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Comprehensive survey to cut losses in 'haphazard' mining

The surveying strategy will encompass inspecting and measuring virtually all rich-mineral areas by 2030, helping small miners work in a more assured manner in the sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government is rolling out a robust strategy for geological surveys to ascertain areas with minerals, thus avoiding speculative and haphazard mining initiatives causing losses to miners.

Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde made this affirmation at a meeting here yesterday with leaders of the Minerals Brokers Association, pointing out that many miners have been ending up losing initial capital by investing in mining projects where obtaining minerals is not assured.

Government agencies will inspect and conduct surveys in prospective mining areas with minerals in order to help the miners to aban-

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Confederation of African Football president Dr Patrice Motsepe, who is on a visit to Tanzania, gifts President Samia Suluhu Hassan a CAF pennant at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Dr Motsepe was among the thousands of people at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium later in the day to witness Tanzania's Simba Sports Club draw 2-2 with Egypt's Al Ahly in the opening duel of the inaugural African Football League. Photo: State House

'Tanzania at forefront in observing human rights'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said that Tanzania places human and people's rights in priority, il-

lustrated by the fact that the country exercises total freedom of the press.

"As of now Tanzania boasts 288 newspapers, 210 radio stations, 56 television channels and innumerable online media

platforms," he asserted when opening the 77th ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples'

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi opens the 77th ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: State House

'Regulator must bring digital car platforms to health cover registration'

Platforms should mandatorily contribute a certain percentage proportional to the duration of work or platform worker's earnings from the platform

By Henry Mwangonde

A NEW report has recommended for formal registration of drivers linked with digitally connected taxi services after a survey indicated that they aren't covered by social coverage in case of injury at work.

Dr Hilda Mwakatumbula, the principal investigator for Fairwork (Tanzania) associated with the REPOA think-tank, said in presenting the second fair work report 2023 yesterday that formally registering platform workers would facilitate health insurance provision for the group.

She said the survey indicated that nearly 77percent of the group are sole breadwinners for their families, whereas no platform worker reported to receive paid parental and sick leave or health insurance from the platform.

That means in case of any shock the platform worker's families are unlikely to be resilient or stable in adverse situations, she asserted.

The survey conducted in liaison with the UK Fairwork group based at Oxford University set out to evaluate the conditions of workers in digital labour platforms, with 71 workers interviewed from seven platforms around January and February 2022.

The report recommends that the government needs to address the precarious situation of the platform economy work environment to formal employment status or at least assured of health cover.

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Haji backs Yanga to excel in 2023/24 CAF Champions League

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DAR TO HOST EXHIBITION FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS



PM visits Alesandra dairy farm in Italy

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has visited the Alesandra dairy farm in Milan, Italy, which is operated using modern electronic systems including processing milk using robots promising to take the lesson back home.

While in the farm which has about 500 cattle, the Prime Minister witnessed huge investment in modern dairy farming systems, production and milk processing where one cow has capacity to produce 35 to 70 liters per day.

Speaking during the visit on Thursday, Majaliwa was astonished at the major and innovative investment in the area saying that he will take the lesson back home to support development in the dairy sector.

The Prime Minister was in Italy to attend the World Food Forum in Rome from October 16 to 20, where he represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Other leaders who accompanied the Prime to visit the farm are the Zanzibar Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resource and Livestock, Shamata Shaame Hamisi who also expressed his joy on the modern dairy farming foundations which the Alesandra farm was practicing to bring productivity in the livestock sector.

He said everything in the farm was astonishing starting from the preparation of feed, milk processing, transportation and livestock care saying that he will also work on the tapped idea to strengthen the livestock sector back home.

David Silinde, deputy minister for Agriculture said their delegation has learnt a lot things in the farm which is also doing mixed farming including cattle farming, animal feed cultivation, and energy production using cattle wastes which is used in

'Regulator must bring digital car platforms to health cover'

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This would contribute to levels of attaining the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, especially relating to universal healthcare and decent work for all, the researcher underlined.

"Platforms should mandatorily contribute a certain percentage proportional to the duration of work or platform worker's earnings from the platform," she said, with the report seeking to anchor the formalized status demand in the spirit of current labour laws.

The laws provide that the employer and the employee contribute to the employee's social insurance, in which case the government needs to clearly define the relevant rights and obligations of a platform worker, she stated.

This would set out parameters within which a platform may engage with platform workers, provide clarity around mandatory social protection

the farm's operation as well as selling it to the national grid.

"We have witnessed smart livestock keeping here, this is real and we are astonished with this, the cattle have been installed with special electronic rings for identification and monitoring, this helps the farm operators to know the number of the cattle, their daily health status," he said.

A farmer from Wami Sokoine in Morogoro Region, Mainga Ole Kalaita who also visited the farm to learn more on smart livestock farming said that the education which he got in the farm will not only help him improving his activities but support many pastoralists to change their mindsets and start reducing the number of livestock for huge productivity.

"Pastoral population in various areas are still unaware of the advantages of keeping a small number of animals, they still spend a lot of energy, space and funds to keep large groups of cattle which at the end of the day do not pay much, I am going to educate them to embark on modern livestock keeping and dairy farming for increased meat, milk production and income," he said.

Earlier, the farm owner, Alessandra Soresina said at the farm they use technology to have their herds accounted for.

Alessandra said the technology helps them to have a continuation of daily cows adding that at times they use Artificial intelligence though it is expensive.

She said the animals are given pastures from crops that are grown within their farms by mixing maize residues three times a day.

She added that the livestock have been dressed with eye rings as a special identity but also to follow up on disease outbreaks and milk production.

and benefits, the report elaborated.

Stakeholders in the platform economy should join hands to raise awareness on the importance of social security among the group, it appeals, with Habibu Suluo, the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) director general affirming that so far 24 such platforms have been registered.

Commenting on the report, he said that technology had changed the way things are done, such that the country needs to come up with workable regulation on the matter, highlighting that most such platforms aren't registered with LATRA.

There is a need for regulations which give people rights in the space in which they operate, by addressing obstacles such as the platforms' compliance to the law, he explained.

Background data provided in the report shows that the African platform economy is predicted to encompass over 80 million workers by 2030.



Alessandra Soresina, who owns an artificial intelligence farm located in Italian city Milan and is well known for productive involvement in ultramodern livestock breeding, takes visiting Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa around the facility on Thursday. Photo: PMO

Comprehensive survey to cut losses in 'haphazard' mining

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don the habit of conducting loss incurring random mining.

Prospective miners often hear that there are minerals somewhere, so they rush and put their capital there with some of them taking substantial loans for the work, ending up with plots having little or no minerals, he asserted.

The surveying strategy will encompass inspecting and measuring virtually all rich-mineral areas by 2030, helping

small miners work in a more assured manner in the sector, he said.

He urged mineral brokers to assist in the war against smuggling of minerals causing the country to lose vast revenues, pointing at brokers as ladders for smuggling.

"We all need to be patriotic in this area," he emphasized, affirming that the government has a number of projects that need money, "so let us protect our minerals to facilitate implementation of various projects," pointing at health and

water sectors in particular.

The government will not spare anyone found smuggling minerals, he cautioned, saying measures to be taken include revoking trading licenses, highlighting that law enforcement recently seized a 500m/- mineral cargo in Kahama, Shinyanga Region.

It was to be smuggled outside the country, so the government revoked the license of the smuggler," he said, the miners' chairman, Jeremiah Kituyo, expressing satisfaction at government efforts to

support small miners.

He said brokers assist the government to fight the smuggling of minerals, underlining that despite achievements, the mining sector still faces challenges. He pointed at the lack of a health centre in Mirerani mining town, saying this situation poses a considerable health risk.

The government's move to ban the sale of tanzanite minerals in other markets outside Mirerani had occasioned the fall of other minerals markets, he added.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L), who is also current chairperson of the African Geopolitical Group of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), has an audience with the President of the Angolan National Assembly, Carolina Cerqueira, in Luanda yesterday. Dr Ackson is in Angolan capital for the 147th IPU Meeting, which is expected to open on Monday. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

Military rulers say ousted president Mohamed Bazoum 'tried to escape'

NIAMEY

Niger's military rulers said they had foiled an attempt by Mohamed Bazoum, the former president they ousted in a coup in July, to escape their custody on Thursday.

"At around three in the morning, the ousted president Mohamed Bazoum and his family, his two cooks and two security elements, tried to escape from his place of detention," the regime's spokesman Amadou Abdramane said on state television.

The escape bid failed and "the main actors and some of the accomplices" were arrested, he added in the broadcast late Thursday.

The escape plan had involved Bazoum at first getting to a hideout on the outskirts of the capital Niamey, said Abdramane.

They had then planned to fly out on helicopters "belonging to a foreign power" towards Nigeria, he added, denouncing Bazoum's "irresponsible attitude".

Since he was toppled by the military on July 26, Bazoum has refused

to resign. Until now, he had been held at his residence in the heart of the presidential palace along with his wife Haziza and son Salem.

Abdramane did not say where they were being held now.

In September, Bazoum's lawyers said he filed a legal case with a court of the Economic Community of West African States against those who deposed him.

They also said they were taking his case to the UN Human Rights Council.

The army officers who overthrew Bazoum cited as justification the deteriorating security situation in the country because of jihadist attacks.

Niger is battling two jihadist insurgencies: a spillover in its southeast from a long-running conflict in neighbouring Nigeria; and an offensive in the west by militants crossing from Mali and Burkina Faso.

At the start of the month, Niger held three days of national mourning after 29 soldiers were killed in a suspected jihadist attack, the deadliest since the military took power in July.

On Thursday, the first group of French soldiers, ordered out of Niger by its post-coup military rulers, arrived by road in N'Djamena, the capital of neighbouring Chad.

The convoy "has arrived without any particular problems" in N'Djamena after 10 days on the road and in coordination with Nigerien forces, army spokesman Pierre Gaudilliere told AFP. The troops will depart by air from Chad to France, with the pullout expected to be completed by the end of December.

Roughly 1,400 soldiers were based in the capital Niamey and western Niger to battle fighters linked to the Islamic State group and Al-Qaeda, bringing with them fighter jets, drones, helicopters and armoured vehicles, as well as the equipment to support them.

France has supported ousted President Bazoum since the coup and is calling for his release, as are several other countries and organisations. But the military regime remains inflexible for now.

'Tanzania at forefront in observing human rights'

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Rights at the Arusha International Conference Center yesterday.

Dr Pindi Chana, the Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister, said that around 1000 participants from within Africa and overseas were in the tourism capital for the meetings, scheduled to take up to three weeks.

As it happens, the current session will be the longest and busiest, as it includes sideline events including one devoted to non-government organisations conducted earlier, from 16th to 18th October, organisers said.

Issues set to be tabled include assessing achievements and hurdles of the Maputo Protocol, inclusion of youths in implementing the African Union Agenda 2063 and confronting racism, xenophobia and discrimination of migrants in North Africa.

There are other issues like balancing progress and privacy, navigating artificial intelligence, data protection and human rights in the African context, they said.

Still others are evaluating implications and impacts of anti-constitutional changes in African nations, along with exploring challenges and responses to shrinking civic space in African societies.

Accountability for reprisals and extra-judicial killings in Africa's pursuit of human rights will also be tabled, they stated, as well as a panel event on the ratification of the protocol to the African Charter on Social Protection in Africa. Participants will at a different side event address the situation of human rights defenders seeking to protect the environment in Africa, where panelists will be availed with an opportunity to examine violations faced by environment defenders in Africa especially in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Tanzania.

They will similarly analyse the situation of women human rights defenders in the war ravaged Cabo Delgado province to the north of Mozambique, with the sessions primed for discussion on strategies for enhancing protection for environmental human rights defenders, as key stakeholders for human rights in Africa, they added.



Works ministry permanent secretary Aisha Amour pictured in Dodoma city yesterday making remarks at a meeting with members of the Parliamentary Infrastructure Standing Committee at which the Engineers Registration Board tabled its performance report. Photo courtesy of Works ministry

AQRB urged to take action against unethical members

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

WORKS deputy Minister for Godfrey Kasekenya has directed the Architects and Quantity Surveyors Registration Board (AQRB) to take actions against its members who go against ethics.

Kasekenya made the directives yesterday at the opening of the 4th AQRB annual general meeting in Dodoma which was held alongside exhibitions.

"There are experts you have registered, but there are those who deliberately go against professional ethics, follow up on them so that they do not tarnish the image of your institutions," he said.

He said it was necessary for the experts to unite and form a powerful government which will fa-

ilitate access to tenders which will help the government to save money by ditching the use of foreign experts.

"You should understand that the government understands the role that you play, that is why the ministry responsible is advising you to go for big tenders so that the government starts using local experts," he said.

In another development, the deputy minister said the ministry will continue to give internship training to quantity surveyors in the country.

He said the board will establish a special fund for student quantity surveyors to promote the profession in the country.

He directed the AQRB, Engineers Registration Board (ERB), Contractors Registration Board (CRB)

and the National Construction Council (NCC) to work closely so that their expertise benefits the country.

AQRB Registrar Edwin Mnunduma said they are planning to register 5000 members by the year 2026 on mid-level professional stage.

"The government through AQRB is committed to inspect more than 3014 projects in private and public sector and efforts are underway to register experts and companies," he added.

He said in promoting efficiency, the board is expected to launch an electronic database for all its members to facilitate efficiency and promote professionalism.

The AQRB annual general meeting will come to an end today in the capital city Dodoma.

Project to create largest database on the African genome, says centre

By Special Correspondent

PEOPLE of African descent are poorly represented in genetic studies. A new effort would change that.

Scientists plan to collect genetic material from 500,000 people of African descent to create what they believe will be the world's largest database of population genomic information.

The hope is to build a new "reference genome" - a model to compare to complete sets of individuals' DNA - and better understand the genetic variants that affect Black people. This could eventually translate into new drugs and

diagnostic tests - and help reduce health disparities.

The initiative was launched Wednesday by Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, along with the Regeneron Genetics Centre, AstraZeneca, Novo Nordisk and Roche. Pharmaceutical companies are providing the funding, while the data will be managed by a non-profit launched by Meharry, called the Diaspora Human Genomics Institute. Less than 2% of genetic information studied comes from people of African descent

Organizers said the project was clearly needed, pointing to research showing that less than

2 percent of genetic information studied today comes from people of African descent.

"We are going to close this gap, and this is just the beginning," said Anil Shanker, senior vice president of research and innovation at Meharry.

Scientists have long known that the benchmark they compare to individual genomes is based primarily on the genetic material of a single man and does not reflect the spectrum of human diversity.

Although two people's genomes - that is, a set of instructions for building and maintaining a human being - are more than 99% identical, scientists say they want

to understand the differences.

The project is not linked to related research already underway. In May, scientists published four studies on the construction of

In the new project, Meharry, a historically black academic health sciences center, will recruit Nashville-area patients to donate blood, then send it to the Regeneron Genetics Center, which will perform the genetic sequencing for free.

Other historically black colleges and universities in the United States, as well as the University of Zambia in Africa, will also recruit volunteers. The project organizers also said they were willing to

work with other universities in Africa, as well as medical centers and health departments there. Organizers expect registration to take about five years. All information will remain anonymous.

After genetic sequencing, the data will be transferred to a repository at the Diaspora Human Genomics Institute, and the database will be provided exclusively to HBCUs and involved institutions in Africa. External researchers can access information through these institutions.

"You can imagine that if these schools have a resource like this, other academic institutions will want to collaborate with them,"

said Lyndon Mitnaul, executive director of research initiatives at the Regeneron Genetics Center.

Partner companies will be able to use the data for research and develop drugs and diagnostic tests. The 10-year initiative also involves establishing a grant program to support research and education in genomics and related fields at Meharry, as well as broader STEM programs for elementary school children of various communities.

Each of the pharmaceutical companies involved intends to contribute \$20 million to the genetics and education sides of the effort.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Geophrey Pinda addresses a meeting at Kitwai B village in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, yesterday while out to resolve a border dispute between the district and Kilindi District in Tanga Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM invites Italian investors into various sectors

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday invited Italian investors and the business community to come and invest in the Tanzanian construction industry.

Majaliwa was addressing the Third Trade and Investment Forum between Tanzania and Italy held in Palazzo Regione Lombardia, Milan city, Italy.

The forum was attended by more than 300 businessmen and investors from those countries. Also, apart from businessmen and investors, it has also been attended by Directors and Heads of Institutions from Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

These institutions include the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tan-Trade), Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) whose leaders had the opportunity to mention existing investment opportunities in the country as well as how to enable them to reach those areas.

He said Tanzania has countless raw materials to feed the industries in various sectors and has reliable markets due to its geographical location.

Majaliwa cited other areas where the Italian investors can invest in as mining, agriculture, communication, livestock, fishing, tourism and health sectors, so he has invited the business-

men and investors to use the opportunity and invest in the country.

He also said that Tanzania has many tourist attractions, which Italian investors and businessmen can invest in.

Majaliwa further invited companies and tourism agents to come to the country and invest in the construction of tourist hotels in various cities including the cities of Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Dodoma.

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No:KCB/56/487/2023/TAN(5) Date: 18.10.2023

e-Tender Notice

Kerala Cashew Board Limited invites e-tenders through e-procurement portal for the import of 2000 - 5000 Metric Tonnes of quality Dried Raw Cashew Nuts of 2023 Current Crop - Tanzania Origin, with the following quality specifications on import basis. (Tender Id:- 2023_KCBL_612321_1).

Outturn : 52 lbs. per 80 Kg bag
Nut Count : 195 Numbers per Kg

Last date for submission and uploading e-tenders	1700 hours on 13 th November 2023
Opening of e-tender	1100 hours on 14 th November 2023

All details can be viewed, downloaded and applied through the e-procurement portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

Monthly interest rates as of OCTOBER 2023

Loan Terms	Admin Fee	Insurance % on Monthly instalment	Call Centre			USSD
			Refinance Loans	New	Consolidation	Refinance Loans
3	0.00%	0.00%	3.49%	3.41%	3.41%	3.41%
6	2.00%	7.08%	0.77%	0.69%	0.69%	0.69%
9	5.00%	7.08%	0.84%	0.76%	0.76%	0.76%
12	8.47%	7.08%	0.80%	0.72%	0.72%	0.72%
18	8.47%	7.08%	1.59%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
24	8.47%	7.08%	1.99%	1.91%	1.91%	1.91%
30	8.47%	7.08%	2.23%	2.15%	2.15%	2.15%
36	8.47%	7.08%	2.40%	2.32%	2.32%	2.32%
42	8.47%	7.08%	2.51%	2.44%	2.44%	2.44%
48	8.47%	7.08%	2.60%	2.52%	2.52%	2.52%
54	8.47%	7.08%	2.67%	2.50%	2.50%	2.59%
60	8.47%	7.08%	2.60%	1.97%	1.81%	1.81%
66	8.47%	7.08%	2.64%	2.01%	1.85%	1.85%
72	8.47%	7.08%	2.54%	2.05%	1.89%	1.89%
75	8.47%	7.08%	2.56%	2.07%	1.90%	1.91%
78	8.47%	7.08%	2.57%	2.08%	1.92%	1.92%
81	8.47%	7.08%	2.58%	2.09%	1.93%	1.93%
84	8.47%	7.08%	2.51%	2.11%	1.94%	1.95%
87	8.47%	7.08%	2.52%	2.11%	1.95%	1.96%
90	8.47%	7.08%	2.53%	2.13%	1.96%	1.97%
93	8.47%	7.08%	2.54%	2.14%	1.97%	1.98%
96	8.47%	7.08%	2.55%	2.14%	1.98%	1.99%

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BAYPORT
FINANCIAL SERVICES



James Emmanuel, an outgoing Standard Seven pupil at Rorya Primary School, is presented with a leaving certificate by chief guest engineer Nyerere Lucas at a ceremony held at the school on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent

S. Korea attracts more African countries into its food project

By Jung-hwan Hwang

SOUTH Korea is increasing the number of African countries participating in its official development assistance (ODA) project to alleviate the chronic food shortage in the continent.

South Korea's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Chung Hwang-keun on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding with Côte d'Ivoire's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani for the K-Ricebelt, according to Seoul.

Côte d'Ivoire, the first African country that established diplomatic relations with the Asian nation in 1961, spends about 900 billion won (\$665.2 million) on rice imports as the crop production meets less than half of consumption, the South Korean agricultural ministry said.

Earlier this week, Sierra Leone agreed to join the project, which aims to help African countries increase rice production with South Korean seeds and agricultural technology, according to the country's agricultural ministry. Those deals raised the number of participants in the program to 10 - those two nations, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Uganda, Cameroon and Kenya, the ministry said.

Through the K-Ricebelt, South Korea plans to grow improved rice varieties in Africa developed by cross-fertilization of the country's rice and African varieties to produce seeds and supply to local farmers.

Rice yields of the improved varieties stand at five to seven tons per hectare, about a quadruple 1.5 tons of the yields of African varieties.

Meanwhile, Chung, a special presidential envoy, met top officials of Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone to ask their support for South Korea's bid to host the World Expo 2030 during his visits to the West African countries on Oct. 15-20.

Over 3,000 vehicles now use natural gas system, says TBS

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA Bureau of Standards (TBS) has said over 3,000 vehicles now use natural gas system and motorists' response to convert their vessels from fuel to gas system has been encouraging.

TBS standards officer, Anold Mato made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking to journalists about the ongoing process of transforming vehi-

cles' fuel to natural gas.

He said that cars that have been fitted with a gas system will be required to be inspected twice a year by its officers; otherwise, they will not be allowed to fill up with gas at any station in the country.

He said that the inspection will be carried out by the officers of the organization who have been given special training on the inspection of the gas systems and pass the exams organised by the organisation.

Mato said the inspection was im-

portant because the gas cylinders are filled with high pressure to enable the user to go a long distance before refilling.

He asserted that although the cylinders have been filled with high pressure, the possibility of explosion was very low compared to the gas used in homes.

He said TBS has also prohibited the importation of used cylinders and instead they allow new cylinders because it is difficult to know how long the used one has been

used.

"These cylinders have a limit of use since they were manufactured, some have a limit of 20 years, others 30 years and the producer of these cylinders must write who made them, when, what level of pressure they were made to fill and when their limit is," he said.

Yona Afrika, TBS standards manager said the process of converting fuel systems to gas started in 2010 and at that time there were only two companies that were doing

the work but now there are five and they are all located in Dar es Salaam.

He said that a car converted from using fuel to gas, its original system remains the same and that when the gas runs out, the car owner can return to his fuel system and continue.

"With the standards that we have set so far, there is no damage for people whose cars have been changed from fuel system to gas, so for those who want to change

their system there is no reason to worry about," he said.

He said that there are cars that are specially designed to use only gas while there are cars that are made with both gas and fuel systems.

He said TBS has been insisting the equipment be inspected abroad by the companies that have been working with the organization to avoid a queue at the port over inspection procedures.

Number of families suffering from hunger almost double in Sudan

KHARTOUM

THE number of families suffering from hunger has almost doubled in the past year in Sudan, where a war between generals has plunged the country into chaos for six months, World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said.

The conflict has killed over 9,000 people, according to a largely underestimated toll, and left millions displaced and refugees, worsening the country's health crisis, where more than half of the inhabitants need humanitarian aid to survive.

According to WHO and UNICEF, the number of families suffering from hunger has almost doubled over the past year. "700,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition and 100,000 children need life-saving treatment against acute malnutrition accompanied by medical complications," alerted the two UN agencies in a press release.

"More than 20.3 million people, or more than 42% of the country's population, face high levels of acute food insecurity" and this is particularly true in areas where clashes rage, notably in Darfur, Khartoum, South Kordofan, and West Kordofan, said a UNICEF spokesperson in an email to AFP.

Citing a projection from Johns Hopkins University, the statement said "at least 10,000 children under the age of 5 could die by the end of 2023 due to increased food insecurity and service disruptions," essential since the start of the conflict in Sudan.

The press release specifies that this modeling is developed by the Lives Saved Tool program, which, according to its website, is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. War broke out on April 15 between the army led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhane and the paramilitaries of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of General Mohamed Hamdane Daglo.



Transport ministry warns all airport authorities operating at loss

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

TRANSPOR deputy minister for David Kihenzile has directed all airports authorities who have been operating on loss to carry a

self-evaluation on whether they should continue to exist or cease operation.

Kihenzile also directed the Kilimanjaro Airport Development Authority (KADCO) to increase the number of airlines connecting at

the airport.

Kihenzile issued the directives yesterday when he inspected the airport operations located in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region.

"All the airports should ensure that they pay their

workers, operate profitably, and offer services which will allow you to give shares to the government," he said. There are several projects ranging from education, health, water and infrastructure which need

financial administration, therefore everyone must work to be innovative to make these institutions operate," he said.

He called upon engineers working on various airport projects in the country to

ensure that they implement the projects so that the intended goals are achieved.

"I have visited the store room for cargo, there are several renovations which are being done so the task remains to the farmers to

cultivate and produce so that the products are transported to foreign markets," he said.

He said KADCO should also increase the number of cargo flights connecting through KIA to increase employment.



Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (L) pictured in the national capital yesterday presenting a title deed to Emmanuel Nalogwa of Nkahunghu ward in Dodoma Urban District. He is one of the people at a meeting called to resolve disputes relating to land ownership and use. Looking on are Dodoma district commissioner Jabir Shekimweri (2nd-L) and Dodoma city director John Kayombo. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

World cancer leaders meet to confront global health gaps

CALIFORNIA

THE UICC's World Cancer Leaders' Summit 2023 united over 350 prominent figures from global cancer and health organizations, hailing from 70 countries and gathered in Long Beach, CA.

The summit aimed to tackle pressing challenges in cancer care while addressing the substantial disparities in access to effective cancer services across diverse populations.

This international gathering featured medical professionals, policymakers, researchers, and patients who delved into a range of vital topics. These discussions encompassed the impact of natural disasters and air pollution on cancer patients.

They stressed the importance of ensuring continuous cancer care delivery during crisis situations and highlighted the need for responsible antibiotic use and the development of new medicines to combat drug resistance. Additionally, the summit explored the alarming rise in obesity rates and its correlation with cancer and other non-communicable diseases.

Notably, the event painted an optimistic future for cancer care, underpinned by recent medical advancements like

AI, mRNA vaccines, immunotherapy, and multi-cancer early detection.

While acknowledging that these innovative technologies might appear to favour high-income countries, speakers and participants emphasized their potential to address resource gaps and enhance access to diagnosis, treatment, and care for underserved populations.

These innovations offer the promise of narrowing the disparities in quality cancer care influenced by factors such as gender, location, and socioeconomic status.



This international gathering featured medical professionals, policymakers, researchers, and patients who delved into a range of vital topics. These discussions encompassed the impact of natural disasters and air pollution on cancer patients

TCRA advises online content service providers to register their businesses

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has tasked online content providers to register their businesses to fulfil the law requirements on the sector.

Engineer Francis Mihayo, TCRA

Lake zone manager made the call on Thursday when speaking to journalists in Bukoba Municipality, Kagera region on the authority's responsibilities.

Mihayo was in working visit in Geita, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Mara, and Kagera region with the aim of 'putting the house in order'.

"I'm here to unveil TCRA's responsibilities and functions. I know all online providers in Lake Zone who have no valid licenses to do so as soon as possible," Eng. Mihayo said.

TCRA's regulation 4 (2) imposes punishment of not less than 5m/- or imprisonment of 12 months or both to any person who operates without

a valid licence.

The official further said that application for online content has been simplified by using online Tanzanite portal, so any person who intends to provide online content services must apply to TCRA for license. The application must be accompanied with several documents and infor-

mation as prescribed by the regulations and any other information as may be requested by TCRA, and that the fee of 500,000/- is affordable amount.

Mihayo also reminded the community radio owners in the region who have been licensed to operate at regional level to make sure they

reach the whole region, saying: "Some community radio owners are reluctant to use whole wattage making an example that the radio has been allocated 1,000 watts but use only 800 watts, but when asked about it they give lame excuses, saying that the owners must also install booster at a cost of 500,000/-."

Mozambique burns 45,000 hens as bird flu spreads from South Africa

MAPUTO

MORE than 45,000 hens have been slaughtered, burnt and buried in southern Mozambique. According to officials, the action is aimed at preventing the spread of bird flu.

The birds had been imported from neighbouring South Africa, which has been hit by an outbreak of the disease.

The outbreak has now spread to Mozambique's district of Morrumbene in the southern Inhambane province. While authorities try to contain the disease, there are fears that it could spread to other parts of the country.

Bird flu is an infectious disease of poultry and wild birds. It can spread through entire flocks of domestic birds within a matter of days, through bird droppings and saliva, or through contaminated feed and water.

In Mozambique, the outbreak has led to a shortage of eggs and chickens, and a sharp rise in prices in recent days especially in the capital Maputo.

The average price of chicken has nearly doubled from 350 Mozambican metical (\$5; £4) to 600, while the price of a dozen eggs has shot up from 100 to 150 metical.

The 45,000 incinerated hens had been in contact with chickens infected by bird flu in South Africa, said Mozambique's National Director of Livestock Development Américo da Conceição.

The hens had been brought to Mozambique to lay eggs. South Africa has been grappling with one of its worst bird flu outbreaks, forcing poultry farmers to kill seven million egg-laying hens, which amounts to 20-30% of the country's entire stock, according to South African Poultry Association.

The outbreak has also caused a shortage in the supply of eggs and chicken meat in the country.

Da Conceicao said that Mozambique has banned the importation of chickens and their derivatives from South Africa, including eggs and chicken feed.

The government has also stopped the circulation of chickens, eggs and animal feed from Morrumbene, the epicentre of the outbreak, to other parts of Mozambique.



Tanzania Federation of Crafts and Arts (TAFCA) president Adrian Nyangamalle (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday on a furniture and crafts exhibition lined up for later this month. He is with Art & Home director Ameniel Lukumay (C), who is the event's organizer, and product manager Neema Frederick. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Fuel prices surge in Congo amidst protests and economic struggles

BRAZZAVILLE

IN the Republic of Congo, diesel prices have risen by 25 percent in October, marking another increase following a hike in January. Similarly, since July, the pump price of gasoline has also surged by 25 percent.

Authorities in Brazzaville attribute the soaring fuel

prices to recommendations made by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2019 under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF), which provided financial assistance to the Republic of Congo, grappling with a severe economic crisis and unsustainable debt (more than 80% of the GDP). Among the IMF-recom-

mended reforms was the removal of fuel subsidies.

However, the Congolese branch of What You Pay coalition (PCQVP) vehemently opposes these fuel price increases.

"We have the right as an oil-producing country to sell petroleum products at lower prices in our nation. Why are we asked to sell

these products at the same price as on international markets? Are we not capable of refining petroleum products for our domestic consumption to eliminate the need for subsidies? If we can refine oil for our local use, then subsidies will vanish," said Brice Mackosso, deputy chairman of PC-QVP coalition.

The Congolese government has implemented a series of measures to mitigate the impact of potential inflation, which would be particularly detrimental to the population. However, the Congolese civil society believes that the of addressing this crisis remains the fight against corruption.

"We believe that the

fight against corruption in the oil sector will bring sufficient revenue to the State's budget. We call for the prohibition of petroleum product exports. We urge the government to consider a report from the ITE of Congo and the International ITE Secretariat on fiscal modeling, showing that the Republic of Congo

loses about \$1 billion annually due to high costs, tax prices, and the threshold of high costs," added Brice.

The Congolese government has promised to release a report on the impact of rising fuel prices at the pump, while the population grapples with skyrocketing food prices.



Cyprian Luhemeja (C, facing camera), Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), in jovial mood shortly after opening a workers' council meeting of the Workers Compensation Fund in Morogoro municipality on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent

WB directs 238m/- into Kongwa District for water, environmental sanitation uplifting

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo Kongwa

THE World Bank (WB), through Programme for Results Financing (P4R), has pumped in 238m/- for improving water service delivery and environmental sanitation in Kongwa District, Dodoma region.

Kongwa District Commissioner Remidius Mwema unveiled on Tuesday during a meeting of the district's Primary Health Committee (PHC), who met to discuss and set key strategies to elevate the performance of health sector within the district.

The meeting also highlighted over the progress and achievement of the programme which is being implemented jointly by World Bank and the government.

The programme also targets to heighten provision of sustainable safe water services and sanitation.

"The programme is running diverse programmes to ensure the communities dwelling

across the district are in good and healthier environment," he said, noting that the programme is being implemented in three major dispensaries of Manyata, Hembahemba and Msunjilile.

The P4R programme is executed through its Force Account, covering a total of 137 councils within 25 regions. In the programme, six councils in Dodoma region will also benefit from the initiative.

DC Mwema challenged the supervisors of the community-based project in the district to ensure they prepare patriotic budgets and ensure the tax-payers money that involved in the implementation of the project are being utilised properly to meet the needs results.

Kongwa District Health Officer, Abdulrahman Othman expressed that the project, P4R, is also working to sensitize over a need for the construction of improved toilets, together with education the public over the need to adopt hand-washing culture, especially after using toilets.

ATCL set to transport agriculture livestock products to foreign markets

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is set to start transporting agriculture and livestock products including avocado to foreign markets using the recently acquired cargo plane.

The move is implementation of a directive by Vice President Dr Philip Mpango during an event to receive the B737Max 9-1 recently.

Speaking when addressing journalists yesterday during a worker's council which was held in Morogoro, ATCL Chief Executive Officer Ladislaus Matindi said they have already started engaging stakeholders including farmers on how to efficiently transport their produce.

"There is a committee which has been formed to look into this issue because we are still in discus-

sion with various stakeholders because now this is not the harvesting season," he said.

He named other strategic crops and products which have been lined up for transportation including fish, avocado, beef and flowers.

"The only thing that guarantees the crops to arrive at their destinations as fresh as they were, and they will be transported faster," he said.

Speaking on the second plan 2022/2023-2026/2 Matindi said the company aims to expand its operations by launching routes to new Pemba, Tanga, Mafia, Nachingwea and Musoma for local destinations.

On the international routes, Matindi said the company expects to start flying to Kinshasa, Goma, Dubai, Muscat and Lagos to four for domestic and 15 for international destinations.

Matindi said ATCL managed to reduce operation costs including dependency on foreign companies for service saying most of the service and repair are done in the country saving billions of monies that was supposed to be used.

Lucas Kambelenje ATCL Head of Human Resources who represented the Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Transport Prof Godius Kahyarara hailed the company for

dominating the local market share by 53-percent.

He said ATCL has also managed to maintain international standards by entering into agreements with international airlines such as Qatar, Emirates, KLM, Air India, Ethiopia and Oman air who have been essential in finding passengers in areas where ATCL does not operate.

Parliamentary committee commends TBA for installing electronic system to monitor rent collection in its buildings

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PARLIAMENTARY Committee on Infrastructure has commended the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) for installing electronic system to monitor rent collections in its buildings.

Speaking soon after receiving the operational report of the agency on Thursday, chairman of the Committee, Selemani Kakoso said the investing in digital systems to collect and monitor revenues was important as it helps bring a lot of income to the government.

"We have witnessed how this digital system has brought big transformation, especially in increasing income collections to the agency," he said.

The chair also advised the Works Ministry to increase the budget of the agency in order to help them complete its projects and achieve the intended goals.

Deputy minister for Works Eng Godfrey Kasekenya thanked the Committee for continuing to fight and monitor implementation of various projects of the agency.

Kasekenya said the agency was doing better in building attractive buildings with international standards.

TBA Chief Executive Director, Daud Kondoro said through various innovative projects which the agency is implementing, the private sector has also started to chip in and invest in the projects.

He added that the system helps them to closely monitor and know those who are living in the buildings are the right tenants who have been given a contract by the agency.

"There has been a challenge for tenants to pay for the house and then rent other people who do not have a contract in the houses managed by this agency, but this electronic system helps to monitor each tenant to know if they are legitimate," he said.

The committee received TBA's operational report for the period between July and October, this year.



Tarmacking of the Darajani section of the Gerezani to Gongo la Mboto stretch of the Dar es Salaam rapid bus road infrastructure well under way, as found earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Nigeria burns \$1.4m-worth of pangolin scales in anti-trafficking drive

By Wedaelli Chibelushi

NIGERIA has burned \$1.4m (£1.2m) worth of pangolin scales in a stand against trafficking, officials said.

It is the first time the nation has publicly destroyed seized wildlife products for this reason.

The pangolin is one of the world's most trafficked mammals - their scales are in high demand in traditional Chinese medicine.

Nigeria is a major transit hub for African

pangolin scales and other wildlife products trafficked to Asia.

"These seized items represent the past we leave behind, but the destruction signifies the future we are determined to build for our planet," Environment Minister Izaq Adegunle said before the burning took place in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

"The destruction of these seized items is a powerful statement of our resolve to protect our environment, conserve our wildlife, and combat the illegal trade that drives species to the brink of extinction."

Almost four tonnes of pangolin scales were destroyed alongside seized leopard, python and crocodile skins.

The agency had confiscated the scales in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and a pan-African alliance named the Elephant Protection Initiative.

In August, the leaders of a global wildlife trafficking gang were convicted for smuggling pangolin scales after a four-year investigation and a trial in Nigeria.

And last year, Nigerian customs officials

seized 1,613 tonnes of pangolin scales and arrested 14 people, Nigeria's Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency said.

Pangolins are the only mammals in the world to be covered in scales, which are made from keratin, the same substance found in human fingernails.

Four species live in Africa, across countries in the south, east and centre of the continent. The creature is near extinct in Nigeria, so pangolins smuggled from there are likely to be from other countries,

UNODC said.

Asia is home to the other four species, although they have been totally wiped out in the continent's vast south-east region.

According to animal charity Wild Aid, up to 200,000 pangolins are thought to be taken from the wild every year. It is not known how many are left globally - the animals are notoriously difficult to monitor because they are shy and nocturnal.

According to UNODC, seizures of pangolin scales increased tenfold between 2014 and 2018.

36 varsity students benefit from training on tax justice

By Correspondent Aisia Rweyemamu, Dodoma

THIRTY-six university students have been empowered with the knowledge and skills for advocating and promoting tax justice to achieve equality and social justice through fair taxation.

A two-day capacity building workshop for youth on tax justice was organised by the Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of creation (ISCJEIC) in Dodoma yesterday.

"The workshop objectives focused on tax justice in the lens of realizing tax resources impact to human development and creation of an equal society," said Edmund Matotay, coordinator of the national Interfaith Standing Committee.

The training has built capacity to youth for them to understand and analysing tax related issues and develop advocacy strategies for tax justice.

Norah Kawiche, Assistant Lecturer from St. Augustine University highlighted the benefits and importance of promoting tax justice because it is among the key factors that will help to combat tax evasion, and bring tax equality.

The don said that youth have a great role in educating the society on various

issues related to taxes and then make a society to have a positive response towards paying tax considering that tax is a compulsory payment.

Beneficiaries of the training pledged to be good tax ambassador, and use the knowledge they get to bring more awareness in the society on usefulness of paying tax as well as using their social media platforms to remind the government the importance of having tax justice system.

Aisha Bakari, a student from the Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) she has asked the government to recognise and provide financial support to the civil society organisations (CSOs) that provide education to the public on various tax issues, the factor that will facilitate the tax education to reach more people in the country who will then fulfill their obligations of paying tax voluntarily.

She added: "The CSOs have enough human resources to reach various places in the country including rural areas."

Monika Kikwati from the University of Dodoma (UDOM) asked the government to review the various tax laws that provide loopholes for tax evasion and corruption.

She called on government to put in place



Sophia Mjema (gesturing), the CCM National Executive Committee's Secretary for Ideology and Publicity, has a word with Nachingwea district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moyo (L) shortly after inspecting progress in the ongoing construction of a health centre building at Chiola village on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent

a good system of transparency and accountability on the use of collected tax, asking the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to put more efforts in providing tax education to the public

and build the good relationship between them and tax payers as well as ensuring tax justice among members of the society.

"The organ should build a capacity to

the society on tax issues so that they can understand when and how to pay tax voluntarily," Naomi said, challenging the government to collaborate with other countries to strengthen the system.

AATF organises meet to chart out ways to curb key African farmers' challenges

By Getrude Mbagi

PLAYERS in the agriculture sector are later this month set to convene for a five-day African Conference on Agricultural Technology (ACAT) which will take place in Nairobi, Kenya with an aim to amplify efforts in addressing key challenges facing African farmers.

Organised by the Africa Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) in collaboration with the government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, the conference will be held from October 30 to November 3rd, 2023. Kenya will be the first country to host ACAT.

In a statement issued yesterday, AATF executive director, Dr Canisius Kanangire said the con-

ference will serve as the premier platform for advancing African agricultural technology transfer and advocating for the uptake of innovations.

He said the 2023 Conference will put a spotlight on emerging innovations within the agriculture technology sector.

"It will bring together government representatives, industry thought leaders, policymakers, technical experts, private institutions, farmers, women and youth across the globe to discuss and define practical actions and solutions to the challenges of technology access and use in the agriculture sector," he said.

He noted that ACAT will highlight the centrality of science, technology and innovation (STI) in fos-

tering agricultural transformation, especially in addressing key challenges facing African farmers.

"Often the role of STI in agriculture and especially innovative technologies has not been emphasized. ACAT is the opportunity to fully showcase and celebrate STI's contribution towards enhancing food security and livelihoods to encourage dialogue and innovation," he said. Dr Kanangire added that ACAT will intensify efforts to forge partnerships with like-minded organizations working in the agriculture technology sector and provide opportunities for stakeholders to share information on new and emerging agricultural technologies.

"AATF has been at the forefront of facilitating access, development

and commercialization of agricultural technologies and this conference will help to put a spotlight on the numerous game-changing innovations that have been developed and highlight opportunities to address the multiple stressors facing the sector due to population growth, climate change and other factors," he pointed out.

Dr Kanangire further stated that ACAT will provide a unique platform to discuss barriers to technology transfer and propose strategies for transforming existing technologies into super next generation technologies capable of enhancing productivity and effectively addressing the challenges faced by African farmers.

AATF has dedicated itself to promoting innovative agricultural

technology transfers that address farmer productivity constraints, working with partners across the continent to access 24 innovative and cutting-edge agricultural technologies worth over US\$650 million spread across 24 countries and reaching 4.8 million smallholder farmers with new interventions during the last five years.

Phillip Harsama said Kenya's Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development said: "As a country, we are pleased to co-host the inaugural ACAT 2023 and are honored to welcome to Nairobi the global, regional and local community to this important forum and look forward to discuss actionable solutions to the challenges facing the sector that will also drive change and foster

growth." "The conference comes at an opportune time when the continent is struggling to feed its people and climate change is posing serious challenges to our collective prosperity," he added.

Goodluck Jonathan, former President Federal Republic of Nigeria and AATF Ambassador for Agriculture Technology in Africa expressed support for the conference, noting that agriculture plays a pivotal role in Africa's economic agenda, contributing significantly to employment, food security, and economic growth.

"ACAT will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders to 'walk the talk' and move beyond discussions about new technologies to embracing and adopting them," he said.

Concerted efforts urged to close digital gap in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

DELEGATES attending the Mobile World Congress 2023 (MWC2023) in the Rwandan capital of Kigali on Tuesday called on Africa to accelerate digital connectivity, accessibility, and affordability to bridge the digital divide on the continent.

The event brought together more than 2,500 delegates, including political leaders, government officials, experts, representatives from the United Nations and the African Union, as well as dozens of technology companies and start-ups, among others, from across Africa and the world.

"Financial technology is starting to make a big difference in the everyday lives of our citizens. The potential of digital health technology to transform our health systems is also very clear. We have to address the gaps in the access and connectivity with a sense of urgency to many Africans remaining offline," said Rwandan President Paul Kagame while speaking at the event.

He noted that although Africa has the fastest-growing mobile penetration rate globally, there is still a long way to go. "We must continue to prioritize digital skills and literacy. Globally, we are also seeing strong momentum to support Africa's digital trans-

formation."

Mats Granryd, director general of the Global System for Mobile Communications, said digital connectivity is enriching the human experience in Africa, but only for those who are connected.

Across Africa, mobile communication has become a catalyst for change, enabling access to education, healthcare, financial services, and opportunities for businesses to grow and innovate, Granryd said. "We have a duty as leaders to make sure we are building a future where no one is left behind. We need to accelerate our efforts in reducing the usage gap."

According to Paula Ingabire, Rwandan minister of ICT and Innovation, Africa should embark on and accelerate the common ambition to ensure that the continent is a significant player in harnessing the latest technologies to address pressing challenges and build sustainable, resilient, and inclusive features.

"Historically, Africa had faced challenges in technological adoption, but this time, we must be resolute in overcoming the barriers and ensure no African is left behind in the greater access to the internet," she said.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin, secretary-general



Customers visit a cellphone store in Blantyre, Malawi

of the International Telecommunication Union, said closing the digital usage gap, building bold partnerships, and investing in sustainable digital transformation will drive Africa toward an inclusive and sus-

tainable digital future.

With the four core themes of "Accelerate Africa, FinTech, HealthTech, and Powering Digital," the event which runs until Thursday, features summits and forums

that delve into vital topics such as bridging the digital divide, leveraging mobile tech for socioeconomic development, and aligning industries with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

AfDB commits \$23m to Rwanda's new aviation centre of excellence

ABIDJAN

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group has approved a \$23.6 million loan for the construction and equipment of a new aviation training facility in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

The proposed Centre of Excellence for Aviation Skills (CEAS), including an aircraft hangar, will partner with higher learning insti-

tutions to produce a skilled workforce to meet global aviation training standards and industry demands.

"The Bank's financial support for this Centre of Excellence speaks to our commitment to investing in human capital to meet demands for the jobs of today - and tomorrow - in Africa's aviation and related industries," said Dr Beth Dunford, the Bank's Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social

Development, following the approval on 29 September 2023.

The project will boost Rwanda's ambition to become a regional aviation hub and draw international investment from the aviation industry. It aligns with the country's Vision 2050 to improve human capital by providing high-quality training, up skilling labour, and transforming the workforce for higher productivity.

The Centre is expected to enrol up to 500 students starting from 2025 when it becomes partly operational. It will offer training for pilots, maintenance and cabin crew. There will also be dispatch and ancillary courses, including in airport emergency operations services.

The facility will also provide drone piloting training, flight simulator recurrent training, and other advanced pilot training for

specialized missions.

Industry watchers estimate that Africa needs over 50,000 aviation professionals in the next two decades, including 15,000 pilots, 17,000 technicians and 23,000 cabin crew members.

Nnenna Nwabufu, the Bank's Director General for East Africa, said the Centre will enable opportunities for skills building for the youth in Rwanda and across the East Africa region.

"Overall, the project aligns with the Bank's Skills for Employability and Productivity in Africa Action Plan, which stipulates ways of elevating the skills level of Africa's workforce," she added.

Dr Martha Phiri, the Bank's Director for Human Capital, Youth, and Skills Development, said: "There is a diversity of skilled and sustainable employment in the aviation industry that should be on the radar of Africa's youth.

We aim to scale up the infrastructure needed to increase access to the aviation sector skills training to succeed in securing decent jobs."

The project's construction phase will require up to 1,000 workers, and the operation phase is expected to create 98 jobs. The proposed site is close to other related structures, connecting project components to Kigali International Airport's existing services and facilities.

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It's good for cement firms fusion 'saga' to end amicably

THINGS seem to be cooling down over the dispute relating to purchase of Tanga Cement shares by its rival operating from Dar es Salaam, Twiga Cement. The issue here isn't who was mistaken or was right in the first place but rather that the matter has been decided at the procedural level, with a decision, a dispute and an appeal, where a different decision was taken. What has come out well is the regulatory format in that it has passed a test of being used, more or less to the satisfaction either of the parties more concerned, or at least to the broad majority of the public.

Court reports detailed the manner in which a different decision was reached, where an earlier decision by the Free Competition Commission (FCC) was replaced with a new decision. The new verdict was arrived at by the Fair Competition Tribunal, which on the face of it has enhanced legal powers than the commission, despite that it is also a specialized agency, part of the regulatory set up on competition as a whole. It is charged with overseeing fair play between industrial operators in particular, and where relevant, take note of other public concerns as in this case.

What is illustrative in the matter is that the issue hinged on a third party, who came in not for specific concerns as they would have been legally weak but rather due to representing a substantial public concern. The statutes have been seen to be able to respond to that kind of challenge, as well as the two facets of the regulatory format as a whole to recognize the role that one or

other part plays, so that at the end there is a non-contested outcome. Chances that the new verdict will stand as it appeared to be the case, as no one was rushing to object to it once it was delivered this week.

Surprisingly, those issues have gone through the two judicial instances on the way competition is regulated, as it were, twice, and at some point it appeared that the issue was coming to a dead end. It isn't practical for judicial instances to reverse decisions, or to go back to it after a decision has been reversed by alternate judicial instance as in this case. It is thus apparent that some common ground had to be found between the two judicial instance, and it is reached within an appellate context rather than by higher intervention, as that would erode institutional regard.

Plenty of accommodations had to be made to reach institutional consensus on the matter, by re-validating initial verdict by Judge Salma Maghimbi as FTC chairperson, such that only the date was changed to reflect the reiteration of that verdict at the end of tunnel of appeals and consultations. There was also a reference to changed market conditions that part of those consultations and position taking in the context of appeals. If this consideration did not exactly feature as primary in how the matter was finally sorted out, it implies it be resolved differently, as acquisition or merger isn't the only way out of company bankruptcy.

It was fronted as crucial but it can be addressed, instead of a wrangle on a cement behemoth.

Rise in train accidents points to need to alter operational models

REPORTS that 62 people cheated death in an accident involving a city commuter train connecting the city with the Pugu terminal on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam was another reminder that all it now well in how the train system is operating. Those interviewed at Amana Hospital in Ilala District where injured people were rushed for treatment said that the cause of the accident was that two trains were mistakenly allowed to leave their respective positions without liaising with the other stations, crashing on the way. It would be inexcusable from an operational point of view but many mistakes occur with the railways operational systems.

On the whole the accident wasn't that costly especially for lives, as two people were badly injured on the basis of initial reports.

What is also surprising is that this liaison problem has surfaced with the TAZARA line, whereas it is often heard, or say heard distinctively and painfully in the past, with TRC. It all the same shows that there are comparable weaknesses, and in these days when the country is gearing up to operate a high speed rail system, such mistakes need be weeded out.

It is the reason that often policy changes deem it necessary to bring other parties into operation of specific public services, in the hope that a second look at the format of operations from a commercial entity would help. Admittedly there are much fewer accidents in the past decade than it was the case in the 1990s but certain weaknesses persist, either with land surface or marine transport agencies. Using the public-private operational model may help to improve the

checks there.

Especially when Tanzania is seeking to convince neighbouring countries to use our transportation facilities for most of the export-import needs as the port of Dar es Salaam is centrally suited, leaving out revamping rail operations to be broader and more assuring can complicate this aspiration. We make efforts to impress these countries to make use of our facilities from the viewpoint of proximity, which implies that we take everything else as normal. The reason is that we are used to being sympathetic to what happens in this or that instance, or even to forget such incidents, whereas outsiders tend to be more acute, say, for insurance guarantees.

For instance in this case it was a goods train, carrying copper, and a passenger train doing short term shuttles from Pugu to TAZARA station. What puts them together in an equation is that they are both state enterprises; insurance risks or payments isn't among their main problems, so there is an extent in which error is tolerated as it has a limited impact on company accounts. Again, without an entity being basically commercial in character, it is concerned less with its image among the public (which would matter at the stock exchange) than within the bureaucracy.

Often it ends well; people don't relish shakeups each passing day; they shrug, let pass and in that manner certain habits persist, including the possibility that one lets a train leave TAZARA unaware that a copper laden train has just left Pugu. If it was an exam on train schedules hardly any student would fail that test or fail to answer that question, until it happens in reality.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

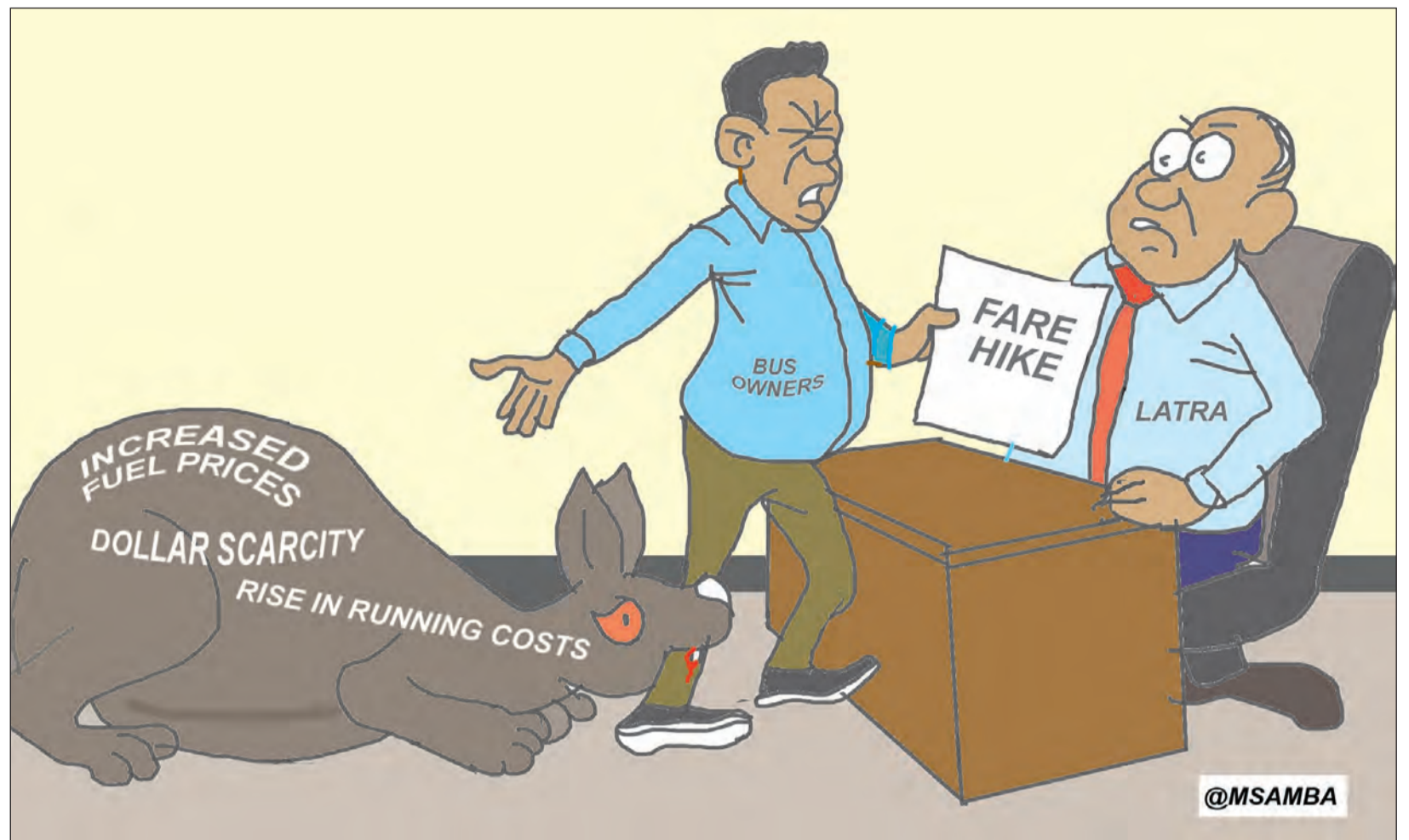
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Let us beware climate finance charade in Africa

By Jomo Kwame Sundaram

FINANCE has increased, not reduced, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Meanwhile, funding for mitigation, and especially adaptation, is grossly inadequate, with little for climate losses and damages.

Global warming accelerating. Rich countries are mainly responsible for the fast-worsening global warming as developing nations suffer more of its adverse effects. Worse, they are much more financially constrained, e.g., due to the higher costs of and poorer access to credit.

Before the 2009 UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (CoP) in Copenhagen, rich countries promised to provide \$100 billion yearly to developing nations until 2020 for climate finance, after which such assistance would increase.

But the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found their promise well short of needs. It also estimated total climate finance - from both public and private sources - at only \$640 billion, i.e., averaging about \$60 billion yearly.

Adaptation costs until 2030 have been assessed at up to \$411 billion annually, with most yearly estimates exceeding \$100 billion! But even this does not cover financial losses and damages due to climate change, which have barely been funded.

Climate finance pathetic. Official estimates claim about \$80 billion was mobilized in 2020, the most ever, but still well short of rich nations' commitments. A significant share came from private finance plus a third via multilateral financial institutions. But these estimates - especially for private finance - are widely seen as grossly exaggerated.

Commitments by rich countries to the IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Trust Fund - to provide climate finance to a few poor countries under very restrictive conditions - have been modest despite much fanfare and rhetoric.

Bilateral official transfers during 2013-19 were under \$18 billion annually, averaging between a quarter to a third of all climate finance delivered. Rich country governments have since spent several trillions on the pandemic and the Ukraine war!

Rich nations' climate finance proposals are mainly about more loans, not grants. But more government borrowings have already worsened the climate and debt crises. Clearly, more developing



country debt cannot be both problem and solution.

More concessional climate finance would not cost much as rich nations have about \$400 billion of special drawing rights (SDRs) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - virtually 'free' foreign exchange reserve assets - which they hardly use.

Fossil fuels still subsidized. Very limited non-concessional climate finance contrasts sharply with rich nations' fossil fuel subsidies. Their governments have long enabled such energy generation while insisting poor countries cut GHG emissions.

The actual extent of such subsidies has been obscured by prevailing discourses, especially over statistics. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and International Energy Agency (IEA) measure of government support for fossil fuels only considers direct budget transfers and subsidies other than tax breaks.

The duo found 52 developed and 'emerging' country governments accounted for 90% of world fossil fuel energy supply. Their total subsidies averaged \$555 billion annually during 2017-19, i.e., before the pandemic.

But this greatly understates actual government fossil fuel subsidies. IMF research recognizing implicit subsidies - including environmental costs and lost consumption taxes - finds

much higher subsidies than thus acknowledged.

The IMF study estimated world fossil fuel subsidies in 2020 at \$5.9 trillion - more than ten times the OECD-IEA estimate, with implicit subsidies accounting for 92% of the total!

China provided the most, followed by the US, Russia, India and the European Union. Total US fossil fuel subsidies in 2020 - mostly implicit - came to \$662 billion, while the Biden administration's climate finance commitment came to only \$5.7 billion!

More recent government interventions continue to skew market incentives to favour - rather than limit - fossil fuels. Hence, private finance has mainly gone to fossil fuel energy investments, despite much rhetoric about greening finance.

Private finance problem, not solution. Better data on fuel finance - by source, destination and power generation capacity - are essential. But lack of reliable, comprehensive and transparent data - on cross-border, particularly private financial flows for fossil fuels - prevents better analysis and policy.

The UK hosts of CoP26 in Glasgow in late 2021 pledged to end coal burning for energy generation. But less than half a year later, European and other countries sanctioning Russian gas exports were pursuing the opposite.

Most foreign financing for coal

comes from rich nations' commercial banks and institutional investors. Fourteen of the top 15 lenders to new coal investments worldwide were from wealthy economies.

The main institutional investors in fossil fuel company stocks and bonds are also from such nations, with the top three - BlackRock, Vanguard, and Capital Group - all US-based.

GHG emissions by major transnational corporations - including supposedly green companies - are considerable because of such fossil fuel energy. Emissions generated by these investments exceeded all others.

Address policy reversals. The Ukraine war has been used by many governments to abandon their already modest and inadequate climate promises. And instead of using the oil price spike to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels, many governments have been subsidizing domestic energy prices.

Hence, the Global Green New Deal (GGND) - proposed by the UN during the 2008 global financial crisis (GFC) - is even more relevant now. The GGND urged a strong, green, equitable and inclusive economic recovery after the GFC.

Taking account of what has happened in the interim is also essential to achieve the needed 'big push' for renewable energy to create the conditions for sustainable development for all.

The digital space is the new frontier for gender-based violence

By Special Correspondent

77 million adolescent girls in East and Southern Africa encapsulate boundless potential for leadership and change. The future lies in their hands.

As the digital age revolutionizes societies and promises progress and opportunities, we need to ask the question: Are we ensuring that our girls are not being left behind?

The digital era presents a double-edged sword for women and girls. The chasm between boys and girls in accessing digital technologies keeps broadening, but the divide isn't just about who owns a smartphone or has internet access. It's about the disparity in how digital technologies impact women and men

and girls face daily. Not only does this dissuade them from participating in digital spaces but it also contributes to persistent gender segregation in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and ICT sectors, which exacerbates the gender pay gap.

To address this grave concern, we need to recognize cyberviolence for what it is - a gendered and intersectional problem. Alarmingly, existing legal frameworks are general and unharmonized. There is an immediate need to shift from gender-blind definitions to gender-based ones, making terms like image-based sexual abuse, cyber-stalking and online gender-based hate speech the focus of legislative measures.

That the online world is a reflection of offline prejudices should not be an excuse for inaction.

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Case for right to life and against the death penalty

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at Nyerere and the rule of law on the occasion of Nyerere Day, which is celebrated each year on October 14. We recalled Nyerere's contribution to the respect for the rule of law and the solid foundations he laid for us. He renowned for being a charismatic leader, who unlike many African leaders, he neither abused power nor mismanaged public resources nor amassed wealth for himself or his family.

He strove for a strongly defined work ethic, ethical leadership, lived a simple lifestyle throughout his life and was among the few non-corrupt leaders not only in Africa, but also across the world. He was a staunch supporter of human rights, human dignity and equality of all human beings.

Above all, he was the protector of the Constitution and the rule of law he dearly respected. He differentiated himself from other African leaders by adhering to the Constitution and ordinary laws. He remains an example to be emulated by African leaders especially those who tend to cling to power because they don't trust other people can lead after them.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the death penalty. The world marks October 10 each year as World Day Against Death Penalty and this column was planned for October 14, only that the day coincided with Nyerere Day. October 10 is World Day Against Death Penalty to raise awareness of and campaign for the abolition of the death penalty. World Day Against Death Penalty was first organised by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in 2003 and it has since marked each year on October 10. This year's theme was "The Death penalty: An irreversible torture".

We all have an experience of the death of a family member, a relative, a friend, colleague, a neighbour or any person we like and we know how it pains us when we hear



bad news a certain person we know has passed away. It takes time to go over it.

When we visit a hospital, a dispensary or a health centre we meet many people who accompany their sick people to go for check-up or treatment so that they get well again and when we meet a patient we know wish him or her a speedy recovery. This means that we value life and we try our best to protect it. Nevertheless, we don't always protect life, sometimes we against it when we wish certain people die or be killed and sometimes we may be the cause of their death. This is barbaric!

Globally, the use of the death penalty in 2022 increased by 53 per cent in recorded executions (excluding China), according to an Amnesty International (AI) 2022 report published this year. At least 20 countries reportedly executed 883 people compared to 579 in 18 countries in 2021, an increase of 304 executions.

Sub-Saharan Africa made good progress against the death penalty in 2022. "The number of executions, executing countries and death sentences recorded during the year substantially dropped, while two countries abolished the death penalty for all crimes and two others abolished it

for ordinary crimes only," reports AI.

Recorded executions in the region went down by 67 per cent, from 33 in 2021 to 11 in 2022. Executions were recorded in two countries - Somalia and South Sudan - the lowest number of executing countries recorded by AI in the region since 2017. "No executions were recorded in Botswana, which had carried out executions in 2021. Compared to 2021, recorded executions reduced sharply in Somalia from 21 to 6 and in South Sudan from 9 to 5."

Recorded death sentences too dropped by 20 per cent, from 373 in 2021 to 298 in 2022. The death sentences recorded in 2022 were imposed in 16 countries, a decrease of 3 compared to 2021. At least 240 commutations and 67 pardons were granted and 27 exonerations occurred across several countries in the region, AI reports further.

"Four countries in the region abolished the death penalty either fully or partially: Sierra Leone and the Central African Republic abolished the death penalty for all crimes while Equatorial Guinea and Zambia abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes only."

As of December 31, according to AI, about three quarters of the countries

in the world had abolished the death penalty in law or practice. Abolitionist for all crimes (countries whose laws do not provide for the death penalty for any crime) were 112, 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) were 9, abolitionist in practice were 23, total abolitionist in law or practice were 144 and only 55 countries were retentionist (countries that retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes).

Tanzania belongs to the "abolitionist in practice" group. These are countries that still retain the death penalty in their penal code for ordinary crimes such as murder, but haven't executed any prisoner on death row for at least 10 years and are believed to have a policy or established the practice of not carrying out any executions. Section 26(1) of the Penal Code (R.E. 2023) states:

"When a person is sentenced to death, the sentence shall direct that he shall suffer death by hanging; provided that, if a woman convicted of an offence punishable with death is alleged to be pregnant, the court shall inquire into the fact and, if it is proved

to the satisfaction of the court that she is pregnant the sentence to be passed on her shall be a sentence of imprisonment for life instead of a sentence of death."

Article 14 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 (as amended until 2005) provides for the right to life: "Every person has the right to live and to the protection of his life by society in accordance with the law." Yet, it is a "qualified right". The phrase "in accordance with the law" qualifies the right to life. This means the death penalty may be imposed as the Penal Code stipulates.

Countries that have abolished the death penalty in law they have in the Constitutions a non-qualified right to life. An example of a non-qualified right to life can be found in the Constitution of Namibia, 2010. Article 6 of the Constitution of Namibia provides for the right to life and prohibits the death penalty: "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."

Another example of a non-qualified right to life can be found in the Constitution of South Africa, 1996 (as amended until 2023). Article 11 of the Constitution of South Africa simply states: "Everyone has the right to life." Another example of a non-qualified right to life can be found in the Constitution of Mozambique, 2004 (as amended until 2007). Article 40 states:

"1. All citizens shall have the right to life and to physical and moral integrity, and they shall not be subjected to torture or to cruel or inhuman treatment. 2. There shall be no death penalty in the Republic of Mozambique."

From 1994 to date there are no records of executions and as of May 21, 2023, according to Tanganyika Law Society (TLS), there were 691 prisoners on death row in Tanzania. TLS joins other stakeholders across the world to campaign for the abolition of the death penalty and commute a death sentence to one of life imprisonment. So, let us protect life and let us join the campaign for the abolition of the death penalty and see those who enjoy the killing of others as barbaric.

Today's proverb: "What the eye does not admire the heart does not desire."

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The Law and You



Israel must remember its moral values in its quest to crush Hamas

By Alon Ben-Meir

ISRAEL will recover over time from its colossal intelligence failure and its tardiness in responding militarily to Hamas' massacre. But it cannot do so unless it upholds its moral values and makes every effort to spare the lives of innocent Palestinians as it pursues Hamas' destruction.

The unfathomable massacre of Israeli Jews by Hamas and its insatiable thirst for Jewish blood has rightfully evoked the most virulent condemnation from many corners of the world, including many Arab states. The call for revenge and retribution by many Israelis was an instinctive human reaction that can be justified in a moment of incomparable rage and devastation.

The Israeli decision to crush Hamas and decapitate its leaders must indeed be pursued with determination and vigor by the Israeli army. That said, the pursuit of destroying Hamas and preventing it from being reconstituted so that it can never threaten Israel again should under no circumstances justify any acts of revenge against innocent Palestinian men, women, and children who have nothing to do with Hamas' evil act.

In fact, most of the Palestinians in Gaza have been victimized by Hamas itself, which has subjected them to a life of destitution and despair while they are frequently imperiled due to a lack of basic necessities like fuel, electricity, medicine, and drinking water.

Meanwhile, Hamas has been concentrating on battling Israel and using the people of Gaza as human shields as it invested much of its financial resources in buying and manufacturing weapons, training its warriors, building tunnels, and preparing to waging yet another destructive battle against Israel.

Hamas blames the plight of its people on Israel, using the 17-year-old blockade as a justification, which allows it to sow hatred and unrelenting enmity among the people against the Jewish state.

That said, Israel's indiscriminate bombing of Gaza that has already leveled entire neighborhoods, killed, as of this writing, in excess of 2,300 Gazans, one-quarter of whom are children, and injured nearly 10,000 with little or no access to medical care, only affirms rather than refutes Hamas' claims against Israel.

None of the dead or injured were asked by Hamas' leaders whether they should go and massacre innocent Israelis at an unprecedented scale, but Hamas knew full well the unimaginable price these ordinary Palestinians, who just want to live, would end up paying.

Hamas' unprecedented onslaught against Israeli civil-



The UN Secretary-General has appealed to Hamas to immediately release all hostages and to Israel to grant "unimpeded access for humanitarian aid" into the Gaza Strip. Credit: UN News/Ziad Taleb

ians and soldiers put a significant dent in Israel's military invincibility that could have hardly been imagined only two weeks ago. And whereby the colossal failure of Israeli intelligence to detect what Hamas was planning may well be rectified over time, the carnage that Israel is inflicting on Gazans severely damages the high moral ground the Israeli army has proudly claimed.

As the death toll and destruction rise in Gaza by the minute, the initial overwhelming sympathy toward Israel's tragic losses is waning even among many of its friends. Indeed, once Israel loses its moral compass in dealing with the crisis, it will no longer be seen as the victim who rose from the ashes of the Holocaust and has every right to defend itself, but the victimizer whose survival rests on the ashes of its real or perceived enemies.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, who has been busy trying to dismantle

Israel's democracy, will stop short of nothing to try to redeem himself by exploiting these tragic events, hoping to emerge as a "war hero" and save his political skin.

How adversely his public call for revenge might impact Israel's standing and its future relationship with the Palestinians is of no concern to him. Imposing a total siege on Gaza and depriving more than two million Palestinians of receiving basic necessities and demanding that over a million Gazans evacuate their homes and go south while bombing them to smithereens is a collective punishment that defies morality (and legality) by any measure.

Netanyahu is justifying this collective punishment by dehumanizing the Palestinians, deeming them unworthy of humane treatment. Whereas he rightfully condemned the unimaginable evil act of Hamas that killed over 1,400 innocent Israelis, he is waging a merciless

campaign against innocent Palestinians who had nothing to do with Hamas' acts of terror.

For Netanyahu, there is simply no moral equivalence. For him and many of his followers, the Palestinians are sub-human and their lives are unequal to those of Israeli Jews.

The dehumanization of Palestinians will come back to haunt the Israelis simply because the Palestinians have no other place to go. And whether they are ordinary human beings with hopes and aspirations, or subhuman, Israel is stuck with them. And regardless of how the war will end, Israel will have to address the conflict with the Palestinians. The depth of the scars of the war will define the relationship for years to come.

Former Defense Minister and Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, Benny Gantz, who has just joined the government along with the current Defense Minister Yoav

Galant, must resist Netanyahu's call for vengeance. Yes, they will fight with their military might to crush Hamas, but they must also fight to safeguard Israel's democracy and Jewish values, which forbid the indiscriminate killing of innocent people.

Israel will win this war; the question is, will it win it while adhering to these moral values, or win it by leaving behind deep moral wounds that will be etched in memory and in history books as one of Israel's darkest chapters?

They must remember that just about every Arab country will quietly (and some even overtly) cheer the demise of Hamas, but they will be loud and clear about their objection to the killing of innocent Palestinians, especially women and children, and scuttle further any prospect of normalization of relations with other Arab countries.

The imminent invasion of Gaza will result in the destruction of this enclave, the likes of which we have never seen before. However, as long as the invasion is not driven by revenge and retribution and instead seeks, as the war comes to an end, to create a new paradigm to bring an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, then all the sacrifices made by all sides will not have been in vain.

This unprecedented breakdown in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could lead to a historic breakthrough, if only the moderate Israeli, Arab, and Palestinian leaders grasp the unparalleled moment this crisis presents.

Dr. Alon Ben-Meir is a professor of international relations at the Center for Global Affairs at New York University (NYU). He teaches courses on international negotiation and Middle Eastern studies.

Big changes coming to the World Bank - but it's not enough

By Andrew Nazdin

IT'S official: The World Bank officially has a mission to combat climate change. At least on paper.

This week, the World Bank governing body approved a new vision statement that clarifies that the Bank can tackle climate change as part of its mission to alleviate global poverty on "a livable planet." Also this week, the new World Bank President Ajay Banga suggested that he'll be consider redirecting subsidies away from fossil fuels and towards climate action.

This is not nearly enough. The World Bank is still funneling billions of dollars to the fossil fuel industry each year, through direct and indirect finance mechanisms. Urgewald estimates that they funded \$3.7 billion towards oil and gas last year.

This is despite the fact that they've made a commitment to align with the Paris Climate Agreement and do what it takes to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius. In order to do so, experts with the International Energy Agency warned that there is 'no room' for new fossil fuel development if we're going to reach this goal.

The IEA also said that fossil fuel subsidies are an inefficient way to help consumers. Yet despite this, Banga admitted he didn't plan to "get rid of all" fossil fuel subsidies. Just that the topic "needs discussion."

Still - it's hard to imagine this new vision statement coming out one year ago, under the helm of former climate change-denying president David Malpass. After his climate change denial caused public outrage and protests around the world he stepped down, and US President Joe Biden appointed a new president.

Banga started with a clear societal mandate to accelerate climate action at the World Bank. He was given a 100-day plan to end fossil fuel finance, fund a just and green transition, and promote transparency.

Last week, Banga's opportunity arrived during the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund Annual Meetings in Marrakech. The first meetings run by Banga after months of him talking up his climate change credentials.

Organizations from around the world teamed up with local Moroccan activists to put on the pressure. It started before the meetings began, with billboards blanketing the city. They had two key demands: End Fossil Finance and Drop the Debt.

Why end fossil finance?

Because the World Bank, despite its commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement, has continued funneling billions of dollars to fossil fuel projects through direct and indirect mechanisms.

And why drop the debt?

Because global debt is at a decades-long high, with people in 54 countries currently living in debt crisis, and unless these colonial debt deals can be fixed, many developing countries can't afford to invest in the climate solutions they so desperately need.



Despite its commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement, the World Bank has continued funneling billions of dollars to fossil fuel projects through direct and indirect mechanisms. Credit: European Press Agency for Glasgow Actions Team

The action continued all week long. On the first day of the meetings, we stood outside the meeting venue to greet every World Bank delegate on their way inside. Many groups joined the meetings and delivered a petition to Banga himself, with 40,000 people calling on him to end fossil finance.

Last Thursday, hundreds marched through the streets of Marrakech. And on the final day of the conference, activists returned to the conference venue for one last rousing rally and day of action.

Meanwhile, the Bank must consider the intertwined relationship between debt relief for developing nations and environmental sustainability. Offering debt relief can free up resources, enabling these nations to explore and invest in green technologies.

This would not only aid in their fight against climate change but also propel them toward a sustainable economic trajectory. Banga has outlined a few steps to greatly

increase funding that can flow through the World Bank.

But we must make sure such increased funding doesn't continue to force developing countries into deals they can never get out of. It's true that the world needs vastly more funding into clean energy industries if we are to transition to a sustainable economy. We need funding that helps those in need, not harms.

The World Bank acknowledging that it must do its job on a "livable planet" is the absolute bare minimum. It's like an employee setting his printer on fire but telling his manager, "At least I didn't burn the whole office down."

Decades after the world's top scientists have agreed that climate change is an existential threat, the Bank has a place for climate change in its vision statement. But what is a vision without a plan? And what is a plan on a dead planet?

The protestors have done their part, articulating a vision for a greener, fairer world economy. The ball now lies firmly in the court of institutions like the World Bank. As the drums of activism fade and the placards are put away, the world awaits their next move.

What will it be?

The Glasgow Actions Team formed around the UN Climate Conference in 2021 in Glasgow, which led to a landmark deal putting the world on the trajectory to ending financing for fossil fuels. The organization is committed to pushing the world's climate champions to go farther, calling out the blockers, and exposing the deniers. Throughout the 2023 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group, they ran several actions calling on the World Bank to get in line with the Paris Climate Goals - to stop funding fossil fuels, invest in renewables, and become a more transparent and democratic institution.

Andrew Nazdin is Director of Glasgow Actions Team

IPS UN Bureau



Global debt is at a decades-long high, with people in 54 countries currently living in debt crisis, and unless these colonial debt deals can be fixed, many developing countries can't afford to invest in the climate solutions they so desperately need. Credit: European Press Agency for Glasgow Actions Team

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 SPORTS 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIYA 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

Dar to host key annual national science & technology exhibition for young scientists

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

DAR ES SALAAM is on December 7 expected to host one-day Annual National Science & Technology Exhibition, that is to bring on board nearly 100 science students from 45 schools across Tanzania.

The annual event is to be organized by Young Scientists Tanzania (YST)—a non-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering a deep appreciation for science among the country's youth and empowering them to become innovative problem solvers.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Joseph Clowry, YST co-founder said that the event will provide a platform for secondary students from all over the country to showcase their scientific research endeavours, aimed at finding solutions to pressing social and economic challenges within their communities.

He said: "This year, the YST programme will feature a selection of outstanding science projects developed by secondary students from all corners of the country. These remarkable projects will take center stage at the Annual Science Exhibition, set to unfold in Dar es Salaam."

The projects will span various categories, including physical, chemical, and mathematical sciences, technology & computer sciences, climate change and environmental sciences, agricultural sciences, and social sciences.

The idea is to captivate imagination and enthusiasm of the nation's young minds who are brimming creative research and innovations.

"Through their national science outreach program, YST imparts essential scientific knowledge and skills to both students and teachers, enriching the annual YST exhibition," he said.

He said that for the past twelve years, YST has been working tirelessly to equip secondary students with scientific knowledge and innovation skills. "This approach enables the students to undertake meaningful scientific research aimed at addressing societal challenges," he said.

YST mission aligns seamlessly with the government's initiative to enhance science education for secondary students. To achieve this, Clowry said that YST focuses on coaching science teachers, enabling them to deliver practical science education effectively.

Supported by the Karimjee Foundation (KF), YST has succeeded in nurturing students' curiosity in practical science, providing them with a clear understanding of how science is applied in real-life scenarios.

Clowry emphasized that the outreach programme plays a crucial role in supporting the government's drive to enhance science education for secondary students.

"We achieve this by coaching science teachers and empowering them to improve the practical teaching of science subjects," he explained.

Dr Gozibert Kamugisha, YST Co-founder added: "The organization aligns with the Tanzania National Development Plan and the African Union's Continental Education Strategy Plan (CESA 2015-2025) to expand the reach and comprehension of science among students and teachers. This commitment to science education has been instrumental in shaping the futures of countless secondary students, instilling in them a passion for research and innovation.

For years, YST has spearheaded efforts to impart scientific and technological skills to both secondary students and science teachers. The science mentoring program implemented in



Secondary school students exhibit their science project in Dar es Salaam during the 2021 National Science Exhibition organized by the Young Scientists Tanzania (YST).

schools has been exceptionally successful, dramatically increasing students' interest and enthusiasm for science.

"We have chosen to invest in the knowledge and skills of our youth because we believe they possess the intelligence and creativity to use technology to develop practical, solution-oriented projects," Dr Brendan Doggett, YST science advisor added.

Through the programme, numerous youths have received university scholarships, cash prizes, and trophies as incentives to pursue careers in science.

Nabil Karatela, YST project manager emphasized that the capacity-building workshops for both teachers and students have given rise to a wave of innovative ideas, resulting in tangible science-based research that can offer practical solutions to real-world problems.

YST dedication to promoting practical science not only benefits teachers and

students but also contributes significantly to Tanzania's overall scientific and technological advancement.

Caren Rowland, KF executive officer underscored the foundation's commitment to supporting efforts that prepare young people to become the future scientists who will drive economic development in Tanzania.

KF firmly believes that science is a fundamental component of economic growth and that YST programme plays a pivotal role in nurturing the scientific talents of Tanzania's youth.

"We are delighted to be part of this initiative to cultivate and nurture the talents of Tanzania's future scientists who will play a significant role in influencing the industrial revolution and the economy as a whole," she said.

Caren added that through the programme, the foundation has supported 41 science students as of 2022 who have created impactful science projects, providing them with university scholarships to help them develop their talents and benefit from them.

KF is also dedicated to laying a strong educational foundation for Tanzania's youth, with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

Their vision is to empower the younger generation to use science and technology to innovate solutions to the existing challenges in their society and the nation as a whole.

Beyond land access, control, ownership for rural women

By Khadija Mrisho

LAND is the source of livelihoods for most of the world's population including women who make up to 400 million of people working in agriculture. In sub-Saharan Africa more than 60 percent of women work in agriculture. Tanzania's the Integrated Labour Force Survey indicates that 60.4 percent of women work in agriculture. Thus, women need secure land rights in order to make meaningful investments in agriculture.

Men and women have equal legal rights to secure land rights and protection against discrimination based on gender at national, regional, and international frameworks, but women continue to face barriers not only in accessing land but also in making decisions regarding products of their labour.

There have been cases particularly in the rural areas where husbands have sold crops from family farms without the consent or knowledge of their wives. This behaviour has led to food and income shortage among families and left women to shoulder the burden of the family's upkeep to sustain the families regardless of their labour force.

Catherine Lunyungu who hails from Ir-

inga Region is a victim of men's tricks when it comes to a couple's right to discuss and decide what to do with the families agricultural produce. Speaking at the recent at the Rural Women's Forum held at Olevolos in Arusha Region she narrates how men sometimes collude with friends and relatives to steal food crops harvested from the family farm.

"We have a farm I which I and my husband work and produce food for the family. However I decide to rent another farm where I grew rice. The idea was that I did not want to use what was harvested from the family farm for my personal needs. Surprisingly, my husband and my mother-in-law were not happy with what I did. As a result the rice on my farm was stolen and sold before I could harvest it. I later learnt that my husband was the one who stole and sold the rice and he fled to another town leaving me with no food, or income for the upkeep of our children who are still in primary school," she explained.

Given the role that women play in producing food and their engagement in agriculture in Tanzania, it requires tackling the discrimination based on gender that is often perpetrated by patriarchy and customary norms and practices enshrined in most communities.



Kijoolu Kakeya from Piyaya village speaks at the rural women forum held recently at Olevolos village in Arusha Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Society must ensure that women take part in the decision making process regarding agricultural production and how the family spends the produce. Again, women should not be regarded as free labour for family farms with no reward for their toil. The best reward for them is not only a share of what has been harvested but also that their opinion is sought and becomes part and parcel of all decisions made at various stages of the agricultural process.

The Stand for Her Land campaign (S4HL) thus seeks to close the implementation gap for women's land rights by addressing norms and practices that discriminate

against women.

Ahead of the International Rural Women Day, on 14th October 2023, the S4HL Coalition in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Group organised a rural women forum at Olevolos Village, Arumeru District in Arusha.

The forum was meant to provide space for rural women to learn about land rights, women's role on land governance and climate action leadership and food security. It was also an opportunity for rural women from across the country to share their real-life stories on issues relating to women land rights.

Lunyungu and many other women shared their powerful stories about their struggles to realise the right to own land and secure tenure. They also highlighted challenges they have had to overcome so that there is gender equality in ownership of land and other property.

Speaking at the forum, Doris Mboje from Morogoro explained how awareness campaigns conducted by NGOs and CBOs have enabled her to fight for her right to own land. "My confidence to fight for rights has increased after receiving awareness and capacity training from S4HL campaign partner, PELUM Tanzania. I have learned

the importance of taking part in the decision making process in all issues related to land and agricultural production. Now I always demand the family discuss and make decision together on how to use our farm produce and I always argue against all suggestions that tend to exclude women's voices. This has, to a great extent, increased harmony in the family increased productivity of our farms because we all work and speak with one voice," she explained.

The S4HL campaign also encourages women to realise that their land rights are beyond the right to access, control and own it but includes the right to make decisions on to make their land more productive and how agricultural products could be used to sustain livelihoods and economic growth for oneself, family, and the community at large. The campaign stresses the need to ignite a shift on how women are viewed when it comes to asserting their land rights and decision-making role at family level because that is the foundation of gender equality and justice. A norm shift at family and community level means a shift at country, regional and global level.

Khadija Mrisho is a land tenure specialist

Consider harm reduction as a key guide in driving public health strategies in Africa, expert advises

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

STAKEHOLDERS in the health sector have been challenged to consider harm reduction as a key guide in driving public health strategies in Africa.

Harm reduction refers to interventions aimed at reducing the negative effects of health behaviours without necessarily extinguishing the problematic health behaviours entirely or permanently.

Speaking during the third annual Harm Reduction Exchange themed: 'Amplifying the voice of Harm Reduction advocacy across Africa', the president of the African Medical Association and the Association of Medical Councils of Africa Dr Kgosi Letlape challenged African governments to adopt harm reduction approaches when regulating public health challenges.

Harm reduction, he said, is a more transformative strategy than prohibition-based policies and is better than simply advocating for complete abstinence. Harm reduction is a better approach to reducing tobacco-related death and disease.

"Harm reduction is a practical and transformative approach that incorporates community-driven public health strategies including prevention, risk reduction, and health promotion to empower people who use drugs and their families with the choice to live healthy and self-directed," Dr Kgosi said.

"We hope that our lobbying efforts will spark renewed conversations on tobacco harm reduction among all stakeholders, including regulators and policymakers, which could lead to effective regulation and access to non-combustible product alternatives for adult smokers who are unable or uninterested in quitting."

Across the world, harm reduction strategies have been deployed in public health as a pragmatic and compas-



Some participants of the 3rd annual harm reduction exchange held in Nairobi.

sionate approach to address various issues, particularly in the context of substance use and other risky behaviours. Some of these strategies include Needle Exchange Programs, supervised injection sites, condom distribution, PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis), Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT), Vaping and E-Cigarettes, and supervised consumption of medications.

"Organizations that practice harm reduction in-

corporate a spectrum of strategies that meet people where they are on their own terms and may serve as a pathway to additional health and social services, including additional prevention, treatment, and recovery services," Dr Vivianne Manyeki said.

Integra Africa Principal Dr Tendai Mhizha emphasized the role that journalists and media houses should play in handling misinformation and disinformation in tobacco harm reduction discussions.

"The media play a critical role in accelerating the progress towards full uptake of harm reduction strategies in all spheres of health across the continent. With the advent of technology, we find that misinformation and disinformation are becoming increasingly prevalent with the democratization of the information space. Moving forward, there is a need to ensure that stakeholders are well informed with current and relevant information about the science, the changes that occur and how we can advance towards a smoke-free world," Dr Tendai said.

Raising awareness for tobacco harm reduction (THR) as a public health strategy encourages adult smokers who are unable or uninterested in quitting tobacco altogether to migrate to non-combustible product alternatives. THR has the potential to bring about one of the greatest public health achievements of our time," said Dr Tendai.

"Harm reduction is the better path forward. With harm reduction, regulators provide adult smokers with information, choice and support to expand the off-ramp from smoking - while also continuing to drive down underage use. Providing adult smokers with less harmful alternatives to cigarettes is a powerful step in achieving this goal," Public Health Specialist and Secretary General of Harm Reduction Society in Kenya, Dr Michael Kariuki said.

Several African countries have already implemented THR policies and programs. For example, South Africa has legalized the sale of e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products. Kenya has also taken steps to regulate THR products and is considering legalizing e-cigarettes.

The harmonization of public healthcare regulation of THR products in Africa would be a positive step towards reducing the harms associated with tobacco use. It would also signal that African governments are committed to public health and protecting their citizens from the dangers of tobacco smoke.

Appointment of SA Public Protector reveals irreconcilable differences

By Marianne Merten

ADVOCATE Kholeka Galeka scraped into office as South Africa's next Public Protector with four more than the constitutionally required minimum of 240 votes. For many in the House, it would have been a job well done, even if the bruising debate and politicking exposed trench lines.

A DA walkout. An absent EFF, except for one MP, alongside several smaller parties like the United Democratic Movement and Cope. And several other opposition parties missing MPs.

The count of 244 votes for and 12 against is not just a telling reflection of the level of support for an incoming permanently appointed Public Protector - the acting incumbent Kholeka Galeka - but also a show of deeply embedded divisions and majoritarianism, South Africa's particular take on democracy.

The governing ANC is not shy to use its numbers to get its way, even outside meetings of its National Executive Committee. This sometimes goes awry.

In June 2022, the ANC proceeded with its choice of anti-apartheid veteran and ex-Presidency director-general, Frank Chikane, as intelligence inspector-general - without the two-thirds support the Constitution required.

That vote bombed, and it was back to the drawing board. Ultimately, Imtiaz Fazel got the intelligence oversight job in September 2022.

And so, for Thursday's vote for the new Public Protector, the ANC knew it had to muster every one of its 230 MPs. That's why, for example, Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni had to make it to the parliamentary sitting in Cape Town by 2pm after delivering the Cabinet briefing at 9am in Pretoria.

All but a couple of ANC MPs assembled.

With the support of 13 of the 14 IFP MPs (one was absent due to ill health), and some of the two and one-seat parties - the numbers indicate not all who expressed support actually voted - Galeka got the nod.

The deputy Public Protector, who has been acting in the position since the suspension of Busisiwe Mkhwebane in June 2022, would now be referred to President Cyril Ramaphosa for official appointment.

But that's not before deep-seated divisions once again emerged. The House has, for some time now, not been the multiparty institution for consideration of public issues and of peoples' representatives - as the Constitution puts it - but rather a party-political, point-scoring platform.



Advocate Kholeka Galeka is the new Public Protector of South Africa. (Photo: Supplied)

The power of power

Some of that is purely political theatre, like the Palestinian keffiyeh most ANC MPs sported on Thursday, and the moment of silence not only for an MP and a senior parliamentary official who died.

"We also note with deep sadness and pain the escalation of conflict in the Middle East and that civilians' lives have been lost on both sides of the conflict... May we please rise to observe a moment of silence," said National Assembly

Speaker Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula.

Some of it is more fundamental - how the power of power, and numbers, is exercised in politics.

Claims of bias against the ANC MP who is the Speaker are not new, as former incumbent Baleka Mbete will attest.

However, for DA leader John Steenhuisen to describe Mapisa-Nqakula as "a liar" and "dishonest" - also in relation to the controversial salary hike of Secretary to Parliament Xolile George - is unusual.

"You are an absolute disgrace... You are destroying Parliament," said Steenhuisen, talking also of a motion of no confidence.

"You absolutely do not belong on this chair. You are dishonest and you are a liar."

Strong words, given that "liar" is unparliamentary, but also signalling the trench lines in a Parliament ticking the boxes on the back of governing ANC numbers in the House - and how those in power exercise power.

What led to this fracas was DA MP Glynis Breytenbach's comment that Galeka had "a very cosy relationship, some say intimate relationship, with her boss, the rather odious Menzi Simelane, leading to speedy promotions..."

Breytenbach and Galeka were at the prosecution service at the same time.

The ANC objected - Good party MP Brett Heron later called the comment "racist" and "sexist" - with Human Settlements Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi intervening: "(W)e can't allow to have such an insinuation in the House, given what we have gone through as women in this country."

Mapisa-Nqakula agreed, invoking Rule 88 that prohibits casting aspersions on the holder of a public office - and ordered Breytenbach to withdraw. When

she didn't, the DA MP was ordered out.

The DA argued that Rule 88 didn't apply - Galeka was not yet approved as Public Protector as the role was under consideration in the House. Not as deputy Public Protector or acting Public Protector.

The Speaker didn't rule on Steenhuisen's statements, but said: "For now, the liar will say: Let us proceed with the proceedings of this House."

DA Chief Whip Siviwe Gwarube raised a question of bias regarding Mapisa-Nqakula's ruling on Breytenbach, and when she was dismissed, announced the DA walkout.

EFF MP Mzwanele Manyi was in the House to publicly state the party's opposition to Galeka. His comments about her bias, and describing her as "not an honest person", "a liar" and "a manipulator" went uninterrupted. It was his "thug" comment regarding ANC MPs that got him into hot water with the Speaker.

As he was ordered out of the House after refusing to withdraw his remarks, Manyi, pointing to the ANC seats, continued: "These people are thugs. These are elected thugs. They know nothing about representing the people of this country... I'd rather go than sit with thugs."

But no intervention came when ANC MP Qubudile Dyantyi criticised Breytenbach who "ran away, could not hide her bias..." and allowed personal feelings to interfere.

"The DA wants that we forgo the best person... because of someone who can not get over a personal experience (at the NPA)..."

The point?

Rather than the consensus of a multiparty democracy, as the Constitution outlines, ANC numbers and leveraged influence carried the day once again. Or, as ANC MP Mina Lesoma, put it: "Advocate Kholeka Galeka is fit and proper to serve as the fifth Public Protector of the Republic."

But Thursday's 244 votes for Galeka is a far cry from the unanimous approval of Thuli Madonsela as Public Protector in 2009, and also falls short of the support Mkhwebane received in 2016 when only the DA abstained.

And that reflects how trenches dug on the back of numbers in a majoritarian rather than multiparty democracy can erode trust in the process and in institutions themselves.

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. Clues include: 1. one's mother, 2. time worked in addition to one's normal working hours, 3. a tropical evergreen shrub native to southern and SE Asia, 4. deadly nightshade, 5. produce, 6. easy to understand, 7. atomic mass unit, 10. an official pardon for people convicted of political offences, 12. flightless Australian bird resembling an ostrich, 13. an extra seed covering, typically.

Word search puzzle. Clues: PER: AI: OI SNEERING AMEN, CAT: KRAFT DRASTIC TASER, DUMB : SH UFO: RVA NAEVUS, OMAN : UP WESAK MEANS, COWSHED OMAN BRIGHT. Includes 'Yesterday's solution' grid.

RADIO One advertisement. Features the slogan 'RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI' and a detailed program schedule for Monday through Sunday. Includes social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

BUSINESS

Sub-Saharan African economy expected to grow 3.7 per cent



Gold at three-month peak with Middle East conflict inducing further demand

NEW DELHI

Gold prices hit a three-month high yesterday and were set for a second straight weekly gain, with demand bolstered by the Middle East conflict and expectations that the Federal Reserve's rate hikes are nearing an end.

Spot gold was up 0.2 percent at \$1,978.19 per ounce by 0542 GMT, after hitting its highest since July 20. US gold futures added 0.5 percent to \$1,989.90.

"There is fear that it's (Israel-Hamas war) going to escalate into something of a broader regional crisis, potentially a protracted conflict... So we are seeing investors positioning in safe havens," said Kyle Rodda, financial market analyst at Capital.com.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told troops gathered at the Gaza border on Thursday that they would soon see the Palestinian enclave "from inside," implying that an expected ground invasion to annihilate Hamas could be nearing.

Gold, often used as a safe store of value during times of political and financial uncertainty, has risen 2.4 percent this week.

"Gold prices were supported as fears of another Fed rate hike in 2023 subside. We remain neutral towards gold prices for 2023, expecting prices to average \$1,950/oz," Fitch Solutions said in a note.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell in his remarks to the Economic Club of New York agreed "in principle" that the rise in yields was helping to further tighten financial conditions and "at the margin" might lessen the need for additional rate increases.

Higher interest rates raise the opportunity cost of holding gold.

Markets are widely expecting the Fed to keep interest rates on hold at its policy meeting next month, according to the CME FedWatch tool.

Spot gold is expected to extend gains into a range of \$1,998-\$2,010 per ounce, as it has broken a resistance at \$1,972, according to Reuters technical analyst Wang Tao. [TECH/C]

Spot silver fell 0.4 percent to \$22.94 per ounce, but was headed for a second weekly rise. Platinum eased 0.3 percent to \$888.34 and palladium gained 0.1 percent to \$1,114.53.

JOHANNESBURG

The Sub-Saharan African economy is expected to grow 3.7 percent on average next year despite a worrisome global economic backdrop as falling inflation allows for looser monetary policy, a Reuters poll showed on Friday.

However, Sub-Saharan Africa is reliant on the wider global economy performing well and earlier this month the International Monetary Fund cut its growth forecasts for China and the euro zone and said overall global growth remained low and uneven.

The forecast in the poll of economists surveyed in the past week is below that of the IMF which estimates the region's economy will grow 4.0 percent next year after expanding 3.3 percent this year.

Jane Morley, head of Sub-Saharan Africa Country Risk at Fitch Solutions said the region's economy will gain momentum as inflation trends downwards and risk appetite towards emerging markets improves. She put the region's 2024 growth at the poll median of 3.7 percent.

Morley expects performance in South Africa and Nigeria - which make up half of the region's nominal GDP - to improve marginally, with monetary easing across most of its major markets feeding through towards the end of next year, supporting consumer and business activity in the second half.

Gross domestic product in Nigeria, the region's biggest economy, is expected to grow 3.0 percent this year



and next. Its growth rate slowed to 2.51 percent in the second quarter, hurt by a fall in oil production amid a series of reforms.

A Reuters poll earlier this month showed South Africa's economy would grow 1.2 percent next year due to improving energy supplies. A separate poll in September suggested the impact of rate cuts as inflation slows would be felt more late next year in a couple of key economies.

Ghana GDP growth is expected to accelerate to 3.4 percent next year from 2.9 percent this year but still a

far cry from a growth rate of 5.1 percent seen in 2021. Kenya's economy is expected to grow 5.2 percent next year. Zambia's economy is expected to expand 3.9 percent this year and 4.0 percent next. The IMF has 3.6 percent and 4.3 percent estimates, respectively.

Zambia was the first African country to default during the pandemic and its restructuring process, which saw it agree broad terms to rework \$6.3 billion of debt with official creditors in June, has been beset by delays.

Jacques Nel, head of Africa macro research at Oxford Economics Africa reckons 2024 will not be much easier than 2023 for the region from a fiscal perspective.

"Government finances won't look much better, the cost of living has not dropped, and global economic growth is expected to slow down further," said Nel.

"Aggressive policy reform, in a positive direction, will be the most productive channel to pursue a brighter 2024 for most African countries," he added.

85pc of Kenyan firms default on corporate taxes

NAIROBI

At least eight in 10 companies in Kenya did not pay taxes on earnings last financial year, signalling a tough economic environment that hit sales, prompting some businesses to scale down operations.

Statistics obtained from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) show a modest 129,313 out of 862, 336 firms registered for corporate income tax (CIT) for the year ended June 2023, which is a compliance rate of 15 percent.

This came when corporate managers battled flagging sales in a high-inflation environment, which squeezed earnings and hit purchasing power.

The KRA data indicates the share

of registered companies which were compliant was slightly lower than the previous year ended June 2022 when a revised 123,030 out of 759,568 firms paid their taxes on profit.

"A compliant taxpayer is a company which registers for the relevant tax obligations if/when they meet the registration requirement, files all returns on time, makes payments of taxes due on time and reports accurate information regarding their business transactions," KRA's commissioner for domestic taxes Rispah Simiyu told the Business Daily via email.

Resident companies pay 30 percent on their annual profit, paid through quarterly instalments, while the rate for foreign firms is 37.5 percent.

The relatively low compliance levels signal that many companies could be reporting losses as a tax avoidance strategy, a gap that the Treasury has since 2020 been seeking to plug by introducing a minimum tax on corporate sales.

It could also point to the rising number of dormant companies, mainly start-ups registered in recent years with the target of supplying the national government, county governments and State corporations with goods and services.

The data shows some 102,768 new companies registered for corporate income obligations in the review year compared with 95,973 firms the year before.

More than a half (55.77 percent or 480,935 firms) of the registered firms filed annual returns during the review period, signalling they were active and keen on avoiding the five percent penalty for failing to comply by June 30.

This means a lowly 26.89 percent of the companies which file returns paid taxes on earnings. The KRA has in the past said it was difficult to establish the reason behind considerable variances between companies which file returns and those that pay.

The taxman received Sh263.82 billion in corporation taxes in the review period ended June 2023, a growth of 9.01 percent over Sh242.02 billion the year before.



South Africa approves green hydrogen strategy

JOHANNESBURG

Cabinet has approved the Green Hydrogen Commercialisation Strategy (GHCS) for implementation, with the goal of positioning South Africa as a major producer and exporter of green hydrogen.

Government has estimated that the hydrogen economy has the potential to add 3.6 percent to gross domestic product by 2050 and create 370 000 jobs.

Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni said the draft Green Paper had received extensive feedback from stakeholders and the GHCS would give effect to the Hydrogen South Africa Strategy approved by Cabinet in 2007 to prepare the

country for a hydrogen economy.

"It is also framed within the Hydrogen Society Roadmap developed by the Department of Science and Innovation and approved by Cabinet in 2021."

She also said that government had identified possible funding for green hydrogen projects, without offering any details.

However, the approval of the strategy follows on from the second South Africa Green Hydrogen Summit in Cape Town, where South Africa concluded Heads of Agreements with the intention of launching an SA-H2 Fund that will facilitate the development of the country's green hydrogen sector.

The aim is to attract \$1-billion in

funding.

The development of a green hydrogen economy is also included in the Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (JET IP), which was endorsed last year by the initial members of the International Partnership Group (IPG), which pledged \$8.5-billion in concessional funding to support South Africa's phased transition away from coal.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Kingdom of Denmark have subsequently become members of the IPG, while JET IP pledges have also been made by Canada, Spain and Switzerland.

The Presidency's Rudi Dicks told the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) recently that that pledges

of concessional funding in support of South Africa's JET IP had increased to \$11.9-billion.

Most of the funding would be in the form of loans rather than grants and Cabinet said it remained concerned about the non-commitment of developed countries to meaningful grant funding.

Details of the GHCS were not immediately released, but it is understood that the strategy will seek to lock-in price subsidies arising in various developed countries for green hydrogen derivatives exports, support the decarbonisation of domestic hard-to-abate sectors and develop industrial capacity to manufacture components for wind, solar and electrolyser facilities.

Green hydrogen is produced by using renewable electricity in an electrolyser to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. The clean energy carrier and the derivative products are seen as becoming increasingly important in assisting those sectors that are unable to decarbonise directly using renewable electricity, such as steel, petrochemicals, fertilisers, cement, as well as long-haul land, sea and air transportation.

Ahead of the endorsement of the strategy, the Eastern, Northern and Western Cape provinces signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on the development of South Africa as a global hub to produce green hydrogen and derivative products, as well as to produce the

components required in the green hydrogen value chain.

The three coastal provinces are all playing host to potential multibillion-rand green-hydrogen projects and have been working separately on strategies and roadmaps to capture the jobs, growth and industrialisation opportunities that could flow should the projects materialise.

However, opportunities extend beyond these provinces and also include opportunities in territories such as the Free State and Mpumalanga where Sasol is investigating displacing grey hydrogen produced from coal with green hydrogen to produce sustainable aviation fuels and other products.

Forex shortage triggers cost-of-living crisis in Malawi

Blantyre

Joe Kambale has been stitching men's suits from his living room in Blantyre, Malawi's commercial hub, for the last eight years. Sometimes he makes about 200,000 kwacha (\$173) a week, decent wages in a country where half of the population lives on \$1 daily or less, according to data from Malawi's National Statistical Office.

He was often so swamped with work that he was sometimes unable to take on new customers for up to a month. But in the last two weeks, the 35-year-old tailor's pair of sewing machines have been idle because demand is dwindling.

And now he is finding it hard to cater to the needs of his wife and one-year-old son.

"The high cost of living has driven clients away," he said, with a look of despair in his eyes. A month ago, two of his most loyal customers suspended orders indefinitely, telling him that they are now prioritising spending their earnings on basic needs.

The rising cost of materials is also eating into the small profit margins for Kambale's business, which is run on a shoestring budget.

"Most of the materials that we use in tailoring are imported. When I go to the market to buy them, I find prices have increased because of dwindling imports. Almost every day prices are changing," said Kambale. "Raising the prices of my suits is difficult because I might lose customers. I'm making losses."

Life in this southern African country of 20 million people has become harder in recent years.

Since 2021, the country has been experiencing acute foreign currency shortages, a consequence of reduced exports, experts say. This has led to

a scarcity of essential goods such as food, medicine, fertiliser and fuel. In June, spokesperson for the Reserve Bank of Malawi, Ralph Tseka, told local media that the foreign exchange reserves were "nearly empty".

Analysts like Betchani Tchereni, associate professor of economics and dean at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences say Malawi is still feeling the effects of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine on the global supply chain. Since the conflict began in February 2022, the price of bread has increased by at least 50 percent.

"The pandemic destabilised tobacco export and when the war started, the prices of chemical fertiliser skyrocketed, meaning that we couldn't afford the quantities that we needed any more," he said. "This also came at a time global inflation in general went up meaning that we couldn't afford many imports. It further drained our forex and led to inflation."

Beyond that, there is also a ripple effect from the impact of Cyclone Freddy which displaced nearly 90,000 people this March in Blantyre and parts of southern Malawi.

To stabilise dwindling forex reserves, Malawi's central bank devalued the kwacha by 25 percent last May. As of this October, the currency had further weakened by 4.87 percent. Due to rocketing year-on-year inflation - 28.6 percent as of September - everything from food to electricity has gone above the reach of most people.

For instance, Malawi's main staple, maize, has increased by 15 percent, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network. As of June, a family of six in an urban setting needed 377,892 kwacha (\$326.53) per month to survive, up from 257,028 kwacha (\$222.09) during a



similar period last year, according to the Centre for Social Concern-CfCS, a local research-based non-profit.

"The worst is yet to come," John Kapito, executive director of the Consumers Association of Malawi, told Al Jazeera. "For a long time, the country has failed to balance its imports against exports and has relied heavily on donors for its forex reserves. Our government is in no position where it can cushion anyone. Its revenue collection has drastically gone down as a result of market inactivity and [it] is currently struggling to pay its oversized civil service."

Agriculture predominantly powers Malawi's economy, contributing approximately a third of its gross domestic product. Yet, even annual revenue from tobacco, the country's major foreign exchange earner with \$283m in sales already this year, is insufficient to cover the country's imports bill. According to the Reserve Bank of Malawi, the country

requires \$3bn annually to meet import requirements but only earns about \$1bn.

"For a predominantly exporting country like ours we want the exchange rate to be as strong as possible because that makes the goods affordable but that works if forex is available and obviously that's not the case with us," said Tchereni. "It means that every time we are devaluing the kwacha against the US dollar and other currencies, commodities become expensive, disproportionately affecting the ultra-poor people, as is the current situation."

With the country's economy in bad shape, the need to move towards greater economic stability has become increasingly urgent. Tchereni believes the private sector is the engine to drive that development. "It is the role of the private sector to generate forex and engage in import substitution. Regrettably, as a country, we've fallen short in this area,"

he told Al Jazeera.

Gift Lukas, a taxi driver in Blantyre, has been skipping lunch in recent weeks so his wife can use that money to feed their two children at home.

"My lunch money is 2,000 kwacha (\$1.73) which is even very little and not enough for them at home," said the 30-year-old who makes about 60,000 kwacha (\$51) a week on good days. "Not so long ago I could manage that [weekly] money but now that same amount is almost close to nothing," he said. "I'm running on a very thin budget. That money has to cover rent, school fees for my children and food. As a result, I end up getting into unnecessary debts."

The forex shortages have also led to recurring fuel shortages that have triggered nationwide frustration in Malawi. Drivers like Lukas have been forced to park their vehicles for days at a time, earning nothing in that period.

Ionic wins licence in Uganda for mining of rare earth elements

KAMPALA

Australian mineral exploration company Ionic Rare Earths has secured a large-scale mining licence from the Ugandan Directorate of Geological Survey and Mines (DGSM) for the Makuutu heavy rare earth project.

The licence was secured by Rwenzori Rare Metals, a company in which Ionic Rare Earths owns a 51 percent interest, while Rare Earth Elements Africa (REEA) holds a 42 percent stake. Ugandan Partners holds the remaining 7 percent stake.

Rwenzori holds a 100 percent stake in the Makuutu project, which covers around 298km² and includes six licences.

Located 40km from Jinja and 120km from the Ugandan capital city of Kampala, the project has a geology that hosts heavy rare earth oxides (HREO). These metal oxides can be extracted using rudimentary mining and processing methods.

The project is said to have a current mineral resource estimate of 532 million tonnes at 640ppm total rare earth oxides (TREO), with a cut-off grade of 200ppm total rare earth oxides minus cerium (TREO-CeO).

Stage one of the mining licence covers an area set for Ionic's mining licence that constitutes 44km² of Makuutu's tenements covering 298km² of land.

Ionic also released a positive feasibility study earlier this year and has received approval to build a demonstration plant at the project.

Ionic Rare Earths managing director Tim Harrison said: "We are pleased with the announcement today that the DGSM has officially approved for granting the large-scale mining licence TN03834 over RL 1693, which now completes all regulatory approvals on the award of the mining licence for the Makuutu heavy rare earth project. "This is a vital step for Ionic Rare Earths and Rwenzori, and in mining, refining, and recycling heavy rare earths critical for the energy transition, advanced manufacturing, and defence."

Harrison added: "This announcement reinforces the Makuutu project as one of the world's largest and most advanced development-ready heavy rare earth element assets, and we look forward to progressing the next steps and commissioning our Demonstration Plant at Makuutu."

Customer satisfaction slips with Canadian banks, survey shows

TORONTO

Many Canadians feel banks should do more to help their customers, according to a new survey.

The 2023 Canada Retail Banking Satisfaction Study (opens in a new tab), conducted by J.D. Power, found higher rates, mounting debt, and rising bank fees have many customers saying they are much more dissatisfied with their bank than last year.

"About 30 per cent of retail banking customers are dissatisfied with their banks," Paul McAdam, senior director of banking and payments intelligence at J.D. Power, said in the study.

McAdam said many customers are concerned about fees, fraud and fairness, adding many Canadians under financial pressure feel their bank could be doing a lot more to help them if they're having a difficult time.

The survey used a used a 1,000-point scale to rate the banks, and noted overall customer satisfaction among Canada's largest banks dropped by 10 points year-over-year to 603, and declined seven points to 637 among mid-size banks.

Regarding Canada's Big Five banks, Bank of Montreal (BMO) has taken over the top spot



from Royal Canadian Bank (RBC) for customer satisfaction, now in second place, followed by CIBC, Scotiabank and TD Canada Trust.

Meanwhile, Canada's mid-sized banks saw Tangerine Bank take the top spot, followed by Simplii Financial, ATB Financial, Desjardins, National Bank of Canada and HSBC Bank of Canada.

The survey found that rising bank fees are one of the biggest concerns for bank custom-

ers. "We saw Canadian consumers report increased fees this year for ABM fees, overdraft fees and monthly maintenance fees," said McAdam.

When the survey asked how banks can better assist customers, 56 per cent said they wanted alerts about suspicious activity, 50 per cent wanted information on reducing fees, and 35 per cent wanted advice on how to save

money and earn interest.

The survey comes just days after Canada's Finance Minister, Chrystia Freeland, said she wanted to cut fees to help borrowers with higher mortgage costs.

"Our objective is to make sure our financial institutions treat them (customers) fairly," Freeland said in Ottawa Tuesday (opens in a new tab).

Duff Conacher with Democracy Watch said it's not enough for the federal government to ask banks to lower fees because he insists they won't do it voluntarily.

"Just asking the banks to lower interest rates and fees isn't going to do much," said Conacher. "Customers recognize they are being gouged and that the banks are adding on fees and raising interest rates quickly and excessively."

The survey also found Canadian satisfaction with wait times and customer service provided by bank branches, online banking and mobile apps declined.

J.D. Power surveyed 13,960 banking customers from large and mid-size banks in Canada about their experiences with financial institutions, conducting the study in two waves from January through February and July through August 2023.

US eases Venezuela oil sanctions after election deal

CARACAS

The United States is easing sanctions on Venezuela after the South American country's government and opposition agreed to have next year's election monitored by international observers.

Sanctions will be eased on Venezuela's oil, gas and gold sectors.

The next election in Venezuela has been scheduled for the second half of next year.

Other sanctions imposed over the suppression of protests and the erosion of democracy remain in place.

Washington has cautioned that the relaxation could be reversed if the electoral pact collapses.

A new general license issued by the US treasury department

authorised Venezuela, which had been under hefty sanctions since 2019, to produce and export oil to its chosen markets for the next six months.

No time limit has been specified regarding the gold sector.

The US warned Venezuela that they must "define a specific timeline and process for the expedited reinstatement of all candidates" by the end of November, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

"All who want to run for president should be allowed the opportunity," he said, while calling for the release of "all wrongfully detained US nationals and Venezuelan political prisoners".

The deal between the Venezuelan government and opposition was signed in Barbados on Tuesday.

The agreement contains 12

points, which include promises to give all candidates access to public and private media, and to guarantee their free and safe movement throughout the country.

The two sides have also agreed to update the voter registries, both inside and outside of the country, in order to ensure that the millions of Venezuelans who have emigrated can exercise their right to vote.

But the two opposition and the government disagree on whether the agreement allows for the exclusion of opposition frontrunner María Corina Machado.

August 11, 2023, Maracaibo, Venezuela: María Corina Machado of the party Vente Venezuela, greets her supporters after her speech at a rally for the presidential candidacy in the upcom-

ing elections in Venezuela.

The administration of Donald Trump imposed harsh sanctions on Venezuela to punish President Nicolás Maduro's government following his 2018 re-election, which the US has described as "illegitimate".

But engagement between the two countries has improved under President Joe Biden.

The US has a vested interest in the crisis in Venezuela easing as the dire state of the economy in the Andean country has driven more than seven million Venezuelans to emigrate, with many heading to the US.

Venezuela also has the world's largest proven oil reserves and a scaling back of US sanctions on Venezuela's oil industry would benefit both countries economically.



WORLD



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, attends a press conference of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) in Beijing on Wednesday. Xinhua

Chinese FM hails fruitful results of 3rd BRF

BEIJING

THE third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) marks another important milestone in the process of jointly building the Belt and Road, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Wednesday, calling the forum a "complete success."

"The most important consensus reached at this forum is to open a new stage of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation," Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said at a press conference.

Wang noted that the new stage of cooperation is bound to create even more new opportunities for the global economy and become a boon for the global situation.

"The greatest vision of this forum is to jointly modernize the world," Wang said. "The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has created a cooperation platform for common development and helped many developing countries speed up their march toward modernization."

During the forum, a total of 458 outcomes were achieved, far more than the second BRF, Wang added.

Over the past 10 years, Wang noted, the Belt and Road cooperation has made historic achievements, opening up a road of cooperation, opportunity and prosperity leading to common development. The BRI has become the most popular international public good and the largest international cooperation platform in the world today, Wang said.

Wang added that the Belt and Road is an open platform and every country is welcome to take part in it at any time.

He expressed the hope that connectivity initiatives of other countries also remain open and refrain from creating exclusive cliques.

China stands ready to align with all other connectivity initiatives, Wang said.

At the press conference, Wang also dismissed the claim that the U.S.-launched Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment is targeted at the Belt and Road, calling the narrative another case of politicizing economic issues.

Xinhua

Russia ready to discuss Turkey's idea about guarantors for Israel, Palestine - Lavrov

PYONGYANG

RUSSIA is ready to discuss and consider Turkey's initiative to establish a guarantor system in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with Moscow and Ankara staying in touch on the issue, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters in Pyongyang.

"We are ready to discuss any constructive proposals. The said initiative is clearly driven by the intention to de-escalate things and bring the situation back to normal," Russia's top diplomat said.

To him, the Turkish initiative is rooted in the desire to ensure a balance of interests, rather than imposing one party's interests at the expense of another's. "We are ready to work together to consider this [initiative]," Lavrov added.

Earlier, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan announced Ankara's plans to address the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) with a proposal to join forces to resolve the conflict between Palestine and Israel based on a guarantor system.

Tensions flared up again in the Middle East on October 7 when militants from the Gaza-based Palestinian radi-

cal group Hamas staged a surprise incursion into Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip.

Hamas described its attack as a response to the aggressive actions of Israeli authorities against the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City.

In response, Israel announced a total blockade of the Gaza Strip and began delivering air strikes on the enclave and certain parts of Lebanon and Syria. Clashes are underway in the West Bank of the Jordan River as well.

Agencies

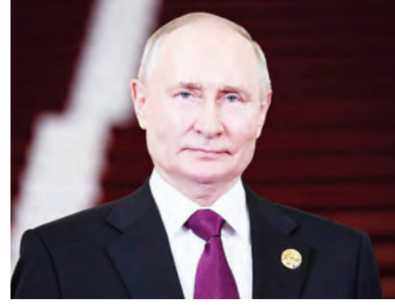


Russian-Chinese Energy Business Forum provides constructive dialogue - Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has sent greetings to participants, organizers and guests of the fifth Russian-Chinese Energy Business Forum, noting that the event provides a direct constructive dialogue between representatives of relevant government agencies.

Relations of comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation between Moscow and Beijing have reached an unprecedented high level and continue to develop dynamically, with one of the key components of these relations being "energy cooperation, which is becoming increasingly active and multidimensional,"



according to the message published on the Kremlin's website.

"Major bilateral projects in the oil and gas sector and in peaceful nuclear energy are being consistently implemented. The volume of Russian energy supplies to Chinese consumers is growing accordingly. We are jointly developing technological

innovations aimed at improving the efficiency of raw materials production, processing and transportation, as well as at ensuring their environmental safety," Putin pointed out.

The Russian-Chinese Energy Business Forum plays a significant role in promoting mutually beneficial cooperation, "which provides a direct constructive dialogue between representatives of relevant government agencies, business and expert circles in the two countries," he said.

"I am confident that during this forum you will thoroughly discuss the most pressing issues on the industry agenda and outline new, promising forms of co-operation," the Russian president stressed. Agencies

Biden 'capitalises' on Palestine-Israel conflict for reelection

RAMALLAH/JERUSALEM

US President Joe Biden on Wednesday visited Israel amid the ongoing fighting between Israel and Hamas, as doubts mount over his sincerity to push for a deescalation of the conflict.

The visit came hours after an explosion rocked a hospital in the Gaza Strip, causing Israel and Hamas to trade blame over the incident that reportedly killed at least 500 Palestinians and wounded hundreds of others.

Hamas said an Israeli airstrike caused the explosion, while the Israeli military said it was an errant rocket fired by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad that was intended to land on Israeli territory.

During his visit, Biden claimed Israel was not responsible for the blast, citing information provided to him by the Pentagon.

Amid rising concern that Gaza is facing a major humanitarian crisis, Biden also pledged humanitarian aid for Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the West Bank while urging Israel to uphold international law.

The aid Biden pledged for the Palestinians is minimal compared with his generous support for the Israelis. The US president, a strong supporter of Israel, said on Wednesday that Washington would provide Israel with everything it needed to defend itself amid its conflict with Hamas.

"This visit is a significant display of support for the Israelis. By asserting that a misfiring rocket caused the hospital carnage, Biden has effectively given Israel the green light to act as it sees fit," said Alan Fisher, a journalist with Al Jazeera, the Qatar-based international news network.



US President Joe Biden is greeted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after arriving at Ben Gurion International Airport on Wednesday in Tel Aviv. AP

Since he was elected in 2020, Biden failed to push for genuine peace efforts between Israelis and Palestinians. Instead, Biden has enthusiastically pursued the strategy for Mideast peacemaking that Donald Trump had championed: advocating for so-called normalization agreements between Israel with more Arab countries in the absence of a peace agreement with the Palestinians, a move that has marginalized the Palestinian issue, and become a destabilizing factor in the Mideast peace process, analysts said.

The lack of sincerity in resolving the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, as evidenced by Biden's differentiated support for the Israelis and Palestinians, has led to mounting doubt over the effectiveness of his involvement in the deescalation of the deadly conflict.

The US president had planned to travel to Jordan after his Israel trip for a summit, which was to be brought together Biden, King Abdullah II of Jordan, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas,

and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, but the Jordanian King canceled the summit after the hospital blast.

Canceling the four-way summit is a clear signal that the US effort is "insufficient and not serious with regard to ending this war," said Ibrahim Rabaia, a Palestinian political expert.

"The favorable position toward Israel made Biden unwelcome in the Arab countries. The Jordanian government was unable to receive him nor the Egyptian government as a result of the popular uprising in these countries and their stance toward Israel," said Ghassan al-Khatib, a political science professor at Birzeit University in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

"The United States is part of the aggression against the Palestinian people and part of the occupation," al-Khatib added.

As Biden is in the midst of a reelection campaign, he may use the current conflict as an opportunity to bolster support from American voters, Rabaia said.

UN Security Council extends ban on illicit oil export from Libya

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN Security Council on Thursday adopted a resolution to extend the ban on the illicit export of petroleum, including crude oil and refined petroleum products, from Libya.

Resolution 2701, which won the unanimous support of the 15-member council, extends the ban for 15 months, till Feb. 1, 2025. It demands full compliance by all UN member states with the sanctions regime on Libya, which includes an arms embar-

go, travel ban and asset freeze, and further calls on all member states not to intervene in the Libya conflict or take measures that exacerbate the conflict.

It calls on all parties in Libya to implement the Oct. 23, 2020 cease-fire agreement in full and urges member states to respect and support the full implementation of the agreement, including through the withdrawal of all foreign forces and mercenaries from Libya without further delay.

The resolution also extends the mandate of the

Panel of Experts assisting the Libya Sanctions Committee till Feb. 15, 2025.

It decides that the panel shall provide to the Security Council an interim report on its work no later than June 15, 2024, and a final report to the council no later than Dec. 15, 2024, with its findings and recommendations.

Resolution 2701 reaffirms the Security Council's intention to ensure that the frozen Libyan assets shall at a later stage be made available to and for the benefit of the Libyan people, and calls on all

relevant member states to protect frozen Libyan assets.

The resolution affirms the Security Council's readiness to consider changes, when appropriate, to the asset freeze at the request of the Libyan government, including allowing the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) - the country's sovereign wealth fund, whose foreign assets remain frozen - to reinvest frozen liquid assets for the purpose of preserving their value and benefiting the Libyan people at a later stage. Xinhua

EU countries reinforce border controls amid security concerns

BRUSSELS

AMID concerns related to extremist violence and illegal migration, several European Union (EU) countries, part of the Schengen area that typically allows free movement, have recently heightened their border controls.

On Thursday, Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic announced temporary reintroduction of border controls with Slovenia, hours after the Slovenian government decided to implement border controls with Croatia and Hungary from Saturday till Oct. 30.

"There is a need for immediate action to ensure public order and security of our citizens as well as the citizens of the European Union," the Slovenian government said in a statement.

On Wednesday, Italy temporarily suspended the EU's Schengen rules for open travel, reactivating dormant border controls with Slovenia.

On the border between Italy and Slovenia, controls will begin on Oct. 21 and last for at least ten days, said the Italian government, adding that the goal is a "rapid return" to control-free border crossings, but the measure could be extended.

"The suspension of the Schengen Treaty on free movement in Europe was necessary due to the worsening situation in the Middle East, the increase in migratory flows along the Balkan route, and above all for reasons of national security," Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on social media.

Germany on Monday also notified the European Commission of temporary controls at its borders with Poland, the Czech Republic and Switzerland in an effort to fight illegal migration.

The decision came as "the business of traffickers is becoming increasingly brutal and unscrupulous," said German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser. By the beginning of October, Germany had already detected 98,000 unauthorized entries, 6,000 more than in the whole of last year.

The introduction of these border restrictions came at a time that multiple European countries have recently seen a surge in public security incidents. After a 45-year-old gunman of Tunisian origin shot dead two Swedish citizens in the center of Brussels on Monday evening, Belgian authorities have raised the terror threat level for the whole country.

On Tuesday, Italy arrested two people suspected of recruiting for the Islamic State. Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani downplayed the immediate threat of a terror attack in Italy, but said it was important for the country to remain vigilant.

Moreover, a number of European airports received bomb threats in the last few days. According to French police, at least seven airports received threats and were evacuated on Thursday, including those in Lille, Lyon, Bordeaux, Nantes and Toulouse.

A bomb threat also triggered the evacuation of Ostend-Bruges Airport in northwestern Belgium on Wednesday.

The ongoing war in Gaza has strained the nerves of many European countries, especially France and Germany, which are home to the European Union's largest Jewish and Muslim communities. As the Palestine-Israel conflict entered into the second week, there is still no end in sight.

Xinhua

China to make greater contributions to healthy development of international human rights

CHINA was recently re-elected as a member of the Human Rights Council at the 78th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly for the term 2024 to 2026.

This is the sixth time that China has been elected to the Human Rights Council since its establishment in 2006, which fully demonstrates the international community's full recognition of China's achievements in the field of human rights and its active participation in international human rights cooperation.

As a founding member of the UN and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has

always participated in UN human rights affairs with a responsible attitude, actively integrating into the global human rights governance system, and striving to promote the healthy development of international human rights undertakings.

China upholds the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and abides by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, earnestly fulfills its obligations to international human rights conventions and has ratified or joined 29 international human rights instruments, including six core UN human rights treat-

ties. China has successfully participated in three rounds of Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council, becoming a role model of compliance.

Besides, the country also actively expands cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the High Commissioner's office, as well as the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, demonstrating the image of a responsible major country.

China holds a people-centered human rights philosophy and believes that a happy life for the peo-

ple is the most important human right. It has found a path towards better human rights that follows the trend of the times and fits its national realities.

It has made historic progress in its human rights cause.

China aims at increasing people's benefits, ensuring the people are their own masters and supporting development in an all-round way, and ensures that people enjoy a full range of human rights that are genuine, specific, effective, and functional.

China has built a moderately

prosperous society in all respects, and established the world's largest education, social security, and medical and health care systems.

It has made continuous efforts to develop whole-process people's democracy, and enhanced protection for the rights and interests of specific groups such as ethnic groups, women, children, older people, and those with disabilities. It has made the sky bluer, the mountains greener and the waters more lucid, increasing people's sense of fulfillment, happiness and security.

A European journalist said that each country can follow a human rights path that suits its national conditions, realizing the people's aspirations for a better life and instilling confidence in future development. "China has set a very good example in this regard," the journalist noted.

China has always attached importance to participating in the reform of the global human rights governance system, advocating for bigger voice and rights of developing countries, and steering global human rights governance toward

greater fairness, equity and inclusiveness.

China is a vigorous proponent of reform of the UN special mechanisms for protecting human rights; it played a significant role in the negotiations and final vote on establishing the UN Human Rights Council. Its proposals were recognized by most countries.

China supports the establishment of specialized mechanisms within the UN Human Rights Council, such as those addressing the right to development, the right to food, and unilateral coercive measures.

People's Daily

In blow to Rishi Sunak, Conservatives lose two safe seats in historic by-poll defeat

LONDON

In an ominous setback for UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, the ruling Conservative Party lost two of its safe parliamentary seats to the Labour Party in a bellwether vote ahead of the next general election, The New York Times reported.

This has come ahead of the next general elections, that is expected within the next 15 months

Labour's Alistair Strathern and Sarah Edwards cruised to victory in the seats of Mid Bedfordshire and Tamworth, overturning Tory majorities of nearly 25,000 and 20,000, respectively, Al Jazeera reported.

Notably, the governing Tories had held Mid Bedfordshire since 1931, and Tamworth since 1996.

George Osborne, a former Conservative chancellor, had earlier warned that the loss of Mid-Bedfordshire would mean "Armageddon" for the centre-right party.

Labour leader Keir Starmer hailed the wins as proof of the public's desire for new leadership.



Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu holds a meeting with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, in Jerusalem on Thursday. ANI

"These are phenomenal results. Winning in these Tory strongholds shows that people overwhelmingly want change and they're ready to put their faith in our changed Labour Party to deliver it," Al Jazeera quoted Starmer as saying.

However, several analysts have cau-

tioned against over-interpreting these types of local contests -- known as by-elections -- where there is no prospect of the result changing the government, and voters often cast their ballots to register a protest against the governing party, as per New York Times.

Less than 36 per cent of registered

voters turned out to vote in Tamworth; in Mid Bedfordshire the number was higher, at 44 per cent.

The Labour party has enjoyed a double-digit polling lead over the Conservatives for more than a year, as voters fume over high inflation, a weak economy and long waiting times to use the state-run health service, Al Jazeera reported.

During over 13 years in power, the Conservatives have led the UK through some of its most significant events in decades, including Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic, Al Jazeera reported.

Sunak -- the fifth Tory leader since 2010 -- was not in the UK for the by-election results as he was in Israel to express support for the country in its war with the armed Palestinian group Hamas.

Lately, Sunak has tried to seize the political initiative with a series of major decisions; scaling back climate change targets, cancelling the second phase of a high-speed rail project, announcing new measures to phase out the sale of cigarettes to young people and proposing a shake-up to the high school examination system, New York Times reported.

After holding office, PM Sunak was praised for restoring some measure of stability after his predecessor Liz Truss's economic plans roiled the financial markets and she became the country's shortest-lived prime minister in history. But he has struggled to win over the British public after 13 years of Conservative government, according to New York Times. ANI

Number of confirmed Israeli hostages rises to 203

TEL AVIV

THE Israel Defence Forces raised the number of confirmed hostages being held in Gaza to 203.

IDF Spokesman Rear Adm Daniel Hagari said the families have been notified and stressed that the number will likely rise as the military gets new information.

Hagari noted that some of the notifications were made with high confidence while others were made with moderate to low confidence. Other families of missing Israelis have been told their loved ones are not being held hostage.

Nearly two weeks after Hamas's attack on border communities, many missing Israelis still have not been accounted for. The IDF is continuing to search for missing Israelis near the Gaza border, and forensic experts are working around the clock to identify bodies. More than 1,400 Israelis were killed and over 4,600 more injured in the attacks.

Families of the captives were angered at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's approval of humanitarian aid deliveries of water, food and medicine to Gaza through Egypt without receiving any concessions.

"The decision to allow humanitarian aid to the murderers of Gaza has caused great anger among the family members," said the Bring Them Home Now organization in a statement. The organization represents the families of the captives.

"We remind you that children, babies, women, soldiers, men and the elderly -- some of whom have serious health issues, are wounded and shot -- are being held underground like animals without any human conditions, and the government of Israel is treating the murderers to baklava and medicine," its statement said.

The Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt is primarily for the passage of people. Commercial deliveries to Gaza are usually brought through the Kerem Shalom crossing, which is adjacent to the Gaza and Egyptian borders. Israel has closed Kerem Shalom for security reasons.

Meanwhile, Commanding Officer of the Southern Command, MG Yaron Finkelman, said, "Now, our manoeuvres are going to take the war into their territory. It's going to be long, it's going to be intense, the best commanders and soldiers are here"

As part of the completion of the preparation for the continuation of the fighting, the approval of operational plans and the deployment of forces in the field are currently happening.

The Commanding Officer of the Southern Command toured the various units currently stationed in the southern arena. During his visits, he approved plans and conversed with soldiers and commanders. ANI

Taliban's restrictions on women in Afghanistan receive global criticism at UNGA session

NEW YORK

THE restrictions imposed on the Afghan women under the Taliban regime received heavy criticism from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, and the Charge d'Affaires of the Afghanistan Permanent Mission to the UN, Naseer Ahmad Faiq, Tolo News reported on Thursday.

Speaking at the Third Committee, 78th UNGA session, the representative of Turkey, Turkis Ismail Aydil, said that the fundamental rights of all Afghans, including the right to education, should be fully respected.

"We are deeply concerned by the erosion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan, in particular, for women and girls who have been imposed severe restrictions. The fundamental rights of all Afghans including, the right to education should be fully respected," he said.

Aydil also pledged continued assistance to the victims of the earthquake in Herat.

"Turkey will continue to stand by the Afghan people to respond to their humanitarian needs and calls for global efforts toward this end," Tolo News quoted him as saying.

The Charge d'Affaires of the Afghanistan Permanent Mission to the UN, Naseer Ahmad Faiq, said at the meeting that restrictions on women erased the gains made by Afghan women over the past two decades.

ANI

El Nino to continue into mid-2024, threatening agriculture - UN

SANTIAGO

THE El Nino weather phenomenon will last at least through the first half of 2024, according to the latest United Nations forecasts, with abnormal rainfall due across Latin America raising fears for the agricultural sector.

Pacific sea surface temperatures soared in recent months, "with stronger warming along the South American coast," said the report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) accessed by Reuters on Thursday.

Forecasts for the first quarter of 2024 show more rain than usual in southern cone countries such as Peru and Ecuador, as well as Mexico, alongside ongoing dry conditions in Brazil, Guyana and Suriname.

The current dry spell in Central



Flood waters rush down a street in Moche, La Libertad department, in northern Peru, on March 13, 2023, after heavy rains caused by the presence of an "unorganized cyclone" named Yaku, off the Peruvian coast, in the waters of the Pacific Ocean. AFP

America however is set to last only until the end of this year.

The report also stresses that agriculture, which includes crops, livestock, forests and fishing, is particularly vulnerable given the sector can absorb 26 percent of economic losses during extreme weather conditions and up to 82 percent during drought.

Key fish species like anchovies and tuna on the northern coast of Peru and southern Ecuador are particularly at risk, it said.

Ecuadorian fishermen reported a 30 percent decrease in tuna catching since February, it said.

The El Nino and its opposing La Nina weather patterns have impacted the production of key crops such as wheat, rice and corn in Latin America, which are highly dependent on raw materials.

Extreme conditions brought by El Nino is hitting the region but it is also simultaneously facing climate change effects such as heat waves, said the report.

The FAO said it has launched a plan to mobilize financial resources for vulnerable communities in several countries affected by the extreme weather.

ICT experts push for 5G adoption in Africa to drive economic growth

KIGALI

INFORMATION and communications technology (ICT) experts attending the Mobile World Congress 2023 (MWC2023) in the Rwandan capital of Kigali have said African countries need to strengthen and speed up efforts in the deployment of 5G networks across the continent to revolutionize industries, enhance connectivity, and drive economic growth.

The meeting, held on Oct. 17-19, brought together more than 2,500 delegates, including political leaders, government officials,

experts, representatives from the United Nations and the African Union, as well as dozens of technology companies and start-ups, among others, from across Africa and the world.

"The rollout and deployment of 5G is expected to contribute to the growth of Africa by creating jobs and improving incomes.

The ecosystem surrounding the 5G economy is much more powerful than any other technology that preceded it in the realm of digital communications," Amir Abdelazim, a partner expert with Detecon Consulting, said in an interview with Xinhua on the side-

lines of MWC2023 on Thursday. He added that African countries should put in significant efforts to ensure the rapid deployment of 5G networks, unlocking unprecedented opportunities for innovation and economic development on the continent.

"It is remarkable to see how startups in Africa are working to find innovative solutions that can catalyze the rollout of 5G."

Elizabeth Migwalla, vice president of international government affairs for Qualcomm, told Xinhua that the 5G standard is designed to enable new services and use cases across all sectors of

the economy.

"It is the capabilities of 5G that make this transformation possible. When properly deployed and used, every sector of the economy can benefit from 5G, spanning from education and health to governance and transportation in Africa," she added.

While addressing the 5G session on the sidelines of the MWC2023, Li Tao, president of Huawei Southern Africa Wireless Business, emphasized that 5G technology has substantial potential to drive economic growth in Africa. He noted that Huawei plays a crucial role in deliver-

ing 5G technology to the African continent. "5G can stimulate and promote the 5G industry further by enhancing various aspects, such as devices, ecosystem, and network."

The momentum for 5G is growing in Africa. However, the initial focus for 5G deployment is on urban areas and industrial locations, where there is a greater need for the technology, according to Mobile Economy Sub-Saharan Africa's latest report by Global System for Mobile Communications, a global organization that unifies the mobile ecosystem.

Xinhua

To break new ground of public communication, culture work in new era

By Ren Ping

A national meeting on the work of public communication and culture was recently held in Beijing. The most important outcome of the meeting was that Xi Jinping Thought on Culture was formally put forward, which is of milestone significance in the history of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in developing public communication and culture.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, has maintained an accurate perspective on the trends of collisions taking place worldwide between different ideas and cultures, as well as of the profound changes in Chinese people's ways of thinking, putting forward a series of new thoughts, new viewpoints, and new assessments on cultural advancement.

On multiple important international occasions, he has expounded on China's positions and plans on the culture of the world, the development of civilizations and exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

Xi Jinping Thought on Culture is summaries of the practical experience of the cultural advancement under the Party's leadership in the new era. It has enriched and developed Marxist cultural theories. It demonstrates that

the CPC has reached a higher level in its understanding of the right way for the development of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics.

The 20th National Congress of the CPC drew an ambitious blueprint for building a modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. According to it, China will build itself into a strong country in culture by 2035 with its cultural soft power growing much stronger.

Culture is a country and nation's soul. Without full confidence in its culture, without a rich and prosperous culture, the Chinese nation will not be able to rejuvenate itself.

Chinese modernization is the modernization of material and cultural-ethical advancement. Cultural development is the fundamental way to satisfy people's cultural and intellectual needs and to safeguard people's cultural rights and interests.

Promoting Chinese modernization is a pioneering undertaking unprecedented in history. It requires inspiring the confidence and fortitude of all Chinese people, and encouraging them to work together.

A country will thrive only if its culture thrives, and a nation will be strong only if its culture is strong. The CPC's innovative theories for the new



First graders at an elementary school in Liuzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, recite Chinese classics under the guidance of their teachers. (People's Daily Online/Li Hanchi)

era have taken deep roots in the hearts of the people. Socialist core values have spread far and wide.

The creative transformation and innovative development of fine traditional Chinese culture

continues to advance. Cultural undertaking and industries are booming. The online environment keeps improving.

Cultural confidence among all Party members, ethnic groups and people across the country has

increased markedly.

The national spirit is more determined and upbeat. Full of confidence, the Chinese people are writing an impressive new chapter in China's development in the new era.

People's Daily



Kilimanjaro Queens' skipper Fatuma Omary (R) gets the Player of the Match prize from a cricket official, John Zablon, after the cricketer's team locked horns with Mount Meru Queens in the 2023 Tanzania Women's Cricket Premier League tie at Leaders Club ground in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

K'njaro Queens bounce back in 2023 Women's Cricket Premier League

By Guardian Reporter

KILIMANJARO Queens have bounced back in the 2023 Tanzania Women's Cricket Premier League following the squad's 19-drumming of Mount Meru Queens last weekend.

The four-team league, held under the supervision of the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), targets to improve the standard of women's cricket in the country and offer the association a platform for selecting cricketers for various national women's squads.

In the last weekend tie, which took place at Leaders Club ground, Kilimanjaro Queens went on to register 130/7 in 20 overs when they won the toss and chose to bat first.

With experienced cricketer Fatuma Omary in their fold, Kilimanjaro Queens' determination to secure an imposing total was in view, given Fatuma, deployed as the opening batter, held the innings impressively with her 45 runs not out.

The team's skipper cleared the boundary on three occasions in her scintillating showing and ended as the batter with the most runs.

Although fellow opener Swaumu Godfrey could not stay longer at the crease, the performer managed to chip in with two digits, having recorded 13 runs.

Nasra Hamza, the other experienced cricketer, made her prowess count having notched 23 runs, pushing the batting outfit's total to 48 runs after 9.1 overs.

Zuhura Masudi had Kilimanjaro Queens securing more runs with her 15 runs off 15 balls, cracking two fours.

Other members of the batting unit could not do much to back up Fatuma's efforts, as Maimuna Fikiri made her way back, whilst being two runs short of two digits, and Shania Fikiri posted five runs not out.

Sophia Frank had the best bowling figure when Mount Meru Queens fielded, ending with 3-22 in four overs, and was ably assisted by fellow bowler, Aisha Mohamed, who notched two wickets in a four-over spell.

Even though Mount Meru Queens batted with a lot of zeal, reaching 131 runs to come out with victory happened to be a tall order considering they posted 111/7 in 20 overs.

Aisha, coming in as one of the top-order cricketers, was the most impressive in the fruitless chase as the performer was nine runs short of a half-century, whilst boasting of a not out spell.

The cricketer's exploits, which included three boundaries, played a pivotal role in Mount Meru Queens' ability to finish innings with triple digits.

Their plan to get down to a suc-

cessful chase suffered a setback in the first four overs, following an early dismissal of opening batters, Jenipher Gabriel and Malizia Salum.

The skipper, Monica Paschal, fought to make her experience pay off but she could not stay longer having posted 18 runs.

Farida Amiry ended one run short of two digits as Kilimanjaro Queens kept on putting pressure on Mount Meru Queens.

Sophia vainly attempted to keep Mount Meru Queens within reach of the successful chase with her 19 runs, with her spell having been ended by Mariam Hussein.

Nasra, Maimuna Fikiri, and Mariam ended with one wicket each as Kilimanjaro Queens kept Mount Meru Queens' batters in check.

Kilimanjaro Queens had opened their campaign on the wrong foot following their seven-wicket defeat to the tournament leaders, Ngorongoro Queens, the same weekend.

Mount Meru Queens, Ngorongoro Queens, Usambara Queens, and Kilimanjaro Queens are taking part in the Tanzania Women's Cricket Premier League.

Cricketers making Mount Meru Queens include Foide Ezekiel, Mwamvita Mwasiga, Zakia Ally, Lightness Eladius, Bilhuda Salum, Jenipher Gabriel, Farida Amiry, and Gertrude Mushi.

Asha Lugali, Zena Hassan, Sophia Frank, Mwapwani Ally, Aisha Mohamed, Malizia Salum, and team captain Monica Paschal are the team's other cricketers.

Ngorongoro Queens' cricketers are Mwapwani Ally, Mwapwani Matheo, Remmy Mkina, Dorice Helmet, Lonsina Seperatus, Maua Alfani, Mwanaidi Sufiani, and Gertrude Faustine.

Mwana Ushanga, Tabu Said, Shufaa Hamza, Neema Justine, Joan Jackson, Mwapwani Salum, and Mwanaidi Ammy are also on the list.

Kilimanjaro Queens are made up of Florida Peter, Halima Ramadhani, Mariam Hussein, Zuhura Masoud, Angel Paschal, Sharifa Rashidi, Mwanaidi Mohamed, and Maimuna Fikiri. Shania Fikiri, Swaumu Godfrey, Saumu Deo, Gift Omary, Nasra Hamza, Fatuma Omary, and Maria Joseph also turn out for the outfit.

Cricketers making Usambara Queens are Perice Zakayo, Fat'ha Salum, Nice George, Magreth Patrod, Mwanaidi Amani, Lucy Raymond, Esther Frank, and Fatuma Hatibu.

Zulfa Hussein, Hadija Juma, Sheila Shamte, Hudaa Mrisho, Catherine Dominic, Saumu Borakambi, and Happy George also made the team.

Dafa News is the main sponsor of the league which is also supported by Unity Computers, Sports Box, Delaware Investments, Reliance Insurance Tanzania, G1 Security, Meru, and General Petroleum Tanzania.

Estim A cricketers triumph in 2023 DC Division B 20 Overs Cup tournament

By Guardian Reporter

ESTIM A cricket side has emerged as this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Division B 20 Overs Cup tournament winner, having commanded a six-wicket victory over Caravans B in the final last weekend.

The 20-over formatted event, taking place under the DC supervision, got underway on August 6 this year with the participating sides having been put in four groups.

Caravans B cricketers were put in to bat first in the trophy clash, notching 100/9 in the allotted 20 overs.

They experienced a less impressive start to the innings having lost key top-order batsmen, Issa Safari, Praveen Puthanpurayil, and Johnson Nyambo within the first four overs.

Wilbert Martin, slotted in at number four, did his best to improve his outfit's total having notched 19 runs.

He had Caravans B reaching 40 runs after 9.5 overs as his stint at the crease was ended by Estim A's skipper, Bhavik Bhudia.

After yet another blow in the form of an early exit of Sudu G, Caravans B's batting unit sought to keep on seeking a better total, in which middle-order cricketer Manoj Kumar- also the club's skipper- chipped in with 19 runs.

Sreejit Kumar, coming in at the low order, made his experience count for the batting side after recording 24 runs.

Mohit Sharma and Abhijit Js had Caravans B reaching triple digits, with the duo moreover making its way back with unbeaten stints.

Sharma posted 11 runs not



Cricketers making Estim A squad pose with a trophy following the culmination of the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) 20 Overs Cup tournament's final against Caravans B that took place last weekend. Estim A commanded victory over Caravans B to lift the silverware. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

out, which included a boundary, and Abhijit managed to register four runs not out.

The batting squad further had 10 extra runs leaked by Estim A, which included five byes and five wides, somewhat improving the total.

Estim A's bowling unit of Bhimji Vekariya, Harnish Hirani, Nirav Hirani, and Bhudia saw to it wrap up their innings with a manageable score having notched two wickets each.

Needing 101 runs to grab victory, Estim A confidently got down to a successful chase after amassing 101/4 in

19.1 overs.

The early dismissal of the opener, Bhimji Vekariya, could not weaken the batting squad's resolve, considering the rest of the batting unit saw to it the job was meticulously accomplished.

Fellow opener, Hitesh Kerai, spearheaded the successful pursuit of the target, nailing 35 runs and ending as the batsman with the most significant contribution.

Much as they were slightly pegged back with a quick dismissal of Rohit Kansara that ended with a run from three balls, fellow members of the batting unit stood firm to secure the win.

Faraj Athumani had Estim A staying within reaching of the 101-run target as the cricketer recorded 19 runs.

Mahendra Kerai (15 runs not out) and Nirav (11 runs not out) ultimately put the tie beyond Caravans B's reach, having wound up with not out figures.

Caravans B's Safari was the only bowler with good figures as the squad vainly attempted to thwart Estim A's chase, given the performer posted 2-18 in four overs.

Johnson Nyambo (Caravans B) was adjudged Player of the Series, Abdullah Jabiri (Union SC) was voted as the Best Batter, and Bhimji Vekariya (Estim A) secured Best Bowler honour.

Estim A and Caravans B were among this season's DC Division B 20 Overs Cup tournament contenders which excelled in the round-robin phase to make

it to the knockout phase.

GP side, Specialized K&P A, Union SC, Aga Khan SC, Lions B, and Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC) B, were the other knockout phase contenders.

Caravans B had booked a place in the showdown's final after grabbing a 37-run victory over Union SC in the first of the last-four phase's clashes.

Having secured the opportunity to take the crease first, Caravans B recorded 120/8 in the scheduled 20 overs and Union SC faltered in the chase given they managed 83/8 in 20 overs.

In another last-four stage fixture, Estim A garnered a 67-run demolition of GP to sail through to the final.

Estim A made full use of its innings, having amassed 140/8 in 20 overs after it was put in to bat by GP who had won the toss.

Chasing 141 runs to emerge victorious happened to be a tall order for GP cricketers, as they were, in response, skittled for a mere 73 runs in 18.5 overs.



Tanzania's Simba SC players are pictured participating in training at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Thursday in preparation for African Football League (AFL) opening tie against Egypt's Al Ahly which was held at the venue yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Singida Fountain Gate Princess' striker joins Greece women's top-tier club

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate Princess striker Topister Situma has signed a two-year contract with Greek side, Sirina Grevenon.

She was one of the dependable attackers at the Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League side last season.

Topister, who had a sterling season with both Burundi's Buja Queens and Singida Fountain Gate Princess, has inked a contract with the club which plies its trade in the Greece women's top flight.

The Kenyan player had been the subject of interest from several sides after putting up impressive performances in the concluded CAF Women's Cham-

pions League CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers with Buja Queens of Burundi.

Several top flight sides in Africa and the Middle East were rumoured to be tracking her but she has settled on a move to Europe.

The move has finally been confirmed, with the player seen in photos released on social media on Thursday night.

The 2021/22 Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Women's Premier League top goal scorer will link up with compatriot, defensive midfielder Dorcas Shikobe, at the club as the latter joined the Greek side one month ago.

Topister, also the former Vi-

higa Queens forward, enjoyed a stellar season in Tanzania that had several clubs seeking her signature but she could so far secure a short-term deal with Buja Queens.

She further posted impressive figures in the CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers thus earning her a move abroad.

The attacker has added to the long list of Kenya's female athletes to have secured moves far away from home.

Topister joined Simba Queens after terminating her contract with four-time FKF Women's Premier League champions, Vihiga Queens, and went on to feature severally for the Tanzanian

side before making a switch to the fast-growing Singida Fountain Gate Princess.

The right-footed attacker will don the number 14 shirt at her new club, now placed 12th in Greece women's top-tier league standings, regarded as the relegation zone, with one match played having lost the opening fixture to Greek women's football giants PAOK.

The Greece Women's Super League is made up of 14 teams with the league champion automatically booking a chance in the UEFA Women's Champions League and the last five facing relegation to the lower tier.

Arteta has transformed Arsenal, It is too soon to know if Pochettino will turn Chelsea around

MANCHESTER, England

THE tables have turned in London. Chelsea, backed by Russian billions, spent the best part of 20 years looking down on its local rivals in England's capital city, but no more.

Now it is Tottenham and Arsenal leading the way in the Premier League, while Chelsea treads an uncomfortable and uncertain path under new owners and yet another new manager.

On Saturday, the club that won the Champions League as recently as 2021 hosts Arsenal at Stamford Bridge aiming to build on a recent upturn in results, following a calamitous first season under the ownership of Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital, and a troubled start to this campaign.

It is too soon to say if manager Mauricio Pochettino is on the way to turning Chelsea's fortunes around after three straight wins in all competitions, and the game against Arsenal has the potential to be a sobering reminder of the gap that exists between the teams.

Arsenal is a prime example of how clear-thinking and trust in a manager can reap rewards after Mikel Arteta led the club to the brink of its first league title since 2004 last season. A late collapse cost a team that few expected to run Manchester City so close, but the 1-0 win against the defending champions at the start of the month has fuelled belief Arsenal can end its long wait for the title this time around.

The Gunners' work has been patient. Arteta was hired in 2019 and given the backing to rebuild his squad around a core of young players.

Top players were shown the door as part of the process, with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Mesut Ozil notable departures.

There were dips along the way and it is hard to imagine a Chelsea manager surviving some of the runs Arteta has endured, such as the three losses from his team's opening four games of the 2021-22 season, which culminated in a 5-0 rout by City.

Under former owner Roman Abramovich, Chelsea would regularly hire and fire managers, but the success kept on coming with 19 major trophies, including five Premier League titles and two Champions Leagues.

The British government sanctioned the Russian oligarch after Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine and Chelsea was sold to a consortium led by American businessman Boehly and private equity firm Clearlake for 2.5 billion pounds (\$3 billion) last year.

The exorbitant spending has continued, as well as a carousel of managers. But the success hasn't.

Even after spending \$630 million on players, Chelsea endured its worst Premier League season points-wise and failed to qualify for the Champions League.

Boehly and Clearlake also went through two permanent managers in their first year, firing Thomas Tuchel and his replacement Graham Potter, before giving club icon Frank Lampard a short-term deal and then hiring Pochettino in the off-season.

It has been a chaotic start for the new owners, who spent lavishly again in the last transfer window on players such as Moises Caicedo and Christopher Nkunku, without much of an upturn on the field as Pochettino's team recorded just one win from its opening six league games.

Chelsea's form has improved with back-to-back league wins against Fulham and Burnley and victory against Brighton in the English League Cup. But Arsenal, currently level on points with leaders Tottenham, represents the biggest test Pochettino has faced yet.

MERSEYSIDE DERBY

Normal service has resumed on Merseyside. Liverpool is in contention at the top of the table once again, while Everton looks in store for another fight for survival.

The two rivals face each other at Anfield on Saturday when Liverpool can pile further misery on its neighbour across Stanley Park, the 110-acre site that separates the two clubs.

Jurgen Klopp appears to have put last season's troubles behind him after missing out on Champions League qualification for the first time since 2016. The 2020 champions are just three points off the top of the standings and have quickly adjusted to life without a host of their leading players sold in recent times, such as Sadio Mane and Jordan Henderson.

A win against Everton in the early kick off would see Liverpool move above leaders Tottenham on goal difference or goals scored, even if only temporarily. Arsenal and City have games later in the day and Spurs play Fulham on Monday.

If the pain of last season is looking short-lived for Liverpool, Everton's problems are not so easily solved. After avoiding relegation on the final day of last season, Everton is battling towards the bottom again.

Recent wins against Brentford and Bournemouth have lifted the mood around Sean Dyche's team, but five losses in the league already are evidence of its struggles amid a prospective takeover and the building of a state-of-the-art new stadium.

AP

Man City seek to stop rot as Chelsea host Arsenal

LONDON

MANCHESTER City are aiming to avoid a third straight Premier League defeat for the first time in seven years when they host Brighton today, while Arsenal will provide a stiff test for resurgent Chelsea.

Four sides are in the running to top the table at some stage this weekend, starting with Liverpool when they take on Everton in the Merseyside derby.

AFP Sport looks at the pick of the action.

*Can City halt slide?

City's defeats by Wolves and Arsenal before the international break were the first back-to-back losses in the league for Pep Guardiola's men since 2018.

You have to go back to the days of Manuel Pellegrini in early 2016 for the last time the champions lost three in a row, but Brighton pose a significant threat to City, who are on a run of 20 straight home wins in all competitions.

Guardiola has hailed Brighton boss Roberto De



Pep Guardiola

Zerbi as "one of the most influential managers in the last 20 years".

City have even appeared to copy the Seagulls' trait of trying to bait sides into pressing before quickly moving the ball into space this season.

However, Brighton have struggled to cope with the demands of the club's first-ever European campaign on top of their Premier League commitments.

De Zerbi's men are without a win in their past four games in all competitions, though they are still sixth in the table.

*Chelsea's true test Arsenal's late winner against

City two weeks ago has fuelled the Gunners' belief that they can end a 20-year wait to win the title.

Mikel Arteta's men are second, behind north London rivals Tottenham only on goals scored, and will end Saturday top of the table if they win because Spurs are not in action until Monday.

The international break came at the wrong time for Chelsea after they posted back-to-back league wins under Mauricio Pochettino for the first time.

The Blues have finally found their scoring touch, netting six times in victories against Fulham and Burnley, but Arsenal

will provide a much sterner test of whether Chelsea really have turned the corner.

Chelsea have not beaten their London rivals in the league at home since 2018.

Should he end that barren run, Pochettino will go a long way to winning over the Stamford Bridge crowd after a frustrating start to his reign and do his old club Spurs a favour at the top of the table.

*Klopp's quandary over South American stars

Another season of contrasting fortunes appears to be unfolding on Merseyside.

Liverpool have shown signs of being back to their best under Jurgen Klopp and are just three points off the top.

Everton, by contrast, look set for another relegation battle after taking just seven points from a soft schedule in their opening eight games.

The Toffees have not won at Anfield in front of a crowd since 1999.

"Their record is very strong, they are a very good outfit, we know that," said Everton boss Sean Dyche. "Our record needs changing there, we know that."

"It's been a long time with

not many wins but it's a tough place to go."

Klopp, whose team have taken just one point from their past two games, has a selection headache -- he is unhappy at the 1130 GMT kick-off on Saturday, just days after some of his key players represented their countries in South America.

Alexis Mac Allister, Luis Diaz and Darwin Nunez all played 90 minutes for Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay respectively in matches that finished in the early hours of Wednesday UK time.

Fixtures (1400 GMT unless stated)

Today
Liverpool v Everton (1130), Bournemouth v Wolves, Brentford v Burnley, Manchester City v Brighton, Newcastle v Crystal Palace, Nottingham Forest v Luton, Chelsea v Arsenal (1630), Sheffield United v Manchester United (1900)

Tomorrow
Aston Villa v West Ham (1530)

Monday
Tottenham v Fulham (1900)

AFP

Jim Ratcliffe could have a major say in Man United if he buys a minority stake in the club

MANCHESTER, England

IF British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe is successful in his attempt to buy a minority stake in Manchester United, he could end up with a major say in the running of the underperforming club.

The owner of petrochemicals giant Ineos is ready to invest in the storied English soccer club after rival Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar said over the weekend he was withdrawing from the bidding process.

Ratcliffe is trying to buy a 25% share of United and also wants to run soccer operations, a person with knowledge of the proposal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

United's American owners, the Glazer family, in November announced plans to seek outside investment that could have resulted in the sale of the 20-time English league champions.

Ratcliffe initially bid for the family's controlling stake of about 69%, while Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim wanted 100% of the club.

With the process dragging on beyond an expected completion date of June, Ratcliffe has adjusted his offer and that could pave the way to him becoming a co-owner of the club he has supported since he was a child.

THE PROPOSAL Ratcliffe's bid would mean the Glazers, who also own the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, remain in control of United. But if he is given responsibility of running the sporting side of the business, it would give him a real opportunity to improve the team's performance on the field.

United has not won a league title since former



Jim Ratcliffe

manager Alex Ferguson retired in 2013.

United won the Champions League title in 2008, five Premier League titles, one FA Cup, five League Cups and the Europa League under the Glazers, but the vast majority of those trophies were won by Ferguson. United has won four trophies in 10 years since his retirement.

Ratcliffe reportedly still eventually wants to take complete control of the club over a staggered process, but that has not been confirmed.

Ratcliffe is one of Britain's richest people and is said to be worth \$15.1 billion. He previously tried to buy Chelsea and already owns French club Nice and cycling's Team INEOS. He is one-third shareholder of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One team and competes in the America's Cup with sailing team INEOS Britannia.

THE RECRUITMENT Despite spending about \$2 billion on transfers in the past decade, United has been toppled as English soccer's most dominant force. While rival Manchester City has been backed by the vast wealth of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, United has still been able to compete for the world's leading players and has broken records to sign the likes of Paul Pogba and Harry Maguire.

But that hasn't brought success, with many of United's signings failing to live up to the expecta-

ported 20 million euros (\$21.2 million) and Onana moving from Ajax to Inter Milan on a free transfer in 2022. United paid 51 million euros (\$57 million) for the goalkeeper this year.

THE MANAGER

United manager Erik ten Hag has been backed by Murtough and United since he was hired last year.

The Dutchman has been allowed to bring in expensive signings like Brazil internationals Antony and Casemiro, as well as Hojlund, as he tries to overhaul the squad.

He enjoyed an impressive first season when winning the club's first trophy in six years -- the League Cup -- and leading United back to the Champions League.

Ten Hag has also been backed over his disciplining of star players such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Jadon Sancho, while Maguire has been stripped of the captaincy and made a peripheral figure in the team after falling out of favor.

While fans have jeered as United has endured a difficult start to this season, losing six of its first 11 games, Ten Hag remains popular.

His record at Ajax when winning three league titles and two cups shows he can deliver success.

He is the club's fifth permanent manager since Ferguson retired.

A policy of hiring and firing clearly hasn't worked, but would Ratcliffe want to make his own appointment if in charge?

THE STADIUM

Old Trafford may be iconic, but it is in need of redevelopment. It remains the biggest club stadium in the country, but looks dated compared to Tottenham's new ground, which regularly hosts NFL games.

Ratcliffe is reportedly offering about 1.3 billion pounds (\$1.58 billion) for a minority stake, but it is not known how that money will be spent. Ratcliffe also reportedly wants to expand Old Trafford from 74,000 seats to 90,000.

It is not likely that stadium redevelopments would come under soccer operations, but it would be a meaningful change that would generate extra funds and also appeal to supporters.

Last year, United appointed stadium developers Populous to look at options for Old Trafford. While another possibility would be to rebuild the stadium, that would pose problems in terms of relocating the team during the building process and lost revenue as a result.

THE FANS

Manchester United's supporters have long campaigned to drive out the unpopular owners since the late Malcom Glazer bought the club for 790 million pounds (then about \$1.4 billion) in 2005. Fans have been critical of the leveraged nature of the Glazers' buyout that loaded debt onto the club, as well as a perceived lack of investment and the dividends taken out by the owners.

Many have called for the Glazers to be completely removed. The Manchester United Supporters Trust told the AP that propping the family up permanently would be a "nightmare scenario."

Fans have continued to protest against the family and chants of "Glazers out" are regularly heard at games.

Ratcliffe, who was born in the Manchester area, has risked angering supporters by offering to buy a minority stake. But if he is successful in gaining control of soccer operations and oversees a period of success, he could help to placate them and ease tension around the club.

However, if United's decline continues, he would be in danger of being a visible figure of blame.

AGENCIES

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man City seek to stop rot as Chelsea host Arsenal

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TFF urged to restore procedure for Taifa Stars players' call-ups



Tanzania's senior national football team's striker, Clement Mzize (C), connects a header past Algeria's defenders, Mohamed Amine Tougali (L), and Aïssa Mandi in a 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' Group F match held at the May 19 1956 Stadium in Annaba, Algeria last month and ended in a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DIRECTOR of Sports Development in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Ally Mayay has urged the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to restore the procedure for informing the country's soccer fans about the selection of players for the senior national team "Taifa Stars".

Mayay stated so after the senior national team had gone for an international friendly match against Sudan in Taif, Saudi Arabia last weekend, with TFF resorting to opt out of unveiling the squad to the fans.

The official said: "It is true that every coach has his plans, but let it be known that this is the national team, as explained, it belongs to Tanzanians and journalists have the right to know each and everything to inform the audience."

"Many Tanzanian fans are cheering for their teams such as Simba SC and Young Africans SC (Yanga) and, when it comes to national issues, fans have to be united and have the right to get information

about their team," the official noted.

"As such, we are preparing for the finals of the African Nations Cup set for next year, so, we should give each other information to create that togetherness," Mayay, the former Taifa Stars' midfielder who also played for Yanga, noted.

He said that the fans should be told all about their senior national team because the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been at the forefront of providing financial support to all national teams.

"I believe TFF will work on the issue to restore the same procedure of issuing information early so that people can also analyze be-

cause an analysis done by the media is equally beneficial to the coach," Mayay insisted.

Tanzania drew 1-1 with Sudan in the friendly played at King Fahd Stadium, Saudi Arabia last weekend.

The clash boosted the senior national team's preparations for the upcoming 2026 World Cup qualifiers' encounter against Niger.

Tanzania is set to travel for the November 14 encounter, before hosting Morocco in Dar es Salaam on November 19.

Tanzania is placed in Group E of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers with Niger, Morocco, Zambia, Eritrea, and Congo-Brazzaville.

Taifa Stars' head coach Adel Amrouche will use the

match to prepare for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals slated for Ivory Coast next year.

The country's flag bearers will be among the 24 national teams battling for the glory in the continental showpiece.

Tanzania qualified for the third time for the biggest continental football showpiece. The squad had previously secured a place in the showdown in 1980 and 2019.

Meanwhile, Tanzania's government, alongside TFF, will officially request the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to adopt Kiswahili as one of the broadcast languages for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

Tanzania, under the 'EA Pamoja' umbrella, will co-host the biennial tournament with neighbours Kenya and Uganda.

Tanzania's government will officially request CAF to adopt Kiswahili as one of the official broadcast languages for the AFCON 2027.

Arabic, French, and English are the official CAF languages. Kiswahili is the most widely spoken language in Africa with over 150 million speakers.

Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro said that the government wants to ensure the language is used to create more employment opportunities.

He stated so during his recent visit to the National Kiswahili Council (BAKITA), an organization dedicated to the development and advocacy of Swahili as a means for national integration in Tanzania.

Ndumbaro pointed out: "We want Kiswahili to create more employment opportunities."

"In the financial year 2024/25, we shall set aside money to promote the language that is already employing 103 million Tanzanians worldwide," Ndumbaro said.

He disclosed: "We shall also work closely with the private sector to commercialize our noble language."

Arabic, French, and English are the official languages of CAF, yet, Kiswahili, the widely spoken language in Africa with over 150 million speakers mostly in Central and Southern Africa in the Great Lakes region, according to Opti-lingua, has been fighting for its place.

5 EATV MONDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

5Sports

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV 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

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



M-Bet Tanzania's Marketing Director Allen Mushi speaks during the launch of the firm's special end-of-the-year festive campaign, termed 'Sanya Sanya with M-Bet', in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Firm launches end-of-year festival campaign

By Guardian Correspondent

SIMBA SC's main sponsor, M-Bet Tanzania, has launched a new campaign, known as 'Sanya Sanya with M-Bet', to enable the firm's customers to win cash, mobile phones, and smart TVs.

Speaking at the launch of the campaign in Dar es Salaam yesterday, M-Bet Tanzania Marketing Director Allen Mushi said the 'Sanya Sanya with M-Bet' campaign aims at ensuring the firm rewards its customers during the end-of-year festive season.

Mushi said that they started the campaign earlier aiming at rewarding many of their customers and thereby changing their lives.

He said that M-Bet Tanzania customers can use the USSD menu by dialing *149*19# and start predicting the results of various football league matches played around the world.

Mushi said that apart from using the USSD code, customers can place their bets by using the firm's application found on smartphones, adding the application must first be downloaded.

He said that their customers who bet for 5,000/- and predict two matches on all M-Bet Tanzania's betting platforms, such as 'Perfect 12', 'Normal', '45 Minutes', and 'Multibet', will win smart TV, with the betting games' draws being held every week.

"Our customers who bet for 2,000/- to 4,999/- and place bets on two matches will enter the draw to win a mobile phone," Mushi said.

"Customers who bet for less than 2,000/- will enter the draw to win 200,000/- every day. Our goal is to empower our customers," Mushi noted.

M-Bet Tanzania has been Simba SC's sponsor for five years in a row and continues to present millions of prize money through the 'Perfect 12' jackpot game and has now introduced the 'Sanya Sanya' campaign.

Haji backs Yanga to excel in 2023/24 CAF Champions League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's vice president Arafat Haji has backed his team's players to show they deserve to challenge and be regarded as one of serious contenders in this season's CAF Champions League Group D.

Haji expressed his confidence in his outfit, saying it is one of the best-assembled squads on the continent and can go toe-to-toe with the best teams on the continent.

In Group D of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League, Yanga will take on the showdown's defending champions, Egypt's Al Ahly, CR Belouizdad of Algeria, and Medeama SC of Ghana.

Last season Yanga made history by reaching the CAF Confederation Cup final and ended as the runner-up after losing to USM Algiers of Algeria via the away-goal rule.

The two sides were locked to a 2-2 aggregate outcome after two legs of the final, which had Yanga garnering a 1-0 victory in the rematch.

USM Alger was eventually the showdown's winner after having claimed a 2-1 victory in the first leg.

So far Yanga has lost two games



Yanga's vice-president, Arafat Haji.

this season, the first of which was the Community Shield mini-tournament final against Simba SC at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, which ended with Simba SC triumphing on penalties.

In another defeat, Yanga went down 2-1 to Ifeju SC in this season's NBC Premier League match in

Mbeya.

Yanga has notched 12 points in five Premier League outings to sit third on the top-flight log and has so far scored a bigger number of goals (15) than any other team in the league.

The club's top official said the outfit is ready to collect points when con-

fronting Al Ahly who are the best team on the continent and are one of the Group D contenders.

"Al Ahly is one of the top teams on the continent and is defending champions of the CAF Champions League, we have to show our worth that we can go toe-to-toe with them, be disciplined, and pick points be it at home or away," Haji noted.

The official pointed out that Yanga's leaders have fulfilled everything needed by the club's technical bench and they are keen on providing the squad with its needs.

"From our recent games, it shows our players are ready to contend in this season's CAF Champions League," the leader pointed out.

Haji stated: "We have matured players both local and foreign, we have regular starters among local players in Tanzania's senior national side and other African nations' teams... with that mixture of footballers, foot-

ball we hope they can transform their experience to the club."

Yanga will begin their CAF Champions League Group Stage duties on November 24, confronting CR Belouizdad in the latter's backyard.

The Tanzanian club will thereafter return home at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium for a crunch duel against Al Ahly before setting sight on the last round one match away to Medeama SC in Ghana.

Yanga will, however, have to gather momentum as they face three tough NBC Premier League games this month.

The NBC Premier League defending champion will, on Monday, take on Azam FC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

It will then be followed by a league fixture against Singida Fountain Gate FC at the same venue on October 26 before the tie against the current league leaders, Simba SC, on November 5.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

