinism have no different body parts from others; severing their body part was an act of greed and cruelty, as investigative reports at the time showed that people were being paid money for delivering those body parts. It is totally unlikely that anyone wanted the body parts for commercial purposes but as proof that the sacrifice took place. In that case behind the hype about organs what was targeted was bloodletting, a criminal enterprise quite simply. Indeed, an undercover report by the UK broadcasting agency BBC helped to expose its organized crime nature, throwing the police onto the trail.

## With rise in wildlife population, staying near national parks getting much riskier

NOT much headway was made in parliamentary discussion on what is euphemistically known as human-wildlife conflicts, a conceptual humanization of attacks by wild animals on people living in habitations close to national parks and game reserves.

The phrase is also supposed to cover killing such animals by people especially in revenge for cattle having been mauled say by lions, as they hunt near their habitats, areas they occupy so other predators will know the place is out of bounds. The cattle are just prey spotted around that place, and admittedly this is also how a breadth of officialdom sees the matter, as 'natural.'

Two parliamentarians who attempted to raise the matter in the debating chamber found to their chagrin that it wasn't a walk in the park to say that dozens of people had been killed by wild animals, or another dozen had been shot by wardens in this or that circumstance.

Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson, a learned lawyer in her own right, imposed the burden of proof on the MPs, and once they failed to meet austere standards of what the documents presented vividly and unmistakably demonstrate, took a turn on the matter. It wasn't an issue of forming a parliamentary probe committee, the two MPs having key roles; not exactly.

The government was instead tasked with conducting an investigation to ascertain the truth in claims made by the lawmakers and a number of others, that there is an alarming

increase of human-wildlife conflicts in various regions, causing loss of lives and destruction of properties. The Speaker set out three months for the work to be conducted; implicitly underlining that it is likely to be the final word on the matter. At the same time Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa ruled out initiating a policy of wildlife harvesting to bring the situation to an end, a position that one MP has elaborately proposed, and no doubt acclaimed by others.

One can understand the premier's position as to issuing licences to hunt elephant and lions right at a time that poaching is on the rise. The International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) fears that making 'big game' legitimate could make it uncontrollable. Policing is a more realistic approach, but it demands political will as criminal gangs fester on indulgence by the police.

Still, conservation areas are far too wide for effective policing against errant wildlife movements, and worse, each year hundreds of thousands of new individuals from areas near and far wish to open farms near national parks or game reserves. The government would do better encouraging reverse initiative, using global conservation and climate change impact compensation funds to encourage more people to shift, seek land elsewhere and use zero grazing methods and dense crop cultivation if they have the means.

Those shifting from Ngorongoro even have houses being built for them, so others could be helped as well.

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## Community healthcare upgrades way to go

By Special Correspondent

Everyone needs basic services, and just about the most basic is access to health care which is one reason why most rural district councils have been using their devolution budgets over the last couple of years to add more clinics to their networks, filling gaps so that communities are not reliant on a clinic 20km away.

During the 1980s soon after independence putting in a network of clinics to provide primary health care was one of the major achievements of the Government, with local authorities complementing this in urban areas by expanding what they inherited from the colonial era.

But then enthusiasm waned, even as populations grew, more areas were intensely settled under land reform, and cities expanded into new suburbs and new towns arose from the veld.

So the dramatic achievements of the 1980s, that saw child mortality rates crash and most people having somewhere to go when they were ill or were giving birth, were considered a box that had been ticked, when fairly obviously what had been done was put in the minimum needed for the then population.

There were some additions, in new district and provincial hospitals, but not enough and the programmes of expansion of health coverage shuddered to a halt during the eras of inflation and survival under dollarisation.

Even maintenance of existing facilities was allowed to be skipped.

The Second Republic changed this. For a start a serious effort was made to catch up on the maintenance, getting what we had back into shape and upgrading where necessary; this was accelerated as Covid-19 hit Zimbabwe, budgets were increased, communities were mobilised and the private sector chipped in.

So fairly rapidly what was there across a swathe of the public health sector was fully functional, although some city clinics remained closed with their poor council administration, and necessary improvements like intensive care beds were added.

Morale of professional staff improved significantly as they had access to working equipment and adequate supplies of consumables and drugs.

Now the Government, already seeing improvements through devolution in rural areas, is getting stuck in itself in expanding the network of public health facilities, with that programme accelerated through a US\$200 million loan facility from Britain, another sign as President Mnangagwa noted last week of the successes of the re-engagement efforts of the Second Republic.

That would have been unthinkable a few years ago, but it is now helping, especially in the proper equipping of the new facilities, which does require imported equipment.

The design and building of the new set of clinics is done by Zimbabweans, with the contracted British company coming in when the equipment is procured, a reasonable division of labour.

So the Second Republic is in full drive for 30 new clinics and five new district hospitals, with President Mnangagwa stressing that the timeline for the accelerated programme is largely dependent on how fast Zimbabweans build.

Funds are released in phases as each set of



clinics is completed, which is fair enough, and presumably the Second Republic administrative reforms of zero corruption and shiny accounts means no spanners can be thrown into the works.

Whether we are using taxpayer money, special loans or private donations, everyone wants every dollar to count, and be counted, so having high administrative standards is absolutely vital.

All Second Republic reforms impact on each other and make life a lot better.

The 30 new clinics are being spread around the country, starting where they are most needed, and without any attempts to score political points, with just access to health being the criteria.

So the first in the initial batch of four, the one opened last week by President Mnangagwa, was in Stoneridge, the centre of the new suburbs in Harare South that exceptionally bad Harare City Council planning allowed to just grow without the services, which include roads, sewers, water pipes, power lines, schools and clinics.

The Government is stepping in, already promising title deeds, now ensuring that there is a decent clinic and with the President making it clear, after he had to drive over the tracks that pass for roads to open the clinic, that the continued delays in putting in at least basic roads, access to potable water and proper formal schools was simply not acceptable.

The Government is starting on its share of the necessary development, but fairly obviously everyone

else needs to be involved in sorting out the Harare South suburban mess where at least there were layout plans before the land barons stepped in, so title deeds are fairly easy once some basic surveying is done, a process now being done.

But the President still expects that his next visit to the south will see significant progress in turning these settlements into proper suburbs. Hopefully his strong prodding will see those responsible moving a lot faster.

The other three clinics in this first batch of four are in Bulawayo, in Cowdray Park, Mataga in Mberengwa and Runyararo in Chimanimani, a fairly reasonable geographical spread and urban-rural split.

Again the President prodded, wanting the teams responsible for these three now under construction to move at full deliberate speed, so the funding for the next phase can be released. We do not want short cuts but we do not need delays.

The other major health move on Friday at Stoneridge was the commissioning of a fleet of 40 new ambulances, 32 bought by Government with UNDP sufficiently impressed to add an extra eight, and again using our own resources rather than relying on aid, means that aid agencies are more prepared to chip in to make the taxpayer dollars go further.

Another 100 are in the pipeline, and fairly obviously someone in the Ministry of Health and Child Care made sure when setting specifications that the basic vehicle that would have an ambulance body

and equipment fitted would not be held up or derailed on so-so roads.

A good strong chassis, decent wheel clearance and something close to all-terrain capability means the ambulances will be able to get into almost any homestead or use the worse roads, a practical requirement.

The 140 are to be distributed across all provinces, but that does provide a significant fleet in each, and even in most districts.

Building and upgrading clinics and district hospitals does require that sick and injured people can reach them, and that those who need to be moved up the referral chain from a clinic to a district hospital to a provincial hospital to a national referral hospital can be moved swiftly.

The double, of a significant extension of the clinic network and an ambulance fleet, shows that the seriousness of the Government policy of providing a decent public health system, and one that is being considerably improved.

Even when the 30 new clinics, five new district hospitals and the 140 ambulances are on the road, no one should consider that the Government will relax.

It has already shown it is now prepared to ensure that existing and new facilities are maintained and equipped, as well as continually improved, and all these steps, maintaining what we have and extending as fast as we can, mean we are on a sustainable road to the sort of first-class public health system we deserve.



BY TELESFOR MAGOBE

LAST week we briefly looked at cases of killing a person on the grounds of provocation. The idea was to show that there is growing concern for killings of persons in circumstances that are hardly justifiable.

However, some people have been claiming they have killed their spouses, neighbours or any other persons and the reasons they usually give when they are facing criminal charges are either insanity or provocation or both.

As we saw from decided court cases, it is not always the case to be exonerated from criminal liability unless the court is convinced that the accused person killed another person in "the heat of passion" (as a result of provocation), but this has to be proved.

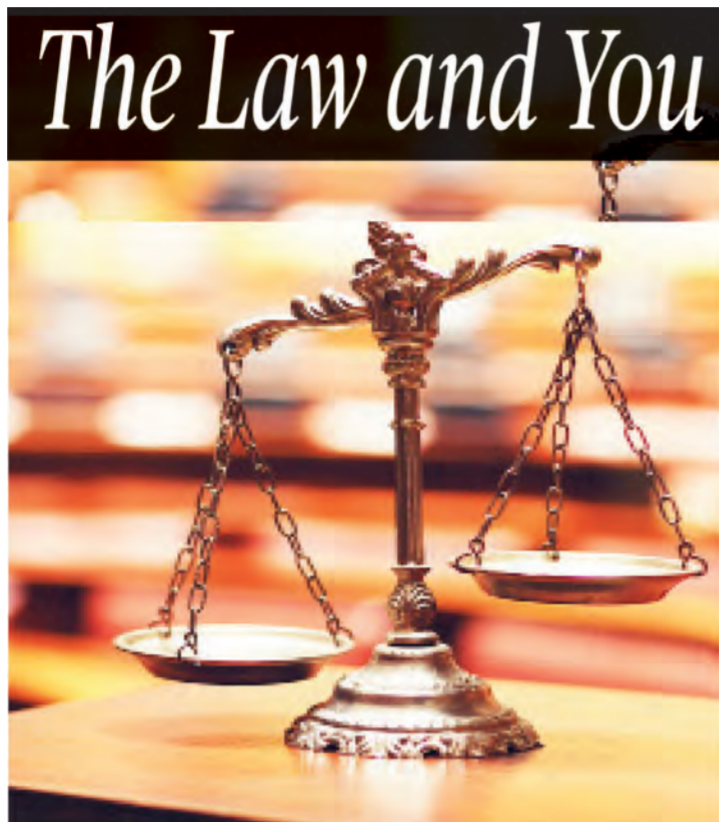
Today, I invite you to look at the right to life. I have chosen this topic because we have time and time again been hearing reports of killings of persons in different parts of the country and sometimes we don't understand why some people choose to disrespect the right to life in circumstances in which they could have changed their mind or forgiven the person they wanted to kill.

One may think that some people no longer value the sanctity of life perhaps due to desperation or moral decadence in the sense that for some people the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad is no longer there.

This can also be looked at globally. In some jurisdictions, the right to life is unqualified and in others it is qualified. For instance, in the Constitution of Namibia, the right to life is unqualified.

Article 6 of the Constitution of the

# It's a legal and moral obligation to respect, protect sanctity of life



Republic of Namibia states that: "The right to life shall be respected and protected. No law may prescribe death as a competent sentence. No Court or Tribunal shall have the power to impose a sentence of death upon any person. No executions shall take place in Namibia."

In the Constitution of South Africa too, the right to life is unqualified. Article 11 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa states that: "Everyone has the right to life."

In jurisdictions where the right to life is unqualified there is no death penalty or capital punishment and the maximum punishment a per-

son convicted of murder or of any serious criminal offence is life imprisonment.

In Tanzania, the right to life is qualified. Article 14 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania states that: "Every person has the right to live and to the protection of his [or her] life by the society in accordance with the law." So is the Constitution of Zanzibar. Article 13(1) of the Constitution of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar states that: "Every person has the right to the preservation of his [or her] life."

But Sub-article (2) qualifies Sub-article (1). Sub-article (2) states that: "Every person has the right to live and to the protection of his life by the society in accordance with the law."

In jurisdictions where the right to life is qualified, there is death penalty or capital punishment and the maximum punishment is death penalty or capital punishment. In the case of Tanzania, if a person charged with murder or treason is convicted by a competent court, he or she shall suffer death by hanging.

Section 26(1) of the Penal Code (Chapter 16) states that: "When a person is sentenced to death, the sentence shall direct that he [or she] shall suffer death by hanging."

However, Subsection (1) provides an exception. If the person convicted of an offence punishable by death is a pregnant woman, then the court shall inquire into the fact and, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that she is pregnant, the sentence shall be reduced to life imprisonment instead of death by hanging. Section 197 of Zanzibar's Penal Decree Act No 6 of 2004 states simply that: "Any person convicted of murder shall be sentenced to death."

According to Amnesty International (AI) Report 2021, which covers January-December 2021, there was an increase in global executions by 20 per cent on the 2020 figure (from at least 483 to at least 579), while the number of death sentences increased by almost 40 per cent (from at least 1,477 in 2020 to at least 2,052 in 2021).

"For the second consecutive year, the number of countries known to have executed people [18 of them] was the lowest since the organisation began keeping records - confirming once again that it is an isolated minority of countries that still chose to resort to executions," reads part of AI report.

Thus, until the end of December last year, AI recorded 579 executions in 2021, an increase of 20 per cent on the 2020 recorded total (483). Yet, despite the rise the 2021 figure remained among historical-low totals, "constituting the second-lowest figure for global executions the organisation has recorded since at least 2010". What is recorded by AI does not include executions carried out in some countries where it is difficult to get information on those executions.

AI says that the total number of executions reported for 2020 represented one of the lowest figures that the organisation has recorded in any given year since it began its monitoring of the use of death penalty in 1979.

It also recorded commutations or pardons of death sentences in 19 countries, namely

Bangladesh, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, UAE, USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe. There were also seven exonerations of people under sentence of death in four countries: Bahrain (1), Kenya (1), USA (2) and Zambia (3).

In Tanzania, according to AI report, at least 480 accused persons remained under death sentence by the end of last year.

As of December 31, 2021, more than two thirds of the countries across the world had abolished the death penalty in law or practice. Their numbers were as follows: abolitionist for all crimes (countries whose laws do not provide for the death penalty for any crime): 108, abolitionist for ordinary crimes only (countries whose laws provide for the death penalty only for exceptional crimes such as crimes under military law or crimes committed in exceptional circumstances): 8, abolitionist in practice (countries that their laws provide for the death penalty, but no person has been executed in the last 10 years or more): 28, abolitionist in law or practice: 144 and retentionist (countries that retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes): 55.

Tanzania is regarded as an abolitionist in practice. This means it still retains the death penalty for ordinary crimes such as murder or treason, but it has not executed any person during the last 10 years or more and is believed to have a policy or established a practice of not carrying out executions.

With this in mind, it is safe to believe that the sanctity of life is not all that valued by all people equally not only in Tanzania but also in other parts of the world. Yet, it is the mother of all other rights. So, take care and make sure you respect and protect the right to life.

**Today's proverb: "It's a long lane that has no turning."**

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## BRICS cooperation leads the way to new era of global development

YANG XUN, BAI YANG

IN recent years, BRICS countries, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, have maintained sound momentum of economic and trade cooperation. With the growth rate of exports among them exceeding the global average, BRICS countries have made important contributions to promoting global economic recovery and high-quality development.

The emerging-market bloc, whose gross domestic product (GDP), trade in goods and foreign capital intake accounts for 23 percent, 18 percent and 25 percent, respectively, of the world's total, has become an important force that cannot be ignored in the world economy.

In November 2020, the five BRICS countries adopted the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, which specified three key spheres of cooperation, including trade, investment and finance, digital economy, and sustainable development, and goals for cooperation in each sphere, charting a new development path for deepening BRICS economic partnership in the next five years.

As the BRICS chair for 2022, China will host the 14th BRICS Summit and other activities.

China looks forward to working together with other BRICS countries to jointly grasp new opportunities for development, address new risks and challenges, and achieve more robust, greener, and healthier global development by building a more comprehensive, closer, more pragmatic and more inclusive BRICS partnership under the theme of the 14th BRICS Summit: "Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development."

Since the beginning of the BRICS "China Year", the five BRICS countries have held more than 60 important events in key areas such as global governance, epidemic prevention and control, digital economy, sustainable development and people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and achieved many positive results.

The BRICS Vaccine Research and Development (R&D) Center was officially launched in March; the BRICS Women Innovation Contest has successfully concluded; and the BRICS Technical and Vocational



Education and Training (TVET) Cooperation Alliance was inaugurated.

More than 60 vocational schools from the BRICS countries confirmed that they would join the alliance, and several thousand contestants signed up for the 2022 BRICS Skills Competition.

BRICS countries are conducting active discussions for the issuance of joint statement on multilateral trading system and the WTO (World Trade Organization) reform, and have reached important consensus on formulating documents for cooperation in digital economy, industrial and supply chains, sustainable development and other fields.

The combined forces of pandemic and major changes both unseen in a century have added to the complexity and severity of the international situation.

BRICS countries, as representatives of emerging markets and developing countries, should deepen

their strategic partnership, act as a stabilizer for international and regional situation and an accelerator for development, contribute solutions for safeguarding fairness and justice, inject strength into the stability of the global market, build a defense line for jointly fighting the pandemic, and provide impetus for international development cooperation, according to China's BRICS Sherpa and Vice Foreign Minister Ma Xiaoxu.

Ma stressed that the five countries should provide support for improving global economic governance. China expects the BRICS countries to promote multilateralism, maintain the multilateral trading system with the WTO as the cornerstone and improve the international financial and monetary system, and make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial for all, he said.

BRICS is an important mechanism for cooperation among emerging markets and

developing countries, and a key platform for South-South cooperation.

Since its inception 16 years ago, BRICS has become a positive, stabilizing and constructive force with rising international influence and appeal on the international stage, and has always been closely linked to the destiny of emerging markets and developing countries.

Having completed its first membership expansion, the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) will provide financial support for more developing countries and increase its voice and influence in the international financial system.

BRICS countries agreed that it is important to enhance cooperation with other emerging markets and developing countries, further improve the representation of BRICS, make BRICS' voice in major international and regional issues more widely heard, join hands to meet challenges, and safeguard the common interests and development

space of emerging markets and developing countries.

China actively supports the start of BRICS expansion process and expanding "BRICS Plus" cooperation. During the recently held Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs, participants reached consensus on the BRICS expansion process and the first ever "BRICS Plus" dialogue at the foreign minister level was held, which fully show that the BRICS cooperation is open and inclusive.

China will work on BRICS parties to continue to have in-depth discussions on BRICS expansion and determine the standards and procedures for that on the basis of consensus. It looks forward to more like-minded partners joining the big family of BRICS.

# The thoroughbred craft beer that conquered Africa

By Dennis Cruywagen

**D**EEP in the heart of the Cape Wine-lands, just off the R45, sandwiched between Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl, near the unused Simondium railway station, and on a site where for more than 50 years wine was once produced, lies the home of Soul Barrel Brewing, producers of Live Grand Cru Culture, Africa's best craft beer in 2022.

Although I live in the region, I was unaware of the existence of the craft brew operation that had been cheekily started in wine country with all its achievements, until my wife, Lianda, and family friend, Siobhan Tregoning, took me to Soul Barrel on my birthday in mid-May.

Not usually a beer drinker, and ignorant about craft beer, I am one of those people who cannot avoid reading, even scraps of newspaper.

Sitting in what was a wine cellar for Drakenstein Cooperative Winery 1906 until the mid 1980s, my eyes stopped on a proud announcement on a solid wall, in which some of the original mason work, including brown river rocks, were exposed.

The message was simple: on 14 May the wild-fermented craft beer Live Grand Cru Culture was crowned 2022 champion of Africa at the African Beer Cup. This is an annual continental craft beer competition which was launched three years ago by beer writer Lucy Corne, and is the continent's biggest beer competition.

Live Grand Cru Culture outperformed the competition in a competitive field of 250 entries from 14 different African countries.

Intrigued, I wanted to know more. However, that birthday outing was not the most opportune moment for me to be curious. So I returned a few days later to talk to the owner Nick Smith, an American from New Orleans in his country's deep south, who was lured to South Africa by romance and marriage.

As a slight breeze was scattering yellow leaves around and on us, and warmed by the winter sun, we talked about the rains that were expected later in the week and the weekend before moving to the serious subject of craft beer and this year's continental championships. Craft beer is different from commercial beer, as well as



This is Africa's best craft beer: Live Culture Grand Cru.

traditional beer, which is made from sorghum.

Bubbling with pride like the parent of a new-born child, Nick was keen to talk about the 18-month process that led to the release of Live Grand Cru Culture last December. One of his first points was that the gold medal-winning craft beer was a South African thoroughbred, with all the ingredients used coming from the Western Cape.

In the plant kingdom of the Western Cape, fynbos is king. Nick and his two fellow brewers at this small operation, Devin Hendricks and Kian Bradley, turned to the veld for inspiration and found themselves drawn to wild geranium which is an essential flavouring ingredient.

Said Kian: "We use it because we wanted to highlight our fynbos. We chose wild lemon geranium which gives Grand a slight lemony taste."

Barley was ordered from Caledon in the Overberg, a picturesque part of the Western Cape known for sheep-farming, canola

and grain fields, and rolling green hills.

"To make beer from raw barley it first must be malted. We followed a very traditional process called floor malting. The grain is soaked, then spread out on the floor as it begins to grow. Once the growing seed is fully developed, we then dry it in the sun through a process called kilning and finish it by toasting it in a big pot over a fire. The coffee roaster next door helped us to do this."

This process creates and extracts sugars from the malt and gives the beer much of its honey colour. It also adds a bit of a biscuity popcorn taste. However, that's not all that needs to be done. The sugar liquid must still be mixed with hops.

Hops are an essential ingredient. It is grown in the George region, mainly for commercial beer producers. The three brewers tried to grow their own hops.

"It's more of a wild grown hops. We sowed it a few times. It didn't take. One day it just grew. Now it grows every season," recalled Devin.

The hops give the bitterness and also enhance the flavour of the beer. "We add the hops to the boiling process which develops the bittering characteristics that we need for the beer taste. We also later add hops to the fermentation barrels which further extracts more aroma from the hops than just its bitterness - something which helps to complement the fynbos," Kian mused.

Before the hops were used, it was also given the sun-drying treatment. "For this beer we used our own malt (hops) and dried it in the sun, like they used to make malt hundreds of years ago. It's a very traditional process using ingredients on hand like they would have made beer before the industrial revolution," Nick added.

The craft beer was then brewed in a slow, traditional way and fermented in a French oak wine barrel for a year. In this process, wild yeast entered the picture.

Said Nick: "We didn't add any traditional yeast to his beer, it was fermented only with wild yeast. Wild yeast typically describes a type of live culture called Brettanomyces, or any other live cultures that live inside the wine barrel and that comes from the environment. It is an unusual process to ferment with wild yeast, especially the way we do it. Our Live Culture barrel which we used specifically for this beer has dozens of different strains of wild yeast that originated from various places and from our environment and ingredients. As the time, ingredients and season change, different wild yeasts will emerge or become more prominent."

Why the name Grand Cru? "Live Culture is a family of beers. This one we called Grand Cru because it was released, like a Grand Cru which is a traditionally premium wine, during the festive season last year. The wine name also speaks to the heritage of the old wine cellar where we are."

Live Grand Cru Culture is not a commercial [O4I] beer, Nick said. "To some extent this beer is unlike any other in the world. It actually more resembles aged champagne. With an eight and a half percent alcohol level, it's a sipping beer."

From the first moment they tasted this honey-coloured craft beer, said Nick, they knew they had a winner on their hands. Still they did not expect to be crowned with gold.

"We did not expect to win. One's beer is like one's kids, you know. You think they're all special and great things. Beer covers a wide range of styles and types of beer. It's also subjective in a sense. I want balance,

structure and inspiration. Things that are interesting to me may or may not be good to someone else. When we released Grand Cru we did think that it was a world-class beer, though. We took a chance with it and it won."

On the night of May 14, when the winning beer was announced at a function in Cape Town, Nick was at home helping to look after his young boy who was sick. "I was at home with my kid Jack who is three-and-a-half years old. I didn't know we'd won. I then started to get lots of text messages and realised we'd won."

Kian was watching the event being live streamed. Devin was at the awards ceremony, admitting that like any young guy he just went for the free food and socialising, and was totally taken aback and utterly surprised and overjoyed when the winning beer was announced.

Success in competitions brings in orders. Things at Soul Barrel Brewery have been hectic, a change in fortune that is welcome after the slowdown caused by the country's Covid lockdown.

"It's obviously very exciting to win the best beer in Africa award, but most of all I think we're grateful to our supporters and to our beer community. Our mission at Soul Barrel is to showcase South African ingredients and prove that locally made beer can compete with any in the world. We feel like winning this award with a 100% South African beer is a step toward achieving that goal," Nick said.

He is proud of his two young colleagues. "Devin and Kian are local talents. Devin is from Paarl and Kian is from Durbanville. Devin started with us about two years ago with only tasting room experience and has worked hard and has turned into a strong brewer."

DM

# Xi's reply to letter from cadre workshop participants at Julius Nyerere Leadership School

BEIJING

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Wednesday replied to a letter from all participants of the Former Liberation Movements of Southern Africa Leading Cadres Workshop 2022 at the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School.

In his letter, Xi said he is pleased to know that the workshop was successfully held, during which the participants discussed the important topics of what kind of development a ruling party should lead its country to pursue in the new era and how to pursue it, learnt from each other and gained better understanding of such topics.

Xi pointed out that the realization of national development and people's happiness requires continuous efforts

for generations.

Building a better world requires exchanges and mutual learning among countries, he said, adding that the participants are determined to be the pioneer of the times and the pillar of national rejuvenation, which is the original purpose of the school.

Noting that youth is always accompanied by dreams, Xi said he hopes the participants make the best of what they have learned, keep working hard and embrace their youthful ambitions on the journey to realize the dream of national rejuvenation and African rejuvenation.

China and Africa belong to a community with a shared future that shares weal and woe, and the hope of long-term friendship between the Chinese and African people rests with the younger generation, Xi noted.

Xi said he hopes that the participants voluntar-

ily shoulder the responsibility and mission entrusted to them by this era, take an active part in the cause of the China-Africa friendship, carry forward and pass on the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, and contribute to the building of a high-quality China-Africa community with a shared future.

The workshop was held recently at the Tanzanian institute. With the theme of "New Development in the New Era: Exploration by and Exchanges between the CPC and the Former Liberation Movements of Southern Africa," it gathered 120 middle-aged and young cadres from the six African parties.

Near the end of the workshop, the participants sent a joint letter to General Secretary Xi to express their firm determination to carry forth the China-Africa friendship and deepen cooperation between the two sides. ■



The opening ceremony of the Former Liberation Movement of Southern Africa Leading Cadres Workshop 2022 was held at the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School, Kibaha Coastal Region on May 25, 2022. Photo: IDCPC

**CAPITAL RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS  21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMUJAWYO 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

## Resolving conflicts through participatory decision-making is of basic importance

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale

THE conflict between farmers in Chanzulu and pastoralists in Mbwade villages of Kilosa district over water distribution has been long standing.

Farmers have always blamed pastoralists for grazing their livestock in their farms and for destroying irrigation infrastructure when watering their livestock. On the other hand, pastoralists have blamed farmers upstream for interfering with the flow of Ilonga river, thereby curtailing the supply of water to pastoralists and their livestock.

The relationship between the two parties has remained sour until early last year when both villages started participating in the Fair Water Futures project implemented in partnership with Shahidiwa Maji organisation. This was an opportunity for them to undertake a joint process of looking for solutions to end their conflicts.

Among other things, the project that targets small farmers, fishermen and pastoralists, seeks to empower communities to demand equitable sharing of water for the various uses.

For all the three communities, water is the mainstay of their livelihoods. "Perhaps demanding is the second stage in the process of seeking solutions to availability of water and equitable sharing of the resource; the first stage is for communities to be aware of their problems and find various means to solve them, beginning with local action. It starts with community soul-searching, actually," explains Tondelo Gungulundi, programme officer for Shahidi wa Maji.

In order to effect smooth implementation of the project, farmers in Chanzulu village which operates an irrigation scheme, elected a steering committee comprising 15 members.

These are known as Mashahidi wa Maji, who assume a leadership role in ensuring that the community accesses a fair share of water for irrigation and other needs. Mashahidi work with village governments, village natural resources committees and the district council in order to ensure equitable water sharing among villagers as well as other users beyond the village.

"In about one year since we started implementation of the project, the village has managed to repair irrigation canals. This has reduced wastage and increased availability of water for irrigation. We have also imposed a fine of 50,000/- for anyone found 'stealing' water for irrigation or destroying the irrigation infrastructure," explains Mzee Maganga, Chairman of Mashahidi wa Maji in Chanzulu village. However, even after taking these measures, flows on Ilonga River are low due to



The secretary of Mashahidi wa Maji in Chanzulu explains how water is distributed from the intake on Ilonga River.

reduced rainfall. "The important thing is that conflicts have been reduced as every farmer gets a fair share of what is available," adds Maganga.

Through efforts of Mashahidi wa Maji cordial relationship has been established with neighbouring Mbwade pastoralists.

There are still isolated cases of pastoralists grazing their livestock in rice farms but these are resolved amicably. "Even when the rice crop has been harvested, pastoralists do not let their livestock onto the farms but buy rice straws and other farm residue for feeding cattle in their homes," Iddy Mlosa, Secretary of Mashahidi wa Maji. It is the role of Mashahidi to advocate local action in order to solve water and other problems facing communities.

However, there are several problems that Mashahidi have to grapple with. Despite their efforts to educate community members and raise their aware-

ness on efficient use of water some individuals still use water irresponsibly. "They still irrigate their farms without due respect to the schedule that we have introduced. Others break irrigation canals in order to steal water and yet others refuse to participate when it comes to cleaning and repairing canals.

There are a few people who do not want to change," says Tabu Maswali, a member of Shahidi wa Maji, adding that some individuals are not committed to taking action to bringing about positive change in the community but they want to realize benefits overnight. "Change is a slow process. It needs hard work, patience and willingness to work for benefits," she says.

There are also concerns that Mashahidi are not well-equipped to document evidence of environmental destruction, breaking of canals and grazing their livestock in rice farms. Without such evidence their arguments appear to be

weak when presented to the village government, the village natural resources committee or district council, as a result of which relevant duty bearers take their time to address issues.

Perhaps lack of coordination between Mashahidi wa Maji and leaders of the irrigation scheme is the major problem that stifles operations of Mashahidi. "We are advocates of equitable sharing of water but irrigation scheme leaders have to actually see that the water is equitably shared; they are the ones who distribute water and control the amount shared, sometimes overriding the schedule we have agreed upon," says Mlosa. Scheme leaders have a stronger voice and farmers listen to them more than to Mashahidi.

A similar problem faces farmers at Sululu village in Kilombero district where there is also weak coordination between Mashahidi wa Maji and irrigation scheme leaders. It would appear

that the problem is even more serious here because the lack of coordination involves four important pillars of the village: Mashahidi wa Maji, irrigation scheme leaders, village government and the village natural resources committee. "The irrigation scheme leadership is divided thus decisions that we make are not implemented. Farmers pay for the water they use and scheme leaders collect the money but it is not accounted for. This demoralizes farmers and in a way makes it difficult to implement equitable sharing of water," explains Joseph Sabo Kahema, chair of Shahidi wa Maji.

For over eight months Mashahidi and the village natural resources committee have not met to discuss measure to be taken in order to conserve the village's water source. There has been a continuous reduction of water from the sources over the years partly due to environmental destruction in the area. "This needs urgent action because eventually reduced flows may lead to inequitable sharing and spark conflicts," says Kahema.

There were also plans to rehabilitate infrastructure at the intake point and repair irrigation canals. This has also not been done partly due to the antagonism that exists in the village. "But there is a small development in this direction; details of repairs to be undertaken have been presented to the district council and these have been included in next year's budget of the ministry of agriculture for implementation. The damage on irrigation canals that occurred during the rainy season is extensive and the district council cannot shoulder the heavy burden of repairs, hence the ministry's intervention," explains Souda Thabit Yeu, a member of Mashahidi wa Maji in Sululu village.

Even under these dire circumstances, Mashahidi wa Maji have managed to conduct awareness campaigns to enlighten the public on the importance of conserving the environment and the need to protect the water source which provides water for irrigation and for domestic use.

The campaigns have also highlighted the need for farmers and other stakeholders to use water responsibly since the supply is diminishing. "At present there is a fair distribution of water for irrigation.

There is also a significant change of attitude in the way farmers use water to irrigate their farms and most of them abide by the schedule we have prepared so they don't have to quarrel over water. There could be a problem at the peak of the dry season but I believe Mashahidi wa Maji will handle the situation," says Hamidu Mdemu, chairman of Sululu village government.

Coordination of activities of the four parties, Mashahidi wa Maji, leaders of the irrigation scheme, the village natural resources committee and the village government, is set to improve when the village government convenes a meeting later this month to iron out their differences and work together as a team. This would see further improvements in availability of water and equitable sharing of the resource.

# Communities in Tunduru District grapple to cut back illegal logging

By Gerald Kitabu in Tunduru

COMMUNITIES from Tunduru District in Ruvuma Region are securing Mkongo and Mninga tree species which would have been at the verge of disappearing from Sautimoja Village Land Forest Reserve, due to massive pressure from logs traders, the Guardian can reveal.

A tendency by some log traders to bribe the village natural resource committee (VNRC) and the village government leaders has given them chance to unsustainably harvest them contrary to the national regulations, but community voices have led the change from such malpractices.

A week-long survey revealed that when the log traders are given harvesting permits at district level to harvest Mninga tree species, they normally harvest up to twice the paid wood volume, and at the same time they harvest Mkongo contrary to the issued license, a situation that deprives the government and communities of the much needed revenues.

According to environmental and forest experts, the village forest reserve which is being unsustainably harvested covers over 21,966 hectares and constitutes part of the Ruvuma Landscape in Tunduru District which is dominated by miombo woodland with abundance of large forest blocks.

The forest blocks protect critical tributaries of Ruvuma River and serve as important biological links for the wildlife that migrate between the Selous Game Reserve of Tanzania and the Niassa Game Reserve in the Northern Mozambique.

The unscrupulous logs and timber traders collude with some unfaithful village government and the natural resource committee at village level to facilitate these ill-gains.

An investigation further established that without government intervention, the government stands a chance to lose the trees and much needed rev-



Ismail Kondo of Sautimoja village in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region, shows how the logs are being harvested unsustainably in the village forest reserve.

enues for strategic investments in public services of development and the economy.

According to Prof Rodgers Malimbwi of the department of Forest Assessment and Management, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Tourism, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Mkongo and Mninga are some of the useful tree plants and plays key role in the ecological functions.

He said in the past in some communities, they were used as medicinal plants. With the disappearance of other strong trees, they have now emerged as the choice for logs and timber purpose. He cautioned that deliberate measures need to be taken to protect them and the entire ecosystem.

The villagers accuse logs trader called Miraji Issa for harvesting 96 logs in the village land forest reserve of Sautimoja against his permit that shows, he should harvest 52 logs only.

Adam Mchopa, one of the villagers told the Guardian that the village leaders and the village natural resource committee colluded with the logs har-

vester to help the trader harvest more logs.

He said when the villagers discovered that the trader had harvested the logs in excess; they asked the village natural resource committee who said the excess logs are the incentives, for the tedious trade, the statement that was also issued by the trader.

Juma Stambuli, another villager of Sautimoja said first, the whole process of harvesting the logs was not transparent, and monopolized by the village leaders as well as the village natural resource committee.

He added that, the villagers were informed about the approval of the buyer 2 days after he had already started logging, and even the village natural resource committee members were informed to attend the meeting to approve the buyer at 12.00 noon, and the meeting was held at 2.00 pm, just two hours later.

"When the natural resource committee finished discussing the buyer, normally the buyer who had already acquired the

harvesting permit from the district level has to deposit the money in the village natural resource committee's account and then the committee is supposed to supervise the process of harvesting. But that did not happen. Instead, the trader paid the committee treasure in cash without disclosing the exact amount to the villagers," he said.

He said further that even some of the VNRC's members were cheated, they did not know what was going on and the exact amount of money he had paid.

"When we asked the accountant of the village natural resource committee, she only said the money was for hiring the committee members to help carry out the logs.

Another villager, Ismail Kondo said the villagers did not trust the logs harvester because had cheated them before on the same business. He uses unfaithful VNRC and village leaders to harvest more logs than the exact amount of what is permitted by law. Citing an example, he said last year, the buyer har-

vested 65 more logs than he was directed.

"Last year the buyer harvested 65 more logs. When the villagers realized, he had already carried out the logs from the forest and the villagers could not afford to go there to stop him because the village land forest reserve is located far away some 10kms from the village center, but now we're vowed to halt this ill-business in our forest" he stressed.

This year, when they were ferried out of the forest, the villagers realized that he had harvested 96 logs instead of 52 logs. That means there were 44 extra logs that can produce more than 25 cbm. Forest expert said that 1cbm goes up to 290,000 or less depending on the size of the logs which means there is a loss of 7.3m/-

When contacted for comments, the village leaders and the natural resource committee distanced themselves from the claims. However they attributed the mismanagement of the forest to lack of working tools, transport facilities and education.

mation to the district officials, instead they should start here at the village office first because that causes unnecessary inconveniences, he added.

He said some villagers are admiring their positions yet when the elections come; nobody comes forward to contest for their position. They always blame even if you buy a new cloth, a build new house, they would say that money is sourced from colluding with the illegal harvesters.

The village chairman Said Juma also dismissed the villagers' complaints saying they are mere allegations. He said the villagers don't take their complaints to the village government, instead they prefer to report to the district or regional office. "I believe if they were reporting to their village leaders, we would have solved their problems," he said.

When interviewed, the log trader Miraji Issa distanced himself from illegal logging saying he followed process and procedures.

He said he didn't enter the forest alone without the village natural resource committee. He said the committee which composed of eight members, six men and two women were all available and participated to fell down the trees.

"After they have harvested the logs, I paid 20cbm as per the license. After measurement there were excess of 10cbm which I also paid, making a total of 30cbm which I paid a total of 8.7m/-.

We stayed with the village natural resource committee from day to the time when we carried the logs out of the forest by tractors. It was very difficult to leave me alone harvesting the logs in the forest," he said. He advised the villagers to be very careful when accusing the buyers saying they lose faith.

"I have incurred huge loss because when I reached Dodoma, I found that the logs were less than the money I paid to buy them," he said.

# The questions South African authorities should be able to answer about the Guptas

BY JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT & REBECCA DAVIS

**T**HE news that Atul and Rajesh Gupta were arrested in Dubai late last week has been hailed as a major step forward when it comes to accountability for State Capture crimes. But arrests are just the first step: what happens now, in terms of South Africa's handling of the extradition process, will determine whether the brothers actually ever stand trial in a South African court.

Days since the news of the arrests broke, South African authorities have yet to host a press conference detailing the context and the way forward for the Guptas' extradition. Journalists are being given extremely limited and vague information, essentially limited to "discussions are ongoing".

The scant details that the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and the Department of Justice (DoJ) have been able to supply thus far on the Gupta situation seem increasingly difficult to blame entirely on the (undoubtedly tricky) diplomatic niceties underlying the affair. Instead, the information vacuum is beginning to create the impression that South African authorities have been caught on the back foot by the arrests and are now scrambling to play catch-up.

This would be worrying if true, given both the importance of the case and the amount of time the NPA has had to prepare.

### The Shakespearean tragedy of Cyril Ramaphosa

Daily Maverick sent the following list of questions to both the NPA and the DoJ this week and received no response. Here we outline why these questions are critical.

ries are critical.

### When did the NPA and/or the DoJ become aware of the Gupta arrests, and how?

When precisely were you contacted by the UAE authorities advising you that the Guptas were in that country? Was this before or after the arrests?

This information is important to establish because it would shed some light on whether the arrests were a surprising lucky strike by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), or if they were the result of a coordinated move by the UAE and South Africa working together.

Coordination is more likely to have ensured that South Africa was ready with the relevant paperwork to move the extradition application forward smoothly or, at the very least, to communicate details about it to the public.

A statement from the UAE Ministry of Justice on Tuesday seemed to suggest that the UAE deserved the lion's share of the credit, claiming: "The UAE authorities took the lead in developing strong evidence on the case before making the arrests."

A Twitter statement posted by the Dubai police read: "The force has also coordinated with the authorities in South Africa regarding the extradition file."

This strongly suggests that South Africa did not have a team waiting in Dubai with said "extradition file", as one might expect if forewarning was given of the arrests.

Where were the Guptas arrested? Were they attempting to travel in or out of the UAE or were they arrested while carrying on with their routine daily activities in Dubai?

In the consideration of the Guptas' bail applications, it is vital to know



Atul Gupta at the New Age offices in Midrand, South Africa, on January 20, 2011. FILE PHOTO

whether the Guptas - labelled fugitives by South Africa and Interpol - have valid travel documents, where these are from, and if they habitually travel in and out of the UAE.

Atul Gupta's litigation to try to obtain a new South African passport is ongoing, with him facing the problem of his old passport having seemingly run out of pages in advance of its expiry in 2025.

It is unclear what kind of support the Guptas might be still enjoying from authorities in their country of origin, India.

In 2018, Indian media outlets reported that the Gupta family had been awarded high-level "Z" category security from the government of their home province, Uttarakhand - reportedly becoming the first businesspeople ever granted this level of protection.

### Has the NPA sent a team to Dubai? If so, when?

South African lawyers for the Guptas, including Mike Hellens, are known to have been in Dubai since at least Monday. The South African public needs to be reassured that the NPA's team is in place there as well.

This week, eNCA revealed leaked email correspondence suggesting the UAE had asked South Africa for very basic information regarding the Guptas - photographs and fingerprints - as far back as March, but that this was only provided after an almost three-month delay, on 20 May.

To date, there has been no explanation for this delay, which sits uneasily alongside repeated complaints from both NPA head Shamila Batohi and Justice Minister Ronald Lamola over the past few years that it was the UAE which was dragging its feet on the Gupta matter.

An additional point of concern is that DM168 had engaged the NPA extensively during the week of 15 May for an article published on 21 May. As reported in that article, there were conflicting responses from the NPA and the Hawks at that time as to whether the Guptas' whereabouts were known, and whether an extradition request had been submitted to the DoJ.

Did the NPA deliberately stall its response to the UAE request in order to buy time so they could get their ducks in a row in respect of the extradition application?

### Have you engaged lawyers in the UAE to assist the UAE prosecution on SA's behalf?

The NPA and the DoJ have released separate media statements, both referring to the fact that South African authorities were in talks with their counterparts in the UAE. It is believed to now be a week since the Gupta brothers were arrested. Yet, as things stand, South Africa still does not appear to know even if they are physically in custody - and when, or whether, there will be a formal bail application.

It might seem self-evident that if the Guptas had been arrested, they must be "behind bars" of some kind - but

even this basic piece of information has not been confirmed. Daily Maverick attempts to seek clarity from Dubai-based journalists this week were unsuccessful.

One online guide to extradition from the UAE states that a suspect being sought for extradition is "not treated as a suspected criminal within the UAE court system", but rather as "a person who is the subject of a delivery request to an outside country".

### Who is involved in the "ongoing discussions" between the UAE and South Africa? Are UAE prosecutors talking to the NPA, or is this case now in the hands of officials and diplomats?

### Do you want the UAE to oppose bail when the Gupta brothers appear in court?

On what basis do you believe the UAE can convincingly put forward SA's case in opposing bail? Alternatively, are you satisfied that you have sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Guptas are fugitives from justice and that they continue to be a flight risk?

Opposing bail is surely a no-brainer for South African authorities - but the Guptas may well be considered "small fry" by the UAE, who will have to be convinced that they are a flight risk.

The brothers have known since at least mid-2021 that arrest warrants existed for them and that an Interpol Red Notice was being sought. Yet the Guptas seemingly never made a move to clarify their whereabouts and intentions, apparently preferring a protracted game of hide-and-seek.

Has South Africa made the UAE aware of the fact that the Guptas have business connections in both India and Uzbekistan to which they might easily slip away if given the chance? Prosecutors in the UAE must be alerted to this, or South Africa could well find itself back at square one.

### Has SA communicated the country's intentions to seek the extradition of the Gupta brothers?

How many days does SA have to submit an application for extradition following this arrest?

You previously told Daily Maverick that you were bringing in private counsel to handle the Gupta extradition application. Please could you provide the names of at least some of the heavy-weight members of this team.

In the wake of the Gupta arrests, the NPA has spoken of a team comprising internal and external experts on this case. This is simply too vague to inspire confidence. South Africa needs to know who has been entrusted with this vital task.

The best possible minds will be required to give South Africa its best possible shot at successful extradition. Dubai courts have previously dismissed extradition applications for reasons including a single missing document.

Time will not be on their side, as one of the requirements is for every scrap of extradition documentation to be translated into Arabic before it reaches the courts. This is not a trivial issue: the quality of Arabic translation was cited as one of the reasons behind the delays in the UAE ratifying its extradition treaty with South Africa.

It is also important to know when the NPA appointed the team, as it would demonstrate the institution's readiness to deal with the unexpected arrest of the Gupta brothers.

### So, were members of this crack team appointed at the point of the Gupta arrest, or well before?

Two Gupta wives are wanted in connection with the same criminal case for which Atul and Rajesh Gupta have now been arrested. Please state what the NPA intends to do about also bringing to book Atul and Chetali Gupta?

The two women are accused, along with their husbands, in the Nulane criminal case which is believed to form the basis of the Gupta brothers' arrests. Daily Maverick previously asked the NPA whether it intended to challenge Interpol on its refusal to issue Red Notices against the two women.

### If the NPA is not proceeding, does this mean it has decided to abandon the prosecution of the two Gupta wives - who may or may not even be in Dubai? Or will it now use this opportunity to also seek the extradition of the Gupta wives?

The DoJ and the NPA have suddenly both placed a great emphasis on "cooperation" from the UAE with regards to this week's arrest, after many years of apparent tension on the issue.

a) Please could you indicate whether this arrest has brought about a total change in the nature and pace of this cooperation?

b) At the very least, please confirm whether the NPA has finally received all the relevant evidence - especially the outstanding bank records - that you previously requested from the UAE through mutual legal assistance over a number of years.

When the NPA abandoned its first attempt to prosecute the Estina dairy case in 2018, one of the reasons cited was that SA prosecutors were still awaiting documents from the UAE. IPS

Crossword puzzle section titled 'THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 303 00--'. Includes word lists and solutions.

Radio One advertisement for 'RATIBA YA MPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI'. Features a weekly program schedule for Monday through Sunday.

## BUSINESS

## Supply and demand imbalances push up commodity prices

By Guardian Reporter

CONSUMERS have continued to dig deeper into their pockets to obtain goods and services, as the global supply remains challenging due to ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Data by Bank of Tanzania (BOT) have says in April this year, commodity prices in the world market remained, crowding consumer spending, while affecting individual savings and investments.

According to the BOT report, the global supply chain is currently disrupted in a time when there is an increase in demand owing reopening of economies on post-Covid 19 pandemic.

Tanzanian consumers are also facing the same consequences as prices for both food and non-food commodities, as well as services have hit the roofs due to rising global fuel prices.

Domestic pump prices of petroleum products have been rising since June 2020, consistent with developments in the world market.

This was mostly prompted by limited supply owing to the war in Ukraine and sanctions on Russia.

In April 2022, domestic prices of diesel, petrol, and kerosene rose by 34.5 percent, 32.7 percent, and 31.2 percent, respectively, from the corresponding period in 2021, thus contributing to increase in inflation, according to BOT report.

These global effects spilled over to the economy, leading to increase in inflation to 3.8 percent from 3.6 percent in March 2022.

Despite the increase, it remained within the target of 3-5 percent and in line with EAC and SADC convergence criteria as much of the increase in inflation was driven by prices of transport, food and energy products.

Food inflation herein referred to as food and non-alcoholic beverages rose to 6.6 percent compared with 4.8

percent in April 2021 largely due to low food harvests from short rain season.

The inflation rate was also slightly higher compared with 6.5 percent in the preceding month, on account of increase in prices of cooking oil, wheat flour, soft drinks, maize (grains and flour), mineral water and cassava flour.

The ministry of trade, industry and investment data shows the whole price of maize increased to 62,542/- per 100 kilo gramme in April this year from 44,973/- recorded in April last year.

The price of rice, for the same quantity has also increased to 188,079/- from 143,055/- respectively, while the price of beans slightly increased to 185,343/- from 181,977/- respectively.

BOT has reported that core inflation was 2.8 percent compared with 3.5 percent in April in 2021, on account of a decrease in prices of recreation, sports and cultural activities, accommodation, garments and footwear.

The inflation rate was slightly higher than 2.7 percent recorded in the preceding month, largely because of increase in prices of iron sheets and transport.

Energy, fuel, and utilities sub-group, whose weight in overall CPI basket is 5.7 percent, recorded inflation of 9.9 percent compared with 2.3 percent in the corresponding month in 2021 and 6.3 percent in the preceding month, mainly driven by the increase in prices of fuel, charcoal and firewood.

The recent increase in fuel prices is associated with the rise of oil prices in the world market.

Non-food inflation declined to 2.6 percent, slightly lower than 2.7 percent in April 2021, but is higher than 2.4 percent in the preceding month.

In the context of high price of consumer goods and second-round effects of oil and fertilizer prices, inflation is projected to increase, but remaining within the target of 3-5 percent by June 2022.



Food inflation herein referred to as food and non-alcoholic beverages rose to 6.6 percent compared with 4.8 percent in April 2021 largely due to low food harvests from short rain season. PHOTO/FILE

## Tanzania's foreign direct investments flow up by 35 pc in 2021, says UNCTAD

By Guardian Reporter

FOREIGN direct investment (FDI) inflows to Tanzania climbed 34.6 percent to an estimated \$922 million (approximately 2.2 trillion) in 2021 from \$685 million recorded in 2020.

According to World Investment Report 2022 released yesterday by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) the increase was on the back of the development of a nickel project by UK-owned Kabanga Nickel for \$318 million.

The amount was higher than \$488 million recorded in Kenya, Rwanda \$212 million and Burundi with \$8 million, but lower than \$1,142 million attracted in Uganda.

The Tanzania's FDIs are therefore more than 10 percent of \$8.1 billion FDIs recorded in 11 countries in East Africa last year and is the third largest recipient in the region behind Ethiopia with \$4.2 billion and Uganda.

The UNCTAD data shows during the last five years (2016-2021), the highest foreign direct investments inflows were recorded in 2019, amounting \$1.2 billion. However, there were no any FDIs outflows from Tanzania over the last five years.

Meanwhile, global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows in 2021 were \$1.58 trillion, up 64 per cent from the level during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic of less than \$1 trillion.

FDI flows appeared to have significant momentum mainly because of booming merger and acquisition (M&A) markets and rapid growth in international project finance as a result of loose financing conditions and



major infrastructure stimulus packages.

However, the global environment for international business and cross-border investment changed dramatically in 2022 with the onset of the war in Ukraine, which occurred while the world was still reeling from the impact of the pandemic.

"The war is having effects well beyond its immediate vicinity, causing a triple food, fuel and finance crisis, with rising prices for energy and basic com-

modities driving inflation and worsening debt spirals," UNCTAD says.

The war, with its direct implications for investment in and from the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and its ripple effects through sanctions, supply shortages in energy and basic commodities, and broader macroeconomic impact, is not the only factor cooling FDI prospects for 2022.

"The global environment for international investment changed dramatically

with the onset of the war in Ukraine, which occurred while the world was still reeling from the impact of the pandemic," said Rebecca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

She said the war is having effects well beyond its immediate vicinity, causing a cost-of-living crisis affecting billions of people around the world, with rising prices for energy and food reducing real incomes and aggravating debt stress.

The SG said although global FDI flows rebounded strongly in 2021, industrial investment remains weak and well below pre-pandemic levels, especially in the poorest countries; SDG investment - project finance in infrastructure, food security, water and sanitation, and health - is growing but not enough to reach the goals by 2030.

"Investment in climate change mitigation, especially renewables, is booming but most of it remains in developed countries and adaptation investment continues to lag well behind," she added.

The report shows flare-up of COVID-19 in China, which is resulting in renewed lockdowns in some areas that play a major role in global value chains (GVCs), could further depress new Greenfield investment in GVC-intensive industries.

Meanwhile FDI flows to Africa reached \$83 billion - a record level - from \$39 billion in 2020, accounting for 5.2 per cent of global FDI.

However, most recipients saw a moderate rise in FDI after the fall in 2020 caused by the pandemic.

The total for the continent was inflated by a single intrafirm financial transaction in South Africa in the second half of 2021.

## Money supply growth hits roof of 2021/22 monetary policy's target

By Guardian Reporter

SUSTAINED implementation of accommodative monetary policy, coupled with strong growth of credits to private sector has resulted into sharp growth of money supply, hitting the roof of the targeted ten percent, Bank of Tanzania report has shown.

According to BOT report, in April this year extended broad money supply (M3) grew at an annual rate of 10 percent compared with 7.8 percent in April 2021, consistent with the target of 10 percent for 2021/22.

In Its Monetary Policy Statement for June 2021, covering 2021/2022 aimed at increasing annual growth of extended broad money (M3) of 10.0 percent and annual growth of credit to the private sector of 10.6 percent.

Broad money supply (M2) registered an annual growth of 13.9 percent, compared with 7.1 percent while domestic credit extended to the private sector and central government by the banking system grew by 17 percent in the year ending April 2022, compared with 12.9 percent in April 2021.

According to BOT Monthly Economic Review for May 2022, private sector credit growth was strong, recording an annual growth of 13.4 percent in April 2022, similar to the preceding month, but significantly higher than 4.8 percent recorded in April 2021.

"The strong growth was largely attributed to improved business conditions and supportive fiscal and monetary policy measures implemented



Bank of Tanzania headquarters in Dar es Salaam. The growth of credit to the private sector was more prominent in mining, micro, small and medium enterprises-personal loans, and trade and manufacturing. PHOTO/FILE

to address the effects of COVID-19 on economic activities," the report says.

The growth of credit to the private sector was more prominent in mining, micro, small and medium enterprises-personal loans, and trade and manufacturing.

Personal loans continued to hold the largest share of

the outstanding stock of private sector credit with 39.3 percent, followed by trade with 16.7 percent, manufacturing with 10.1 percent and agriculture with 7.9 percent.

The highest growth of credits to private sector was recorded on mining and quarrying which grew by 27.8 percent during the year

ending April 2022 from a contraction of 1.5 percent in April 2022, followed by personal loans which grew from 20.6 percent to 26.8 percent respectively.

Credits to trade growth jumped to 21.7 percent in April this year from a contraction of 6.4 percent in April 2020 while

those of manufacturing improved to 14.8 percent from a contraction of 3.8 percent respectively and those of agriculture increased to 13.9 percent from 7.3 percent respectively.

Interest rates charged by banks on loans remained broadly unchanged. Overall lending rate averaged 16.31 percent, almost similar to 16.25 percent registered in the preceding month and 16.58 percent in April 2021.

Similarly, negotiated lending rate (interest rate for prime borrowers) was 14.12 percent compared with 13.80 percent and 13.76 percent.

Interest rates offered on deposits decreased slightly in April 2022, with overall deposit rate reaching 6.81 percent compared with 7.02 percent and 6.95 percent recorded in the preceding month and in the corresponding period in 2021, respectively.

Negotiated deposits rate averaged 9.73 percent compared with 9.68 percent and 9.36 percent.

Since June last year, the Bank of Tanzania, through its monetary policy statement said will continue engaging stakeholders to eliminate constraints to bank lending to the private sector and reduce lending rates.

## Fertiliser producer to boost potash output amid global shortage

TORONTO

NUTRIEN Ltd, the world's largest fertilizer producer has said will increase its Canadian potash production by 20 percent to an annual 18 million tonnes by 2025, helping to address tight supplies that have contributed to a global food shortage.

Potash prices have soared since the West imposed sanctions against Russia for Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, crimping an al-

ready tight fertilizer market.

Russia and Belarus, which also faces sanctions, are the world's second- and third-largest producers of the crop nutrient, while Canada is the No. 1 producer.

"The world needs these volumes in order to feed people well," said Ken Seitz, Nutrien's interim chief executive, at a meeting with investors.

Seitz said it will take at least several years to replenish global crop supplies and for

Russian and Belarussian potash trading volumes to return to normal levels.

Nutrien's expansion falls well short of fully replacing the eastern European production. The world is short 10 million tonnes from that region and Nutrien's extra output of 3 million tonnes annually by 2025 should be quickly absorbed, said RBC Capital Markets analyst Andrew Wong.

The potash ramp-up will use Nutrien's existing mines in the province of Saskatch-

ewan. Wong estimated the expansion's cost at \$300 million to \$900 million.

The company said it was advancing previously announced boosts of its nitrogen fertilizer capacity to add 500,000 tonnes annually by the end of 2025, and is considering further expansion.

Nutrien also said it plans to repurchase an additional \$2 billion worth of shares. Nutrien's shares rose 3.3 percent in Toronto.



# Airtel sells quarter of mobile cash unit stake for \$550mn



An Airtel shop in Nairobi. FILE PHOTO

NAIROBI

LONDON-listed Airtel Africa Plc has ceded a 25.77 percent stake in its local mobile money business as part of a continent-wide deal that has seen it raise \$550 million from four institutional investors.

The multinational's interest in Airtel Money Kenya Limited dropped to 74.23 percent in the year ended March from 100 percent a year earlier.

It also disclosed a similar reduction in ownership in Airtel Mobile Commerce (Kenya) Limited in the review period.

Similar changes in ownership of the mobile money businesses were also witnessed in markets such as Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Airtel Africa has disclosed the share sale of the subsidiaries in its latest annual report as a prospect of a cashless

Africa triggers a scramble for control of its payments platforms.

The record-breaking deal values Airtel Money at Sh250 billion, indicates that the rival M-Pesa platform, available in Kenya and five other African markets such as Tanzania and Mozambique, could be valued even higher.

Airtel had earlier announced it was selling a minority stake in its mobile money business in Africa to raise cash, with the part of the funds used to reduce the group's debt.

"We received a minority investment of \$550 million (Sh64.2 billion) from four investors in Airtel Mobile Commerce B.V.," the multinational says in the report.

"The Rise Fund invested \$200 million, Mastercard \$100 million, Qatar Holding LLC (QIA) \$200 million and \$50 million from Chimera Investment LLC."

In the agreements, the mobile money

businesses were to be folded into the holding company Airtel Mobile Commerce B.V. which is registered in the Netherlands.

The multinational's interest in Airtel Money Kenya Limited could drop further after the government passed a policy requiring the telco to sell at least a 30 percent stake in the business to local investors.

"Airtel Money Kenya Limited, which holds a Content Service Provider Licence from the Communications Authority of Kenya, with effect from November 2020, has three years from the date of the licence to comply with the requirement to have 30 percent local shareholding," the multinational said.

"Under the amended ICT policy, a licensee may apply to the Ministry for ICT for an extension to comply with the requirement, or obtain an exemption."

A similar rule also applies to Airtel Networks Kenya Limited, which provides cellular services and is currently fully owned by the multinational. The minority stakes sold in Airtel Money across the African markets signal the huge value of mobile financial service platforms.

M-Pesa's reach recently spread to more than 200 countries after a deal with global payments firm Visa. M-Pesa is offered by Kenya's Safaricom and by subsidiaries of South Africa's Vodacom Group.

Airtel Money generated \$553 million revenues in the African markets in the year ended March users of the platform stood at 26.2 million.

Airtel Money has struggled in the Kenyan market where it had less than 800,000 active customers in December against M-Pesa's 26.2 million.

# AfDB launches public financial management academy for Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

The board of directors of the African Development Bank this week approved the creation of a virtual academy to build public financial management capacity in African countries.

Countries will receive technical assistance through structured, targeted, dedicated and local training as well as through policy dialogue, according to a statement issued by AfDB.

The academy, hosted within the African Development Institute of the African Development Bank Group, will deepen partnership with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and African countries to improve public financial management practices in Africa.

Other implementing partners include key regional public financial management institutions, regional technical assistance centers, universities, and national public administration training institutes.

The training, technical assistance and policy dialogue delivered by the academy will cover upstream and downstream issues in the public financial management cycle, tailored to the specific needs of African countries.

The training modules will cover, among others: macroeconomics and planning, fiscal policy forecasting and modelling; prudential budgeting and expenditure management; domestic and external revenue mobilization; debt management and transparency; public-private partnerships in public finance management; strengthening supreme audit and accountability systems; and curbing corruption and illicit financial flows.

In addition, cross-cutting issues will also be taken into account, including



African Development Bank President Dr Akinwumi Adesina

institutional, legal, and regulatory processes and human capacity governance.

The beneficiaries of the trainings cover the entire African civil service, including technical and political leaders who have the power to influence

and change the public financial management systems of African countries.

Thus, the academy will welcome technical public finance managers and senior officials from the ministries of finance, national planning, budget directorates, debt management di-

rectorates, and revenue-generating agencies, including tax and customs administrations.

AfDB says the academy will target all officials involved in the expenditure chain (officials from national treasuries, administrative and financial direc-

torates of ministries responsible for expenditure and financial control), officials from central banks and sectoral ministries such as the environment.

Prof. Kevin Chika Urama, Acting Chief Economist and Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management of the African Development Bank, said: "The establishment of the Public Finance Management Academy will go a long way in addressing the long-standing capacity gaps in public financial management practices across African countries. It will enable the Bank to leverage resources (skills, competencies, and finance) from sister multilateral development banks, international and African public financial management institutions to provide cutting-edge training, technical assistance and policy advice, embedded in the local realities of African countries. I am very grateful to all partners who worked with us to design this transformative academy for Africa."

The policy dialogue component of the program will engage high-level decision makers and policy makers responsible for designing and promoting the expected change in African public financial management systems.

The technical assistance component will target relevant public institutions or their units, civil society organizations, and think tanks, involved in public financial management activities in Africa, including the media.

When fully operational, the academy's courses will be offered to interested parties as certified post-graduate programs at preferential rates.

The Bank will establish a Policy Laboratory Unit comprised of certified global experts on public financial management who will be the faculty members to deliver the courses.

# Kenya quashes \$1bn Eurobond, eyes bank loans

NAIROBI

KENYA has cancelled the issuance of a \$1.15 billion (\$1 billion) Eurobond and will instead borrow from a syndicate of banks after the Treasury received bids priced at 12 percent.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani said Eurobonds had become expensive in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine forcing Kenya to reconsider issuing a bond.

Kenya had picked Citi and JP Morgan as joint book-runners for a dollar-denominated sovereign bond issue this year but stalled after the loans became too pricey.

The country will now return to syndicated loans last done in 2019 by ousted Treasury CS Henry Rotich before the government changed its borrowing policy away from commercial banks to reduce the cost of debt and lengthen maturity to ease the payment burden.

Kenya now joins Nigeria which also cancelled a planned issue of \$950 million owing to unfavourable market conditions during the timeframe approved for the fundraising.

"In our funding for this financial year, we factored in borrowing from the international market, the Eurobond. But we realised as a result of challenges in Russia and Ukraine the cost of borrowing has gone really high," Mr Yatani said.

"Last year we borrowed at six percent, right now it stands over 12 percent and this is no longer feasible. That is why we are still exploring options to look at a number of banks that can advance us the money at a cheaper rate, a figure more or less than a figure of last year, an average of six percent," he said.

Kenya has been forced to abandon its strategy to change the profile of debt from short expensive commercial loans into longer-dated sovereign bonds.

The country had agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stick to concessional finance to reduce debt vulnerabilities that have seen the country turn away from syndicated loans and only focus on multilateral lending and Eurobonds.

Kenya is trying to balance its debt portfolio after a surge of commercial debts became expensive to repay, taking up more than 63 percent of tax revenue.

Treasury CS told Parliament in 2020 that commercial loans will only come in form of Eurobonds to roll over principal payments when the debts mature.

"The National Treasury has no immediate plans to contract syndicated loans with Trade Development Bank or any other bank," Mr Yatani said.

"Our projections assume that existing Eurobonds will be rolled over at reasonable prices when global capital markets reopen to frontier market issuers," he said.

Kenya's commercial debt is mainly in Eurobonds with an outstanding portfolio of six worth a total of \$7.1 billion, which are traded on the Irish and London stock exchanges.

# Women, youth unaware of public procurements processes, study shows

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has been advised to train women, youth and elderly entrepreneurs on laws, regulations and how to bid tenders from the government institutions.

This will assist them to be equipped with procedures on how to apply public tenders and other government supply contracts.

The call was made yesterday by the minister for community, development, gender, women and special groups, Dr Dorothy Gwajima (pictured) during the launch of the study on women and special groups' participation in public procurement, constraints and strategies.

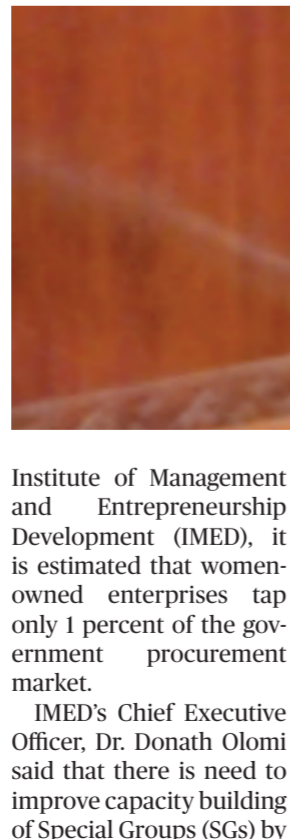
The event was organised

by Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC), TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) with the funding from Norwegian embassy to Tanzania, Irish Aid, and UK Aid, involved participants from different sectors.

This comes after studies revealed that the majority of women and youths are unaware of bidding procedures, how they can access tenders, procedures required to win tenders and administrative issues.

She thanked TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) and Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) for supporting the study, saying has helped the ministry to have a proper data on where special groups are and what should be done to help them benefit from public tenders.

According to the study that was conducted by the



Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED), it is estimated that women-owned enterprises tap only 1 percent of the government procurement market.

IMED's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Donath Olomi said that there is need to improve capacity building of Special Groups (SGs) by

having projects and programs dedicated to raising awareness and skills of the SGs to access public procurement opportunities.

This should also entail building their capacity to deliver projects to the expected standards.

The study suggests for the review of public procurement regulations to

require Public Entities (PEs) to have a special desk for facilitating access to public procurement by SGs, information and tender procedure for procurement targeting SGs to be in both official languages.

Tanzania Women Chambers of Commerce (TWCC) and other associations can support

awareness by developing and implementing awareness creation and capacity building initiatives and conducting regular surveys of members to establish their level of awareness, use of public procurement opportunities and challenges, according to the study.

He said in August, 2021 TradeMark East Africa



## WORLD

## UN: Horn of Africa at risk of famine as drought worsens

NAIROBI

FOUR consecutive failed rain seasons combined with a lethargic response to appeal for humanitarian support could push millions of people in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to the brink of starvation, the United Nations agencies, and food security experts said in a joint statement on Thursday.

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center, the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, and the World Food Program (WFP) said the most severe drought in the Horn of African region in the last four decades may not subside soon, with the October-December rains expected to be depressed.

An uptick in hunger mortality is now

occurring across the region, and there is increasing concern that more extreme food insecurity outcomes—marked by extremely critical acute levels of malnutrition and high levels of hunger-related mortality—could emerge in the remainder of the year, the organizations said.

Currently, about 17.8 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia require emergency food support to avert acute malnutrition or starvation, the agencies said.

The prolonged dry spell coupled with desert locust invasion, COVID-19 pandemic disruptions, civil strife, and skyrocketing food and fuel prices linked to the Ukraine crisis, has worsened food insecurity in the region, according to the UN.

The number of severely malnourished children admitted to health facilities for



Acutely malnourished child Sadiyo Mohamed, 9 months old, is treated at the Banadir Hospital after her mother Halima Hassan Mohamed fled the drought in southern Somalia and traveled by car to the capital Mogadishu, in Somalia, Horn of Africa, on March 11, 2017. File photo

treatment rose significantly in the first quarter of 2022 in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, as drought escalated.

At present, the agencies said the level of humanitarian assistance is being outpaced by the scale and severity of food scarcity and malnutrition in the region, with the situation expected to improve in 2023.

The drought-stricken communities in the

arid parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia require urgent food and nutritional support, provision of clean water, and sanitation to avert the loss of lives.

The agencies said the humanitarian assistance should be scaled up until mid-2023 to prevent full-blown famine, mass fatalities, and loss of livelihoods in the region.

Xinhua

## First visit of Turkmen leader to Russia sign of special ties between two countries – Putin

MOSCOW

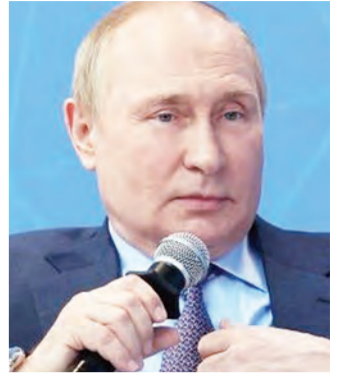
RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said that the first foreign visit of Serdar Berdimuhamedov, Turkmenistan's new President, precisely to Russia emphasizes the special nature of relations between the two countries at a meeting with his Turkmen counterpart in Kremlin yesterday.

"Welcome to Russia, we are very happy that you are paying your first foreign state visit precisely to our country, this once again stresses the special nature of our relations," Putin said, adding that he was very glad to see the Turkmen leader in Moscow.

The Russian president underscored that largely thanks to the efforts of ex-Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Serdar's father, interaction between both countries advanced "indeed to a strategic level."

"I would like to ask you to convey the best wishes to the previous president, my good old friend, naturally, wishing him success and good health," the Russian leader concluded.

Agencies



## Rwanda fuel prices continue to soar despite government subsidies

KIGALI

PETROLEUM pump prices for diesel and super petrol in Rwanda continued to soar, reaching record-high levels despite government subsidies to cushion consumers, the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) announced late on Thursday.

The new pump prices, which become effective from June 10 to July 31, indicate that the maximum retail price for gasoline increased to 1,460 Rwandan francs (about 1.40 U.S.dollars) per liter and diesel increased to 1,503 Rwandan francs per liter, said RURA in the statement.

"Fuel pump prices have been revised based on adjustments in the international market," said the statement.

Since May 2021, prices have stabilized as a result of the decision by the government of Rwanda to forego some taxes on imports of select petroleum products, it added.

Previously, a liter of gasoline cost 1,359 Rwandan francs per liter while diesel was 1,368 Rwandan francs per liter.

According to RURA, the government maintained a price increase of 101 Rwandan francs for gasoline per liter and 135 Rwandan francs per liter for diesel instead of 316 Rwandan francs per liter for gasoline and 350 Rwandan francs for diesel per liter.

The decision was taken to mitigate the adverse impact of high fuel prices on general price increases which would negatively affect the speed of Rwanda's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, said RURA.

"Leaders and policymakers should look into this issue and come up with tangible solutions that protect consumers from the adverse effects of volatile fuel pump prices," Teddy Kaberuka, a Rwandan economist, told Xinhua in a telephone interview on Thursday.

The soaring of fuel prices is a global challenge. This has greatly affected most economies across the globe including Rwanda.

Xinhua

## Multinational troops kill over 800 Boko Haram militants in Lake Chad region

YAOUNDE

OVER 800 militants of the extremist group Boko Haram were killed during recent operations on the fringes of Lake Chad by troops of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), commander of the force has said.

The operation dubbed "Lake Sanity" lasted for 75 days and included troops from Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad and Niger, said Major General Abdul Kalifa Ibrahim, commander of MNJTF.

"So far over 800 of Boko Haram criminals have been neutralized or killed. Over a quarter of these people were killed as a result of the work of the sector one of MNJTF, which is the Cameroonian sector.

I find the discipline and the hard work of the Cameroonian sector to be one of the best," Ibrahim told reporters during a press conference Wednesday evening. "(Almost) three months of operation, not one Cameroon soldier has died.

This is a record," he added during the press conference that presented a battle-damage assessment of the operation. He said the MNJTF's combined ground and amphibious operations have put a lot of pressure on the extremists, attacking their strongholds and making movement difficult for them.

Xinhua

## Monkeypox spread may take hold, WHO says

GENEVA

THE risk of monkeypox becoming established in nonendemic nations is real, warned the WHO on Wednesday, with more than 1,000 cases now confirmed in such countries.

World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the UN health agency was not recommending mass vaccinations against the virus, and added that no deaths had been reported so far from the outbreaks.

"The risk of monkeypox becoming established in nonendemic countries is real," Tedros told a news conference.

The zoonotic disease is endemic in humans in nine African countries, but outbreaks have been reported in the past month in several nonendemic countries mostly in Europe, and notably in Britain, Spain and Portugal.

"More than 1,000 confirmed cases of monkeypox have now been reported to WHO from 29 countries that are not endemic for the disease," Tedros said.

Greece became the latest country on Wednesday to confirm its first case of the disease, with health authorities there saying it involved a man who had recently traveled to Portugal and that he was in hospital in stable condition.

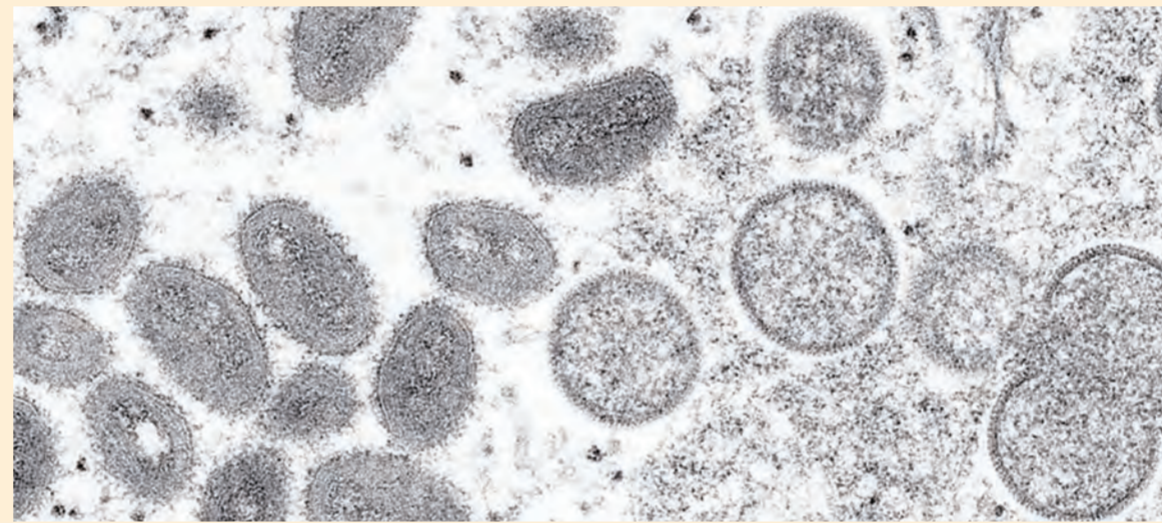
## Notifiable disease

A new law declaring monkeypox as a legally notifiable disease came into force across Britain on Wednesday, meaning all doctors in England are required to notify their local council or local health protection team about any suspected monkeypox cases.

Laboratories must also notify the UK Health Security Agency if the virus is identified in a laboratory sample.

In the latest bulletin on Wednesday, the UKHSA said it had detected 321 monkeypox cases across the country as of Tuesday, with 305 confirmed cases in England, 11 in Scotland, two in Northern Ireland and three in Wales.

The initial symptoms of monkeypox include a high fever, swollen



This 2003 electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows mature, oval-shaped monkeypox virions, left, and spherical immature virions, right, obtained from a sample of human skin associated with the 2003 prairie dog outbreak. AP

len lymph nodes and a blistering chickenpox-like rash.

Few hospitalizations have been reported, apart from patients being isolated, said the WHO during the weekend.

Sylvie Briand, the WHO's epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention director, said

the smallpox vaccine could be

used against monkeypox, a fellow orthopoxvirus, with a high degree of efficacy. The WHO is trying to determine how many doses are currently available and to find out from manufacturers what their production and distribution capacities are.

Paul Hunter, an expert in microbiology and communicable

disease control, told Xinhua News Agency in a recent interview that "monkeypox is not a COVID situation and it will never be a COVID situation".

Hunter said scientists were puzzled as there currently seems to be no apparent link among many cases in the current wave of monkeypox infections. Agencies

## Turkey says Ukraine grain-export plan reasonable

TOKYO

JAPAN reopened its borders to some foreign tourists for the first time in around two years yesterday as it continues to take steps to increase inbound tourism to support the economy as concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic ease.

The Japanese government initially opened its borders to tourists from 98 countries and regions on guided tours, with the countries and regions deemed eligible owing to their low risk of COVID-19.

Such countries include the United States, Britain, China, South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand.

Foreign visitors from this group are exempt from COVID-19 testing upon arrival in Japan and do not

need to quarantine for any period of time.

This applies to travelers even if they are unvaccinated against the virus.

The cap, however, is for 20,000 foreign visitors to be allowed into the country per day.

Towards the end of June, the government has said that it expects full-scale tourism to resume, although it remains concerned about a possible spike in infections as more foreign guests arrive from overseas.

In April, the estimated number of foreign visitors to Japan was down 95.2 percent from the same month in 2019 at 139,500 people, the government said in May.

Agencies



Passengers head to a COVID-19 quarantine station for clearance following their arrival at Tokyo's Haneda Airport on June 1, 2022. File photo

## China-Europe freight train service sees stable growth

ACCORDING to statistics released by the top economic planner, the number of China-Europe freight train trips rose 3 percent month-on-month to 1,170 in April.

From 2016 to 2021, the annual number of China-Europe freight train trips has surged from 1,702 to 15,183, growing 55 percent each year on average, and the value of goods transported by the cargo service skyrocketed from \$8 billion in 2016 to \$74.9 billion in 2021. Even after COVID-19 broke out, the number of trips made by the freight trains still went up by 50 percent and 22 percent in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

Given the impacts of the pandemic on international maritime and air transportation, there has been a sharp rise in freight charges, which leads to impeded

global logistics and shrinking international trade.

Under such circumstances, China-Europe freight trains are serving as a strong pillar for global industrial and supply chains thanks to their safe, stable, efficient and green logistics services. The cargo service has become an important way of land transport on the international logistics link.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China-Europe freight trains have made over 1,000 trips each month for two years. On Jan. 29 this year, the total number of China-Europe freight train trips exceeded 50,000.

The cargo service, relying on its strong

capability of international transport, has built a channel of life amid the pandemic. As of the end of April this year, China-Europe freight trains had shipped 14.1 million items of anti-pandemic supplies that weighed 108,000 tonnes. The cargo service has been widely appraised by the Belt and Road countries and the international society.

Through the regular operation of China-Europe freight trains, China has made important contributions to the global fight against COVID-19 and economic recovery, which indicates the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and vividly explains the vision of building a commu-

nity with a shared future for mankind.

Today, the cargo service connects 185 cities in 23 European countries and carries over 50,000 types of commodities. There has been a prominent increase in the number of loaded containers carried by China-Europe freight trains, and the numbers of departing and returning trips are getting more balanced. Besides, new service forms of freight trains are emerging.

While sending premium products to hundreds of millions of people along the rail routes, China-Europe freight trains have catalyzed the building of a number of logistics, industrial and commerce centers, which provide thousands of

jobs for local residents. It has constantly expanded the win-win "circle of friends" of the BRI.

At the Port of Duisburg, Germany, hundreds of logistics enterprises have been established because of China-Europe freight trains, offering more than 20,000 jobs. At the Port of Malaszewicze, Poland, China-Europe freight trains are driving local business volume and promoting local economic and social development.

The cargo service, bringing infinite opportunities to more countries to share China's high-level opening-up, is promoting interconnectivity and win-win cooperation among Asian and Euro-

pean countries, and contributing to the building of an open world economy.

People's Daily



Through the regular operation of China-Europe freight trains, China has made important contributions to the global fight against COVID-19 and economic recovery, which indicates the high-quality



## Special operation to end when its goals are achieved – Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S special military operation in Ukraine will end when its goals are achieved, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Thursday.

"Russian President [Vladimir] Putin has outlined the tasks for this special military operation. The fulfillment of these tasks will mean the end of the special military operation," the Kremlin spokesman pointed out.

This is how he responded to a request to designate the date of the special military operation's end.

At the same time, Peskov did not comment on the statement that the results of the special operation could not be achieved under the current Ukrainian regime.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, when announcing the start of the military special operation in Ukraine on February 24, set several goals. Among them were the denazification and demilitarization of the country.

### Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland elected non-permanent members of UN Security Council

UNITED NATIONS

ECUADOR, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland were elected non-permanent members of the UN Security Council on Thursday for a two-year term.

The newly elected members will take up their new responsibilities on Jan. 1, 2023, and will serve till Dec. 31, 2024. All five candidates were running unopposed on Thursday.

They will replace the outgoing non-permanent members of India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway. A candidate must obtain the support of two-thirds of the UN member states present and voting at the General Assembly session in order to secure a non-permanent seat on the Security Council, regardless of whether the candidacy is contested or not.

This means that a minimum of 129 positive votes are required to win a seat if all 193 member states are present and voting. Member states that abstain are considered not voting.

In Thursday's voting, Mozambique and Ecuador won the support of all member states that were present and voting, with 192 and 190 votes respectively. Switzerland won 187 votes, Malta won 185 votes, and Japan won 184 votes, according to results announced by Abdulla Shahid, the current General Assembly president, who presided over the voting process. Among the five newly elected members, Mozambique and Switzerland have never served on the Security Council. With Thursday's election, Japan will set the record of 12 Security Council terms. Brazil is currently serving its 11th term.

The Security Council has 15 members, five of which are permanent ones: Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

The 10 non-permanent seats of the council are allocated by geographic region, with five replaced each year. The five newly elected countries represent Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe and other states.

The Eastern European group is not contesting any seats this year, as its one seat, held by Albania, comes up for election every other year. The Security Council is considered the most powerful body of the United Nations.

The council, which is tasked to maintain international peace and security, can make legally binding decisions and has the power to impose sanctions and authorize the use of force.

## Somalia's Mohamud inaugurated as tenth president amid peace pledge

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA'S newly elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was inaugurated Thursday as the country's tenth leader amid tight security in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

The ceremony was graced by leaders from Ethiopia, Egypt, Djibouti, and Kenya, as well as representatives from more than 20 countries. In his speech, Mohamud promised to stabilize Somalia which has been facing terror threats and spearhead efforts to bring peace and cohesion to the country.

The 66-year-old Mohamud, who was elected on May 15, pledged to deal vigorously with corruption, tackle the severe drought which is ravaging the country, and reduce poverty across the country.

He appealed to the international community to help Somalia overcome the current drought, the worst in at least 40 years, that has forced more than half a million people to abandon their homes in search of food and water in the last four months.

The president also said his government will promote global peace, remain neutral in global affairs, and cooperate with countries that do not violate the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Somalia.

"Somalia is ready to have a relationship with any country. However, the country must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia," he said. Mohamud, who served as Somalia's president between 2012 and 2017, promised to prioritize reconciliation and strengthening of institutions to give hope to the citizens.

The Somali leader said he would initiate appropriate reforms to promote trade and economic cooperation, noting that Somali people are known for their entrepreneurial creativity.

"The Somalian people are known to be very good at trade, having large businesses in many countries in Africa, the Middle East, and the West that play a major role in the economic development of those countries," he said.

Immediate former President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, also known as Farmajo, congratulated Mohamud on his inauguration and assured him of his unwavering support as the new president embarks on his four-year term.

# With several countries absent, US Summit of the Americas 'a failure before it started'

WASHINGTON

THE ninth Summit of the Americas being hosted by the United States in Los Angeles, California, "was a failure before it started" and "nothing will come out of it of any substance," an expert said on Thursday, noting Washington's exclusion of three countries and a resulting boycott by several others.

Daniel Kovalik, an American lawyer who teaches international human rights at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, made the remarks during a virtual interview with Xinhua.

The Summit of the Americas is taking place in the absence of several Latin American leaders, including Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who boycotted the affair after its ideologically-driven host refused to invite Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela to the regional gathering.

"It's embarrassing" and "it's a joke," said Kovalik, comparing it to the U.S. throwing a party, but "very few people" show up; he predicted Washington would "go home with nothing."

By unilaterally excluding Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, the United States is trying to punish them because they "try to have their own foreign policy," seek to "go their own way economically" and want to use "their own resources for their own people's needs instead of allowing them to just be exploited by U.S. companies," said Kovalik.

The United States is still trying to "dominate those countries" and "isolate them," according to the expert. "The U.S. talks about freedom and independence, yet it doesn't honor those things for



Photo taken on Nov. 23, 2021 shows the White House in Washington, D.C., the United States. Xinhua

other people," he continued. "The U.S. has never accepted other countries' independence and still doesn't."

"For Mexico, not to come is huge, obviously -- Mexico borders the United States; it's a huge trading partner with the United States; it's a very important country in the hemisphere," he said. "For Mexico, to have an empty seat at the summit just says volumes."

Lopez Obrador told reporters in Mexico City on Monday that "there cannot be a Summit of the Americas if all countries of the Americas cannot attend" and slammed what he called "the old interventionist policies" that lack respect for other countries and their peoples.

Kovalik said the United States "doesn't treat any country as an equal, not even its allies," referring to America's pressure on

Europe to ban oil from Russia -- Europe's main energy supplier -- in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"Look at what they're doing to Europe right now. Forcing them to give up Russian gas and oil is going to destroy their economies. And I'd say the U.S. doesn't care, but it's even worse than that. I think that was actually one of the intended goals of the sanctions," he noted.

Besides Lopez Obrador, the presidents of Bolivia, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala have also skipped the summit, which will run through Friday. Richard Haass, president of the U.S. think tank Council on Foreign Relations, tweeted on Tuesday that he thinks the conference "looks to be a debacle," with the United States having "no trade proposal, no immigration policy, & no infrastructure package."

For Kovalik, the summit illustrates the hegemonic power's shrinking impact on the Western Hemisphere, exposing the fact that "the Emperor has no clothes."

"The truth is the U.S. influence has been declining for a long time. The only way it's maintained its influence is by sheer brute force. That's true now pretty much throughout the world," the expert expounded. "All it has is brute force, and that's not working because you can't control everyone all at once. I think the U.S. will continue to find its influence waning in Latin America."

"The irony is the U.S. is isolating itself. That's what it comes down to. The countries in the world are saying: Look, we are sick of this. We are sick of you telling us who we can talk to, who we can be friends with, and what kind of economy we can have," he said.

"I don't think the U.S. has learned its lesson yet, but I think it's going to learn its lesson very soon that it just can't go around bullying everyone and succeeding," said Kovalik.

Xinhua

## 'Building a community with a shared future for mankind' conforms to the trend of the times

By Bouthaina Shaaban

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China's anti-pandemic performance and achievements in poverty eradication as well as technological innovation are highly impressive. China surprised the world with its efficiency, admirable collective work and remarkable mechanisms that are in place.

Following the statements, speeches and comments of Xi Jinping, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee, I believe that he is a visionary leader who offers the way forward for China. What impressed me the most is how he loves his people and serves the country.

Bringing prosperity to all is an important feature of Chinese-style modernization. Achieving common prosperity has been made the main focus of CPC's efforts to seek happiness for all Chinese people. It is a concept that is the antithesis of Western policies that are based on hegemony and on dictating their rules on the entire humanity in order to loot the natural resources of the developing countries to feed the wealth and prosperity of the West alone. No one's prosperity can be lasting if it is based at the expense of the prosperity of others.

What has China successfully proved is that each country's democracy should be relevant to its people's history, civilization, culture and vision. Some Western countries are trying to impose the patent of liberal democracy on the entire planet, but China proved that the proverb "one size fits all" is wrong, and that each people in each country should find the political democratic version that suits them best.

The CPC is also trying to lay the bases for a fairer and safer world, with a common vision to build a prosperous shared future for mankind. The concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind proposed by Xi conforms to the trend of the times and points out the direction for solving various thorny problems. Other concepts such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Development Initiative (GDI), and the idea of "common values of humanity" correspond to the fundamental requirements



of global governance, and have made essential contributions to the international development. These concepts are of extreme importance for world peace and stability and they carry with them the elimination of regional tensions.

China has always adhered to reforms of the global governance system with the principle of fairness and justice and advocated common values of humanity. It has never interfered in the internal affairs of other

countries, never imposed its will on others, and fully respected the historical achievements of the human rights cause of others, applying Chinese wisdom and strength to global governance. I have full confidence in China's development prospects that it will jointly work with the international society toward a shared future.

The author is the Special Advisor to the Syrian Presidency

## IAEA: Iran to remove 27 cameras monitoring nuclear sites

VIENNA

IRAN has told the International Atomic Energy Agency that it is removing 27 surveillance cameras from its nuclear facilities, the agency said on Thursday, warning the move could deal "a fatal blow" to chances of reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi told a press conference that Tehran's latest decision "poses a serious challenge to our ability to continue working there."

Iran's move came a day after an IAEA board meeting on Wednesday passed a resolution to censure Iran for its nuclear safeguards issues.

The resolution had been proposed by the United States, Britain, France and Germany following recent IAEA reports that Iran has not provided "technically credible explanations" to uranium particles at three undeclared sites. However, Iranian officials rejected the reports and insisted the country did not carry out any clandestine and unrecorded nuclear activities.

Grossi said that more than 40 surveillance cameras would remain in operation in Iran after the country's latest move. He warned that if an agreement cannot be reached on restoring the cameras in three to four weeks, "this would be a fatal blow" to hopes of reviving the Iran nuclear deal.

Iran signed the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with the world powers in July 2015, agreeing to put some curbs on its nuclear program in return for the removal of the US-led sanctions.

However, former US president Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the agreement in May 2018 and reimposed unilateral sanctions on Iran, prompting Tehran to reduce some of its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA.

Since April 2021, eight rounds of talks have been held in Vienna between Iran and the remaining JCPOA parties, including China, Britain, France, Russia and Germany, to revive the pact. However, the Vienna talks have stalled since mid-March due to reported major differences between Iran and the United States.

Wang Chang, deputy head of China's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Vienna, said on Wednesday that putting pressure on Iran with the IAEA censure resolution "will not help solve problems, but intensity tensions."

Wang noted that the United States, as the initiator of the current Iran nuclear crisis, should make political decisions as soon as possible and actively respond to Iran's legitimate concerns to push for an early deal in the nuclear talks.

Agencies



An Iranian flag flies outside the Vienna International Centre hosting the United Nations headquarters and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna on July 3, 2014. File photo



Kagera Sugar head coach, Kenyan Francis Baraza. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAGERA SUGAR FC

## Kagera Sugar eyes Biashara's downfall

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

KAGERA Sugar is determined to finish this season's Premier League with a bang, as it plans to collect 12 points from the remaining four games.

The Kagera squad will play at home early next week against Biashara United, which is battling to save itself from relegation after performing poorly in the past few games.

Buberwa Bilikesi, Kagera Sugar's assistant coach, said their team has already started preparations for the next game and is set to win to secure a 12-point lead in the remaining four games.

He said the game against Biashara United will be tough but, with the preparations his outfit is making now, it is sure to start collecting three points and the other nine.

"The squad is back in training after a few days' break, all players are in good condition, we are preparing for our

game against Biashara United which we believe will be tough but we will fight to get three points," he said.

"We are determined to finish the season with a big bang, we have planned to get all 12 points for four games," Bilikesi noted.

The tactician noted: "We will start with our game against Biashara United, the players have told us so and they will implement it by fighting on the pitch."

Buberwa said Kagera Sugar is targeting a top-four finish in this season's top-flight, with the side now sitting eighth having collected 33 points from 26 games played.

In the previous tie, Kagera Sugar cruised to a valuable 1-0 win over Prisons at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya last month.

Left fullback, David Luhende, notched the only goal of the tie, beating Prisons' keeper with a well-taken free-kick from almost 20 meters.

## Lindi set to host Liwale Sensa Cup tournament

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

LINDI's soccer competition known as the 'Liwale District Sensa Championship' is expected to kick off in the region in the next few weeks.

The competition will bring together three divisions of Kibutuka, Makata, and Liwale Urban.

Liwale District Commissioner Judith Nguli said the tournament aims at encouraging people to prepare for the population and housing census which is expected to take place on August 23 this year.

Judith said the tournament's first winner will be awarded a cow and 1m/-, the second-placed side will receive a goat and 700,000/-, and the third-placed squad will take a chicken, a football, and 500,000/-.

"The people of Liwale love sports, so we have seen to it that we use the opportunity to encourage the community to prepare for the census through participation in sports in three divisions...each division will have its

competition," the District Commissioner said.

Judith clarified that there will be regional winners who will enter the semi-finals and then the final will take place on August 21 this year.

The official pointed out that she believes that their intended goal of facilitating the census will be met.

Judith said census education will be provided to all people who will turn up to watch the tournament's ties, adding they are in talks with the sponsors to make the tournament a success.

"We are talking to NMB Bank, CRDB Bank, and various stakeholders to sponsor this tournament via donation of jerseys and other items so that our census message reaches all citizens of Liwale," Judith said.

The official stated development and economic plans are based on accurate statistics, adding that although the district is planning to hold conferences at all levels it resorted to as well use sports, especially football, to facilitate the exercise.

## Coca-Cola now sets another World Cup record in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

THE FIFA World Cup trophy left Tanzania on Thursday after completing a two-day visit to the country.

The coveted silverware was received by President Samia Suluhu Hassan at State House in Dar es Salaam on May 31 this year.

The visit was given a major boost by the sponsorship tabled by a soft drink company, Coca-Cola Tanzania, which is the official sponsor of the World Cup showdown.

The firm had sponsored the World Cup trophy tour in partnership with partner companies including Nyanza Bottlers, Bonite Bottlers, and other FIFA-sponsored companies.

Earlier in the day, the Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports, Pauline Gekul, had on behalf of the government congratulated Coca-Cola Tanzania on the success of the FIFA World Cup trophy tour.

Pauline promised to use the tour as a catalyst for football infrastructure development to not only enable Tanzania to apply for hosting the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations tournament but also to accelerate the development of the sport's talents.

The Coca-Cola Tanzania's General Manager, Hellen Msumba, made it clear that the firm is extremely happy to be a part of bringing Tanzanians excitement via the World Cup trophy tour.

The FIFA delegation led by former Brazil national team star Juliano Belletti had the opportunity to do a special interview.



Former Brazil's national football side's fullback that lifted the 2002 World Cup with the side, Juliano Belletti (R), waits for a pass from Coca-Cola Tanzania's Marketing Manager, Kabula Nshimbo, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. Belletti, the World Cup ambassador who was part of the tournament's trophy tour in Dar es Salaam, had visited Tanzania's national side training camp at the stadium. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

**Q: How do you feel about coming to Tanzania for the first time?**

**A:** I am very happy to be here, as you said this is my first time in Tanzania and the important thing is that I got this opportunity through the FIFA World Cup trophy tour, it is a great pleasure for me and unique memory.

Tanzanians are very hospitable people and I can say they have persuaded me to look for a chance to come back here to visit in the future.

**Q: You got a chance to take part in the World Cup finals, how do you describe it?**

**A:** I think we all agree with the fact that the World Cup finals are the biggest and most important tournament in the world where the best coaches and players from different countries get a chance to compete to show their potential.

It is a championship that every football player is dreaming of participating in, not every player gets

that opportunity, many have had great talent but did not succeed, so I can say it is a very unique championship.

**Q: How did you feel about winning the 2002 World Cup?**

**A:** Every time I look at this trophy I get the feeling of excitement of 2002 after being part of the Brazil national team that won the trophy which was held in Korea and Japan.

**Q: What is your best game in the World Cup?**

**A:** I remember two big games, the first game was the semi-final against Turkey which we won 1-0 and I got a chance to play in a team full of stars like Ronaldo De Lima, Ronaldinho, Cafu, and others.

The second game in the finals was the one against Germany in the final which we won 2-0 with goals notched by Ronaldo. For me, this was the fulfillment of my childhood dream and I will never forget it.

**Q: What are the goals of FIFA**

**and Coca-Cola Company to bring this trophy to Tanzania?**

**A:** The main purpose of this World Cup trophy tour here in Tanzania is to give morale to the youths and especially those who believe in football dreams to make them see this thing clearly and encourage them that they can achieve their goals.

It is also an opportunity for the football leaders to get the motivation to aspire to see Tanzania's national team participate in the showpiece and win this trophy soon.

**Q: What must African countries do to win the World Cup trophy?**

**A:** First of all I think you should realize this is a tough tournament, so football officials must have solid long-term and short-term plans.

Among the long-term plans is to prepare the best team and the players who will be fed the sweat and blood of patriotism to achieve that dream, I have played with some of the best African players and I know one day it will be possible.

**Q: What is your advice for young Tanzanian soccer players?**

**A:** The important thing for them is to realize that if they are talented but are lacking diligence and discipline it will amount to uselessness.

They ought to believe in their dreams and work hard every day, as was the case for I, it can, for them, be possible.

Belletti had, on June 2, visited Tanzania's national team 'Taifa Stars' that was preparing for the 2023 AFCON qualifiers' tie against Niger.

The former fullback spoke to the side's players, saying: I hope that one day I will see you play important games of this tournament."

Belletti disclosed: "We were not the team that was given the chance to win the trophy when we participated in 2002 despite having a lot of talent, we tough had to make an effort to achieve those goals."



Biashara United's players participate in training in Mara recently to shape up for the 2021/22 Premier League and CAF Confederation Cup fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BIASHARA UNITED

## Biashara United unveils new head coach

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

BIASHARA United management has announced Khalid Adam as the club's new head coach, following the departure of Burundian tactician Vivier Bahati earlier this week.

The Mara club officials have made the decision quickly to enable the team to prepare well for this season's NBC Premier League match against Kagera Sugar to be played in Kagera early next week.

Coach Adam has already started work to sharpen his squad in Musoma District, urging the club's fans and businessmen in the region to come together to strengthen their team.

He said the task ahead of him is huge, but it could be easy if all football stakeholders in Mara cooperate with him in the process of rescuing Biashara United which is on the brink of facing relegation this season.

"I have seen that the team is eager to stay in the Premier League next season," Adam stated.

The gaffer noted: "I especially ask for cooperation from every football stakeholder in the region immediately to complete this exercise which is difficult for me, but it may be easier if the cooperation exists."

"I have seen the players in the squad are good, they can fight and get good results in the games we

face, this has given me the courage to agree to work for this club because I see something going to happen successfully," the tactician noted.

Adam had in the past led Shinyanga's Mwadui FC which has been participating in Mainland Tanzania Premier League for the past two seasons.

Biashara United so far has four games against Kagera Sugar (away), Geita Gold FC (away), KMC FC (home), and Azam FC (away).

The side is positioned 15th in this season's NBC Premier League standings with 24 points from 26 games played.

Biashara United's management has continued to

urge football fans and entrepreneurs in Mara to stay with their team in the run-up to the end of this season.

The side needs to win the remaining four games to save itself from the scourge of relegation which continues to haunt the outfit because of recent results.

Biashara United's Secretary-General Mariam Derick noted: "The leadership continues to fight to rescue the team from relegation, which is why the officials sought to hire coach Adam immediately to replace coach Bahati that left with his assistants earlier this week."

Mariam said football fans and entrepreneurs in Mara should cooperate with their

team that will, at the beginning of next week, confront Kagera Sugar in a Premier League clash.

The official pointed out: "We continue to encourage the solidarity for each of us in Mara, we believe in unity to overcome this difficult period, each of us is fighting to encourage solidarity, I believe we will succeed."

Mariam noted: "Leaders have fought day and night and managed to find coach Adam who has agreed to join us in the battle to keep our club in the Premier League."

"It is now our collective responsibility to cooperate with him and empower our team to succeed," the official disclosed.

## Blatter, Platini reiterate innocence in testimony to court

BELLINZONA, Switzerland

SEPP Blatter and Michel Platini strongly reiterated their innocence as the two former soccer leaders were questioned on day two of their criminal trial on charges of defrauding FIFA.

Blatter was due to testify on the opening day on Wednesday but the former FIFA president said he was bothered by chest pains and asked to respond the following morning.

"I feel much better, thank you," the 86-year-old Blatter said at the start of Thursday's session at the Federal Criminal Court of Switzerland in Bellinzona.

Blatter's 17-year reign as president came to an end in June 2015, when he resigned amid a corruption scandal. A few months later, federal prosecutors in Switzerland revealed their investigation into a \$2 million payment from FIFA to Platini from four years earlier.

The fallout from the case also ended Platini's campaign to succeed his former mentor and removed the France soccer great as president of UEFA.

Both have always denied wrongdoing and have also long questioned how the disputed payment came to light, airing unproven claims of prosecutors meeting a whistleblower on a park bench.

That was firmly refuted by Thursday's final witness, former federal prosecutor Olivier Thormann, as he gave testimony that was widely anticipated.

Blatter and Platini claim they had a verbal deal in 1998 for the latter to be paid 1 million Swiss francs (\$1.02 million) to serve as advisor to Blatter if he was elected as FIFA president. That defense first failed with judges at the FIFA ethics committee, which banned them from soccer, and later in separate appeals at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Platini's contract with FIFA, signed in August 1999, was for 300,000 Swiss francs (\$312,000) annually and backdated to January. It is claimed Blatter said he would pay only the same as FIFA's then-secretary general, and promised the balance later.

"In the verbal contract we didn't determine the date he would get it, it was a contract between men, and we started work immediately. I didn't give him a precise time when he would get it," Blatter said.

"When I was elected FIFA president, we had a bad balance ... at the time I had no idea (when the payment would be made). I simply had this man with me and he was worth this million but I didn't know when and how he would get it."

Platini backed up Blatter's comments in his testimony and claimed he should have been paid more, but had miscalculated the discrepancy in the amount he had been promised and had

## Barca plan €1bn clause to keep Gavi - sources

BARCELONA

BARCELONA will up their offer to keep Gavi at the club as they look to end speculation about the midfielder's Camp Nou future, sources have told ESPN.

Barca will make "a big financial effort," one club source said, to come to an agreement with Gavi's agent, former midfielder Ivan de la Pena. They have drawn up a contract that will run until 2027 and include a €1 billion release clause.

The two parties are looking for a date to sit down and close the issue once and for all. Sources on both sides of the talks are optimistic an extension will be agreed soon, with the player's deal due to expire in summer 2023.

Gavi, 17, has had a breakout season for club and country, but Spain coach Luis Enrique suggested last week that "he remains unknown even to those close to him" in what was taken to be a dig at Barca as they dragged their heels during contract negotiations.

Luis Enrique denied it was intended for the Catalan club, though, saying he was "talking in general," just days before Gavi became Spain's youngest ever scorer, breaking Barca teammate Ansu Fati's record.

Talks to renew Gavi hit a stumbling block two weeks ago when Barca president Joan Laporta said he did not understand why De la Pena was considering other offers when he had a good proposal from the Blaugrana on the table.

Sources close to Gavi's camp told ESPN at the time that they were still waiting for Barca's official offer.

However, that friction has been overcome, with Barca viewing Gavi as one of the pillars of the club's future on the pitch moving forward, along with Pedri, Ansu Fati and Ronald Araujo, who have all signed long-term deals recently.

Liverpool were among the clubs said to be monitoring the situation, but Gavi, who joined Barca's academy from Real Betis seven years ago, has always prioritised remaining where he is.

Barca's bet on Gavi is also, in part, linked to the club's financial situation, with sources acknowledging losing him would be a hammer blow given the lack of resources to replace him.

The Catalan club hope members will next week authorise them to sell a stake in future merchandising and television rights, which would give them some room to breathe.

Sources have previously told ESPN the sales could bring in as much as €700 million, with vice president for finance Eduard Romeu telling Diario Sport on Thursday Barca "need €500m" to save themselves.

# Why are there so many high-profile free transfers now?

By James Olley and Tor-Kristian Karlsen

LOSING a top player on a free transfer was once identified as pure mismanagement: a boardroom-level failure of planning, negotiation and foresight triggering ire among fans. Arsenal are one club to face heavy criticism in this way, so much so that in October 2018, the club's then-newly installed director of football, Raul Sanllehi, drew a line in the sand.

"I believe that a player's contract should never go to the last year, as a policy," he said. "But I don't think I am inventing the wheel. Anybody could agree on that. Normally the contracts of the players are for five years. You need to have a clear idea of what you want to do with that player when he is in the third year, at the latest."

Despite their best intentions, Aaron Ramsey still joined Juventus for nothing the following summer after rejecting multiple contract offers to stay, and it's indicative of a trend that's only spread throughout the game in the intervening period.

Research by KPMG suggests that in Europe's top five leagues, there was a 6% decrease in transfers involving a fee between 2019 and 2021, to a record low of 30%. There has also been an increase from 19% to 22% in the number of free transfers during the same time-frame. It's perhaps a modest shift at first glance, but the majority of business in lower divisions has largely comprised of such transactions as finances are generally more precarious and clubs survive on loans or signing unattached players.

The change has now come at the top end of the game, with more high-profile free agents than ever before. Last summer's list was star-studded: Lionel Messi, Sergio Ramos, Gianluigi Donnarumma, David Alaba, Sergio Aguero and Jerome Boateng were among the names moving. This summer is similar: Paul Pogba, Ousmane Dembele, Paulo Dybala, Antonio Rudiger, Alexandre Lacazette, Christian Eriksen, Gareth Bale and Luis Suarez are just some of those able to negotiate on their own terms.

It appeared Kylian Mbappe would lead the free transfer surge as he looked destined to join Real Madrid from Paris Saint-Germain before performing a dramatic U-turn last month. Mbappe's new three-year contract to remain in Paris reportedly includes a €100 million signing-on fee and a €50m annual salary, remarkable evidence of the strong negotiating position elite players can have when running down their existing deals. More often than not, however, players in this situation move clubs.

So why is it happening? ESPN's James Olley and Tor-Kristian Karlsen investigate.

**\*Player power is (still) on the rise**

There was a time when long contracts were akin to gold dust for a footballer. Earnings were relatively



Paul Pogba has announced he is to leave Man United for nothing this summer. (Agencies)

modest outside the elite, which meant the security of a three- or four-year contract was a genuine aspiration for many players. A serious injury could wreck a player's life, not just his career. Injuries remain a risk today, of course, but advancements in sports science and nutrition mean players are less fearful of leaving themselves without the security of a regular income.

The biggest shift has been that their weekly wage is only one revenue stream for the top players nowadays, as image rights are arguably more lucrative with players becoming brands in their own rights. Last year, Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to surpass 500 million followers on social media; at the time, that figure was more than all 20 Premier League clubs combined. Ronaldo is an extreme example, but there are many leading stars who possess a greater online following than the clubs they play for, and that financial clout offsets concerns about where their weekly wage is coming from while adding value to potential suitors.

Messi signed for Paris Saint-Germain on a free transfer last summer in a deal worth €25m net in wages per season, plus a €25m signing-on fee. Sources close to the club insist he has already turned a profit for the Ligue 1 champions in commercial and marketing revenue.

Pogba's second spell at Manchester United has been largely underwhelming, but he is hugely popular on social media, a factor that will enable him to choose between a number of high-profile clubs this summer.

This sense of freedom dates back to the 1995 Bosman ruling -- named after Belgian midfielder Jean-Marc Bosman -- that released players from regulations and meant that clubs couldn't stop players from leaving when their contracts had expired. Former United manager Sir Alex

Ferguson said on the 20th anniversary of the ruling: "Once the European Court of Justice ruled that clubs no longer had to pay transfer fees after the expiration of a player's contract, all hell broke loose. Suddenly it was a free-for-all." -- Olley

**\*Squad sizes are being trimmed**

Perhaps the most obvious reason for the surplus of out-of-contract players in circulation is the effect of professional clubs wanting to operate a lean squad structure. This is understandably more relevant in smaller and less-affluent leagues, but there are also signs that there's less appetite to keep players on a decent wage who hardly get minutes -- even at the highest level.

With the financial blow from the pandemic still being felt, cost-cutting measures are being implemented wherever possible, with contracts and player salaries the natural starting point. -- Karlsen.

**\*... because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**

Many clubs have been affected by the pandemic, but Barcelona are among the most obvious examples. Ousmane Dembele could yet sign a new deal, but Barca were keen to move the French winger

on for a fee both last summer and in January to raise funds to comply with La Liga's spending cap as their wage bill had skyrocketed.

Similarly, Real Madrid have been keen to move on Gareth Bale for some time, yet could not find a taker for his £600,000-a-week wage. Wales' successful qualification for the World Cup in Qatar later this year means he's more likely to sign a short-term contract to stay sharp, but his salary will be a fraction of what he earned in Madrid.

Juventus were reported to have agreed terms on a new deal with striker Paulo Dybala only to then seek to reduce the salary on offer, prompting his imminent free transfer with Inter Milan leading the race.

An absence of European football was one factor prompting Arsenal to trim down their squad for the second half of last season. The club took late decisions on Alexandre Lacazette and Eddie Nketiah, both in the final years of their contracts, related to what European competition they qualified for next season. However, Lacazette has now agreed terms with his former club Lyon, while Nketiah featured prominently in the run-in and is expected to sign a new deal before it expires at the end of the month.

The club have also re-

leased seven first XI players -- Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Mesut Ozil, Sokratis Papastathopoulos, Shkodran Mustafi, Sead Kolasinac, Willian and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang -- before the end of their contracts in recent years, giving them a sizeable pay-off to leave. Sources told ESPN that in some cases players got as much as 90% of the outstanding sum, but the decision was taken to save money in the long run, and other clubs could well follow this model. -- Olley

**\*Focus on younger players**

Another clear development, which started to emerge even before the COVID-19 pandemic, is a growing reluctance among clubs (at practically any professional level) to offer contracts to "journeymen" players older than 26.

Experience is increasingly being seen as an overpriced factor and the general trend is to reserve slots for clubs' own academy products -- or even to pay substantial transfer fees for teenagers or players in their early 20s -- at the expense of more established rotation players. This results in many older players who would be just squad players being forced to accept lower terms or face the struggle of finding a contract elsewhere. -- Karlsen

**\*An unsettled football world**

The leading clubs from Russia and Ukraine have been a factor in the international transfer market for decades, with countries such as Serbia, Croatia and Czech Republic consistent beneficiaries of their transfer income. With league football in both countries practically put on hold due to the ongoing war, and with China's recent big spending spree over too, several relatively active markets where players picked up attractive paydays have suddenly disappeared.

Though this is further down the food chain, the effects can still be felt as income (for clubs) which was previously taken for granted to trickle down is no longer available. -- Karlsen

**\*Growth of family representation**

Agent fees are seen by some as a great way to earn a quick buck. FIFA's decision to deregulate the agent industry in 2015 removed almost all barriers to entry, sparking a proliferation in both the number of "intermediaries" and

families taking representations of their loved ones in-house.

Messi and Neymar have long been looked after by their fathers, but their reputations are so stratospheric that negotiations have been weighted in their favour for years. At a less stellar level, there has been a growth in family representation -- including Marcus Rashford, Jesse Lingard, Declan Rice and Trent Alexander-Arnold to name but four.

Transfers are complex. Relationships with executives matter, and a high level of legal knowledge is required to ensure that a contract is optimised for all parties. A simple renegotiation to remain at a player's current club or a free transfer are both simpler because there's one less party to satisfy in talks. That said, an agent can earn a significant percentage of a transfer fee and so the lure to take a more difficult path to financial remuneration has obvious appeal for some. -- Olley

**\*Exceptional circumstances**

Some individual situations feel unique this summer. Christian Eriksen spent last summer wondering what standard of life he would have after surviving a terrifying cardiac arrest while playing for Denmark at Euro 2020. Not only did he make a stunning recovery, but the 30-year-old made such an impact at Brentford that there is considerable competition for his signature. Eriksen and Brentford agreed an initial six-month contract -- a completely understandable length given the uncertainty over his ability to still play at the top level -- and now he looks set to continue his remarkable comeback into next season and beyond, possibly at a bigger club.

Although there were elements of more traditional contract issues regarding both Rudiger and Andreas Christensen at Chelsea, the club were hampered in their efforts to keep the pair by former owner Roman Abramovich being sanctioned by the U.K. government for alleged ties to Russia President Vladimir Putin.

A special licence granted to the Blues to continue fulfilling fixtures prevented them from entering into contract talks with any existing players. In the meantime, Rudiger agreed to join Real Madrid and Christensen accepted terms with Barcelona. -- Olley

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Why are there so many high-profile free transfers now?

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EATV Sports

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
14:00 SKONGA (r)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Akili & Me (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Bongo Hit  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE  
22:00 Zote kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa (r)  
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

**5Sports**  
The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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DAR ES SALAAM

## All set for Arusha athletics trials

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Arusha Regional Athletics Association says all is set for this weekend's trials that will be used to select athletes who will represent the region in the coming National Championships.

The association's secretary-general Rogath Stephen said the trials will be held at Sheikh Amri Abeid Memorial Stadium next week and they expect more than 200 athletes to attend the trials.

Stephen revealed initially the trials were to be held at the same venue on June 28 but were postponed after the National Athletics Championships were pushed to the end of this month.

The official stated the aim of the regional championships is to select the best athletes that can bring medals to the region.

He said the championships will have participating athletes battling it out in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 5000m, and 10, 000m races and all track events.

Stephen said at the end of the championships, 17 athletes that will represent the region at the National Championships will be announced and they will camp for two weeks at Ilboru Secondary School.

The official pointed out: "All is set for the trials which will be held at Sheikh Amri Abeid Memorial Stadium next week, we will use that event to select the best athletes who will represent our region at the coming National Athletics Championships which are expected to take place at the end of this month."

"We hope the regional championships will offer opportunities to all athletes in our region to show their potential," he said.

In the previous interview, he said plans are underway to conduct an athletics course that will target primary and secondary school sports teachers aiming at promoting athletics in the region.

He revealed the region will also host a track and field event for U-12 and U-14 athletes in September.

According to Stephen, this is the second time this year that the region is hosting the junior event. The region had earlier hosted the races in February.

He also disclosed that Arusha will in August host the U-17 athletics championships in Karatu District.

Stephen revealed that the showdown which will take place alongside this year's edition of the Ngorongoro Half Marathon.

## Mtibwa Sugar vows to fight Premier League relegation battle



Mtibwa Sugar SC's striker, Kelvin Sabato (3rd L), jubilates with teammates when the attacker scored for the outfit in the 2020/21 Mainland Premier League clash against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, which took place in Dar es Salaam in June, last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**A**FTER surviving top-flight relegation last season, Mtibwa Sugar's management has put in place a strategic plan to ensure their squad wins the remaining NBC Premier League games.

The sugar millers will start their four-game league survival by playing against Ruvo Shooting at Manungu Complex Stadium in Morogoro on June 13.

Mtibwa Sugar has registered unsatisfactory results this season, a situation that has put the team on the list of outfits now

battling to avoid relegation.

Saad Kawemba, the Chief Executive Officer of the 1999 and 2000 Premier League champions, said they still have a great chance of making sure their team stays in the Premier League for next season.

According to Kawemba, they

are, in this case, determined to make sure they win the remaining games.

He said Mtibwa Sugar will play two games at home and as many away, and the technical bench under head coach Salum Mayanga is already determined to earn all 12 points.

"We have two games at home and two more away, on paper they seem to be very competitive ties but we believe we can still get good results in those games," he said.

"We believe if we get either 12 points or nine points, we will be in the right place in

the league standings because there will be no team that can reach our points," Kawemba pointed out.

The team's assistant coach Awadh Issa said: "On Monday we will have a very tough game for us, and even for our opponents."

Issa revealed: "We need good results in the game, we have prepared our players to compete and we are satisfied with their progress."

"We believe our players will go on to fight against Ruvo Shooting so that we can start our bid to stay in the Premier League at home at Manungu Complex Stadium."

Mtibwa Sugar has played 26 Premier League games so far and has accumulated 28 points to put the outfit in the 12th place in the top-flight standings.

The Morogoro side's coming clash's opponents, Ruvo Shooting is sitting 13th with 28 points after taking part in 26 games.

This season Mtibwa Sugar hired Cameroonian coach Joseph Omog that had led Azam FC to the outfit's only Premier League title, before sacking him due to poor team performance.

## Five tennis players to battle it out in Africa Zone tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

**FIVE** male tennis players will represent Tanzania in the coming Africa Zone of Group II play-off event of the Davis Cup tournament that will take place in Rwanda next month.

The team's head coach Salum Mwamvita said the event has been scheduled for July 4-6 in Kigali and the team is expected to depart the country two days before the tournament begins.

He mentioned the players as Frank Menard, Dofuu Saleh, Omari Sulle, Abubakar Risasi, and Rashid Saleh.

Mwamvita said the team is currently undergoing intensive training ahead of the tournament.

"We expect to travel to Kigali for the Africa Zone's Davis Cup qualification showdown, the country will be represented by five players," he said.

Meanwhile, he said the national women's tennis team that was to travel to Montenegro to compete in the ongoing Billie Jean King Cup showdown failed to travel due to visa hitches.

This year's Billie Jean King Cup showdown is the 59th edition of the wom-



Arusha Gymkhana Club (AGC) tennis player, Omary Sulle.

en's tennis tournament.

The players who were to represent the country are Naitoti Singo, Aurelia Mushi, Barbara Mollé, and Edna John.

Former senior tennis player Rehema Athuman was the squad's coach that also doubled as the leader

of the delegation.

The coach noted: "The women's squad did not travel to Montenegro to compete in the Billie Jean King Cup which is an equivalent of men's Davis Cup."

"This came about because we failed to get their

visas... as you know Montenegro does not have either an embassy or its consulate here, all processes were to be done online, we tried that but failed," he said.

The Davis Cup showdown is the premier international team event in men's tennis. It is run

by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and is contested annually between teams from competing countries in a knock-out format.

It is described by the organizers as the World Cup of Tennis, and the winners are referred to as the

World Champion team.

The competition began in 1900 as a challenge between Great Britain and the United States. By 2016, 135 nations entered teams into the competition.

The most successful countries in the history of the tournament are the United States (winning 32 titles and finishing as runners-up 29 times) and Australia (winning 28 titles, including four with New Zealand as Australasia, and finishing as runners-up 19 times).

The current champions are Russia, who beat Croatia to win their third title in 2021.

The women's equivalent of the Davis Cup is the Billie Jean King Cup, formerly known as the Fed Cup.

Australia, Russia, the Czech Republic, and the United States are the only countries to have won both Davis Cup and Fed Cup titles in the same year.

The Davis Cup allowed only amateurs and national registered professional players (from 1968) to compete until 1973, five years after the start of the Open Era.

Russia and Belarus were suspended after the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

THE LIGHTER  
THE FRIDGE,  
THE HEAVIER  
THE OWNER!



OH LA LA!

