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**TANZANIA** 

FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER, 2022

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### Contract axed in water project tiff

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah (pictured) has directed the Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA) to cancel a contract awarded to Sapphire Engineering Co. for failing to install a water tank at Raha Gando in Pemba North Region as agreed.

The VP issued the directive here on Tuesday at a meeting which, among other things, evaluated ongoing water projects where it emerged that the contractor gave

#### ...for their own interests. do not respect the contracts

false information on the project, contrary to the situation on the ground.

The act of giving false information regarding the project shows the firm's ineptitude for the task it was contracted to execute, he stated, asking ZAWA to take

legal action.

The government has set aside plenty of funds to supply safe and clean water to the people but it is surprising to see some individuals undermining these efforts, the VP exclaimed.

ZAWA officials have to go through contracts for water supply services and take legal steps on distributors who, "for their own interests, do not respect the contracts," he declared.

The water authority must also enhance accountability to optimize revenue collection, set the framework for operating independently and ultimately pay dividends to the government, he emphasised.

In order to increase its revenues, ZAWA should make sure that every water consumer is fitted with a water meter to ascertain the quantity of water consumed, he added.

# Samia: Put Rufiji Delta to good use



President Samia Suluhu Hassan (C) listens to Energy minister January Makamba and TANESCO managing director Maharage Chande after launching water diversion and start water filling at the Julius Nyerere hydro power plant along Rufiji River yesterday. Photo:

# Govt unveils organic agro-sector strategies

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A NATIONAL strategy to put in place ecological organic agriculture has been worked out by the government, a top policy adviser has confirmed.

Gungu Mibavu, an Agriculture ministry

made this affirmation here when opening a meeting of stakeholders to prepare a strategy for boosting agro-ecology as it is essential for sustainable development of

the farming sector. The strategy and its components are

assistant director of policy and planning, meant to spur sustainable development in the conservation of the environment, boosting health and food security in the farming sector, he said.

In the food production component the strategy sets out ways to sustain the health

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#### By Francis Kajubi, Rufiji

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed five ministries to oversee the proper utilization of the Rufiji River basin and delta, detailing specific projects like irrigation farming, fish dams as well as a tarmac road to link the zone with the southern regions as well as the cities of Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

She gave the directive at a ceremony to close the diversion channel, thus allowing Rufiji River to flow on its original route and fill the dam for the Julius Nyerere hydropower plant on the border between Coast Region and Morogoro Region yesterday.

The diversion was built two years ago, 703 meters from the main trunk of the river to pave the way for the construction of water gates at the power project site, officials said.

The president tasked authorities at the Agriculture ministry to make full utilisation of the Rufiji delta covering 400,000 acres by dividing it into blocs for large-scale irrigation farming projects.

Samia directed the Livestock and Fisheries authorities to come up with a modern fish cage project along the river and their Works and Transport colleagues to immediately allocate a construction budget for the Chalinze-Utete road network at tarmac level, a stretch that takes upwards of 300 kilometers.

The road passes through the Julius Nyerere national park and the power station, with current global positioning maps showing road connection in the Utete-Rufiji stretch within the project area, a stretch of 136 km.

The president wants the road modernised rather than merely preserving forests so that economic activities along the well watered delta zone can take off as scheduled, observers noted.

The power project zone is a nerve centre for economic links between surrounding

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## 'Arbitration vital for handling complaints'

**By Guardian Reporter** 

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has lauded the mediation and arbitration efforts of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) in solving complaints on media practitioners.

Speaking with members of the MCT governing board and executives who paid a courtesy call at the State House in Zanzibar yesterday, the Zanzibar leader said it was pertinent for solutions to be reached within the sector through mutual consultations.



That demands exchanges, advices, fault finding and correcting one another amicably as steps that ensure positive media industry progress, he stated.

It is imperative that media professionals should regulate themselves as part of media ethics and social responsibility, helping to promote the industry in general, he stated, underlining that in advancing press freedom, it is vital that stakeholders cooperate, as the work of journalists can be weapons to build or destroy efforts of

In defending press freedom, it is important for everyone to strengthen its self-regulation structures, he said, highlighting the use of research and publications produced by the council, as further promoting the media profession and strengthening the profession.

Taking up gender issues in media work, the president said the council needs to closely pursue gender balance issues in the

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi receives report on the "State of the Media in Tanzania" from Yusuf Khamis Yusuf, the deputy chairman of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) governing board after talks with MCT officials at the State House

### 'Arbitration vital for handling complaints'

FROM PAGE 1

profession.

Dr Mwinyi hinted at media law in Zanzibar, saying it was legislated a long time ago and the government expects to work with media stakeholders to come up with an adapted version of the relevant legislation.

Yusuf Khamis, vice president of the MCT governing board, had earlier said that the media profession has not only the basic role of educating and entertaining but also promoting democracy, good governance and accountability.

"Media outlets that discharge duties professionally and adhere to ethics and are accountable to the people enhance the chances of building a nation pursuing equitable development in all sectors, he stated.

Kajubi Mukajanga, the MCT executive secretary, presenting a message from the president of the governing board, said the responsibility of the council is to oversee ethics and promote professionalism in media.

The council seeks to defend press freedom, ensure accountability of the media to the public and arbitrate complaints against media outlets raised by individuals, conduct research on media issues and promote gender equality in the industry, he elaborated.

To strengthen the media, it is imperative to have media-friendly laws, he said, noting that Zanzibar legislation on the media industry was old, with sections in power corridors hindering press freedom and the media sector in general, the message underlined.

"We are delighted that the government is involving media stakeholders and others in efforts to transform the law as it impedes media practitioners in discharging their duties of informing Zanzibaris effectively," he said

Imane Duwe, a media trainer at the School of Computer, Communications and Journalism within the Zanzibar State University (SUZA), who is part of council members in Zanzibar, said media stakeholders in Zanzibar greatly benefit from MCT services.

"At SUZA, we have been benefiting from training for our tutors, with MCT publications used as reference materials," she stated.

Veteran MCT board member Edda Sanga said the meeting with the Zanzibar leader was crucial to strengthening MCT activities in Zanzibar.

MCT expects to work with the government in strengthening the media profession in the Isles and propelling new developments in the industry, she added.

### Samia: Put Rufiji Delta to good use

FROM PAGE 1

regions of Coast, Morogoro with Lindi and Mtwara to the south, and by extension, Dodoma and Dar es Salaam which border Coast and Morogoro regions respectively.

"People from Lindi and Mtwara regions shouldn't go through Dar es Salaam when traveling to Dodoma or Morogoro," she said, underlining that TanRoads (the Tanzania National Roads Agency) ought to start working on the road.

Similarly, the Water ministry (the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority) comes up in Dar es Salaam. Habitual reliance square kilometers.

on water from Ruvu River to serve the city with 5.6m people was inappropriate, she said.

President Samia directed the Union and Environment ministry at VPO to make sure that Rufiji River is protected from encroachment so that the target of generating 2,125 megawatts is sustainable.

Energy minister Makamba said the hydropower project was complete by 78.6 percent as of November, from 37 percent in November 2020.

Maharage Chande, the managing has to make sure that DAWASA director for the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) said the project relies on three sources with a project to treat River Rufiji of water for the generation of water for domestic consumption electricity from a dam covering 915

### Govt unveils organic agro-sector strategies

of soils, vegetation and people, enhance biodiversity and initiate production cycles adapted to local conditions. This would reduce the use of inputs having adverse effects, he asserted.

The strategy will be implemented from 2022 to 2030, as an encompassing strategy to bring about transformation in the agriculture sector by agro-ecology initiatives, he stated.

The strategy is aimed at solving challenges related to effects of climate change that are contributed by environmental damage and threatening food security, he said, elaborating that the government saw the need to prepare the national strategy to conserve the environment and facilitating producing sufficient food.

Vital areas considered in formulating the strategic project include easier availability of ecological farm inputs, markets as well as crop processing facilities.

Administratively, coordination, training and joint venture strengthening networks that are being intensified, as well as other crosscutting issues,

The ministry is seeking to ensure it widens its agro-ecological farming efforts, and had handed to SwissAid about 2.5 hectares for agroecological experimental farming.

Revelian Ngaiza, chairperson of the national ecological organic agriculture strategy (NEOAS) committee of experts said the strategy has passed through various stages in its preparation and is now being submitted for review at higher levels.

Preparation of the strategy also incorporates the ministries of Lands, Livestock and Fisheries, Regional Administration and Local Governments (PO-RALG), Union and Environment at VPO, and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Other key agencies are Investment, Industry and Trade ministry, Natural Resources and Tourism, Water ministry and key agriculture sector stakeholders Sustainable Tanzania (SAT), the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Tanzania, a network of civil society organisations working with smallholder farmers and livestock keepers in promoting participatory ecological land use management, along with SwissAid and the German development agency, GIZ.

Asha Mshua, an agro-ecological farmer and Zanzibar-based legislator, said this farming practice protects farmers' lives and health of the soil. It will also to boost food security in the country, she added.



Fifty women entrepreneurs from Bagamoyo cohort on Wednesday concluded 13-weeks of specialised training in business and entrepreneurship funded by the US government through its Academy of Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) programme. United States ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Donald Wright congratulated the women and urged them to continue building successful businesses and contributing to their local communities. Kisarawe district commissioner, Nickson Simon, deputy principal of Bagamoyo College of Arts, Gabriel Kiiza, and many other distinguished guests attended the

### US embassy supports Bagamoyo women entrepreneurs

**By Guardian Reporter** 

FIFTY women entrepreneurs from Bagamoyo and Dar es Salaam have concluded 13 weeks of specialised training in business and entrepreneurship funded by the US government through its Academy of Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) programme.

Speaking to the graduates during the ceremony, US ambassador to Tanzania Donald Wright congratulated the women urging them to use what they had learned to continue expanding successful businesses.

The graduation ceremony was also attended by Kisarawe district commissioner Nickson Simon, who represented Pwani regional commissioner Aboubakar Kunenge, acting district commissioner of Bagamoyo, Vice Principal of Bagamoyo College of Arts, Gabriel Kiiza, and many other distinguished

AWE is a global initiative of the US government seeking to promote women's economic empowerment with the goal of helping 50 million women worldwide fulfill their

economic potential.

It is committed to providing women the knowledge, networks, and access they need to turn their ideas into reality.

Ambassador Wright said: "The 13 weeks of training have provided you with the practical skills to create sustainable businesses, as well as a network of mentors and such minded entrepreneurs in the United States."

He added that empowering women economically is the fastest way to change society.

"Women have a strong multiplier effect on the wider community because when women succeed, they are more likely to invest their earnings into their families and

their communities, paying for things like their children's education and health care. The economic benefits of your accomplishments support future generations. Your creativity is already having an impact on the society and the economy of Tanzania," he said.

The Bagamoyo cohort is the seventh group of women to participate in AWE. The first group of 20 women graduated on September 9, 2019, in Dar es Salaam.

The second group of 25 women entrepreneurs from completed their program on December 16, 2020. The third group of 17 entrepreneurs from Zanzibar graduated on June 28, 2021. The fourth group of 32 entrepreneurs from Mwanza graduated on November 8, 2021.

The fifth group of 31 entrepreneurs from Dodoma graduated on June 6, 2022, and the sixth group of 32 entrepreneurs from Mbeya

graduated on October 3, 2022.

Through a partnership with the US African Development Foundation (USADF). entrepreneurs participating in the AWE program are eligible for additional seed funds from USADF ranging up to \$20,000 to expand their businesses.

The US embassy partners with Selfina to implement the AWE programme in Tanzania. Founded in 2002 by Dr. Victoria Kisyombe, Selfina is a pioneer of micro-credit in Tanzania through micro-leasing with particular attention to widows and young girls. In the past 19 years, SELFINA has economically empowered more than 31,000 women through an active revolving

Over 300,000 lives have been impacted through the benefits accrued. Women are now owners of their own businesses and more than 150,000 jobs have been created.



by our photographer. According to them they have not increased prices this season compared to previous years due to lack of funds. Photo

# Nigeria reduces restrictions on cash withdrawals under popular pressure

TWO weeks after imposing caps on weekly cash withdrawals, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had to raise them significantly in the face of public discontent.

The central bank acknowledged in a statement Wednesday "the vital role cash plays in supporting rural and disadvantaged communities

approach in its transition to a cashless society.

The Central Bank of Nigeria had decided to impose caps to limit the use of cash in the economy.

Among other things, it was concerned about counterfeit bills, the volume of cash out of the banking system and the huge amounts of ransom money being from 2.5 million naira to 100,000

and will ensure an inclusive paid to bandits and kidnappers. naira overnight. "The maximum weekly withdrawal limit for all means for individuals and companies should be 500,000 naira (1,049 euros) and 5 million naira respectively," the central bank said in its statement on Wednesday.

> On December 6, the institution drastically reduced the weekly cash withdrawal limit for individuals

For companies, the limit was reduced from 3 million naira per day to 500,000 naira per week.

The decision angered Nigerians who use a lot of cash for business, especially in the informal economy where many do not have bank

The institution has also launched new 200, 500 and 1,000 naira bills.



Heritage Tanzania Limited managing director, Manasseh Kawoloka, (R) presents a certificate to customers service point manager, Reginald Safari, for good commercial performance in 2022 at the ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Left is human resources manager Victoria Israel. Photo:

### Exercise caution during this festive season, ministry urges motorists and all road users

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Prof Abel Makubi has cautioned motorists and other road users to take precautions during this festive season to avoid preventable accidents which are fatal and costly.

Prof Makubi made the remarks in Dodoma after touring the region's referral hospital where he visited special surgery wards where 70-per cent of them were accident victims.

Prof Makubi directed regional and district medical officers to work with the police traffic department to test drivers both mentally and physically so that those with serious health issues are treated.

He also directed the officials to carry out frequent vehicle inspections so that those with defects should be taken out of the roads, saying the impact of defect vehicles are deadly.

Prof Makubi said data from the Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI) shows between April and June 2022, there were 1,917 accidents patients whereby in July and September there were 2,410 patients which make the percentage of accidents to 70-per cent.

He said the cost of treating accident patients at MOI, especially those with fractures and in need of implants cost more than 2m/- while

those with traumatic brain injuries need to pay about 6 to 20m/-.

He said most of the time; such patients do not have insurance coverage, a move which makes the government carry the burden.

In another development, Prof Makubi said during this festive season, the government was determined to ensure there were enough ambulances to offer services to accident victims in case they happen, saying the government has bought 660 of them to be distributed across the country from June 2023.

He said the government will create a system to identify where an ambulance is so that it timely arrives to take patients for treatment.

> He said most of the time: such patients do not have insurance coverage, a move which makes the government carry the burden

# ightning kills Form 2 girl in Iringa reg

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

CARISTER Haule (15), a Form II student from Mgalo secondary school in Iringa region and a resident of Lifua village, Njombe region died after being hit by

A total of 16 houses in the area had their roofs blown away following heavy rains accompanied by strong winds.

Acting Ludewa occurred on December 17, this year at around 5:00 pm at Lifua village in Luilo Ward.

"The gravest incident from the district disaster is the death of the girl administrative secretary, Daniel student who was struck by lightning

huge cashew nut tree," he said and added that the goats also died.

He said out of the 16 houses that had their roofs blown away, six were completely demolished.

"The first thing we did was to

Ngalupela, said the incident when she was untying goats from a conduct an assessment of the impact of the rain thereafter we met with various stakeholders for contributions to help the victims get items including timber, roofing sheets to rebuild their houses," said Ngalupela.

He said emergency efforts taken include urging some people to shelter the victims.

Witnesses of the incident, including Allen Ngatunga said he arrived at the scene and found the girl laying down including the goats.

### Minister orders NWF to loan Dawasa 500m/- for water supply to consumers

**By Guardian Reporter** 

WATER minister Jumaa Aweso has instructed the National Water Fund (NWF) to provide 500m/as loan to Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) for connecting water supply to some residents of Madale, Mivumoni, Goba, Wazo and Tegeta A who are yet to be connected to Makongo-Bagamoyo water project that was completed on December 16, this year.

Aweso gave the instruction on

Wednesday during his visit to inspect the water project that will serve over 450,000 residents, as well as Mshikamano water project that is expected to be completed on January 15, 2023, both projects costing 75bn/-.

"I instruct NWF to provide 500m/- as loan to enable the water supply connection exercise to consumers in Tegeta A, Goba, Wazo, Madale and Mivumoni," he said.

The water infrastructure had been completed. I urge DAWASA to make efforts to connect water services to the people

time in 2022 due to water supply thereon, and no more. challenges were Goba, Mivumoni, Bunju,

Madale and Wazo. "The water infrastructure had been completed. I urge DAWASA to make efforts to connect water services to the people," said minister.

He stressed to DAWASA and all other water authorities countrywide to abide by the appropriate procedures in regard to water connections to consumers within seven days after submitting

He said the areas that gave him hard their applications and made payments

"The government has invested a lot of money to enable the people get water supply, hence it is essential for the consumers to be connected to the service, as it is their rights," he stressed.

For his part, Kinondoni district commissioner, Godwin Gondwe thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for facilitating the implementation of the huge water project including Makongo-Bagamoyo.



#### Job Position: MSMEs Manager

Job Purpose: Responsible for growing both Liabilities (Deposits) and Assets from Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), advising Business Development department on business strategy, assisting SME Relationship Officers and Bancassurance Relationship Manager in recruiting business customers to ensure SME business growth.

#### **Objectives**

- Utilize Education Ecosystem to diversify MCB portfolio into SMEs. Maximise customers' experience with MCB
- Adhere to policies and procedures.

#### Main Responsibilities:

- Appraise and review MSME credit applications and provide recommendations for decision making Actively selling MSME deposits, lending, and cross selling of other banks products (Forex, Fund
- Preparing budget and projections for the MSME loan and deposit products. The budget to include the list of existing, prospective, and potential customers to benefit from the loan and deposit products
- Take a leading role in driving MSME activity, through networking and promoting MSME activity with MSME Relationship officers, Branch Manager, RM-Bancassurance, Commercial Manager and
- Marketing officer. Actively build the capacity of the MSME Business through on-going mentoring and support to ensure
- reports and review product design and performance to establish if change, redesign, or re-launch is appropriate. Co-ordinate the execution of Education Ecosystem through budget objectives of the responsibility

Review MSMEs products through customers' feedback, market intelligence, workshops/focus group

Monitor and review the MSME Business performance to ensure that the targets are met.

- area on the MSME products to ensure targets are achieved as per approved budget Ensure that customer satisfaction for the MSME is achieved by providing accurate advice for selling in
- Perform other duties as may be directed or assigned by the superior.

quality credit application and Business Growth.

#### Attributes:

- · Good credit analysis skills
- Good customer relationship and sound understanding of bank's loan products, policies, and
- Conversant with standard computer applications (Excel, Word and Access).
- Good communication with high proficiency in the use of (English and Kiswahili) Good business management, leadership, coaching, and team building skills.

#### Qualifications and Experience:

- Holder of a first degree or its equivalent in Finance, Accounting, banking and or its equivalent. · Four years relevant experience in MSME loans and credit analysis.
- Applications should be done by sending a detailed CV, certified copies of certificates, and a cover letter to

recruitment@mwalimubank.co.tz by Friday 07th January 2023. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

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# **Ministers meet** to chart out, set strategies to curb violence against girls at schools

**By Guardian Reporter** 

THREE government ministers met in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday to discuss and set strategies to combat violence against girls at schools and colleges.

The ministers are George Simbachawene, Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), Prof Adolf Mkenda, Minister for Education, Science and Technology and Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Social Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups.

They all agreed to work together to prevent violence against children. Speaking at the meeting, Minister Mkenda said his ministry through the Commissioner of Education is responsible for providing various guidelines for students as well as protecting children from violence.

"This meeting will help us to come up with strategies to protect our children instead of relying on guidelines provided by the Education Commissioner. Experts from other relevant ministries should also check the weaknesses in the guidelines and share their opinions," he said.

Mkenda added that the Ministry of Education is also responsible for managing children at the college level, hence the need to come up with plans and strategies that will ensure their safety.

"Children spend more time in schools and colleges, it is our responsibility as guardians to ensure their safety," said Prof

Dr Dorothy Gwajima appreciated the ministers saying it is a good thing that they are all together working to fight against violence. She said that impregnated during childhood.

"The number represents less than 15 percent of those who reported such cases. If you look at the magnitude of the problem and if all the cases were reported, there is a need to work together to completely eliminate violence against the school and college girls," stated Dr Gwajima.

She added that parents need to participate in protecting children because 60 percent of sexual violence against children takes place in homes where there are parents.

Simbachawene said government gives special attention to issues related to children's protection. He said it will issue guidelines to protect children before schools reopen in January

He directed the Permanent Secretaries in the three ministries to ensure that experts prepare short and long-term strategies to be discussed by ministers and stakeholders.

Simbachawene Minister instructed all the ministers concerned to meet on January 4, 2023, to go through the strategies and opinions and issue recommendations that will be submitted to the Prime Minister for approval.

> **Children spend** more time in schools and colleges, it is our responsibility as guardians to ensure their safety

#### 2021 data indicates that a total of 11,499 children have been subjected to violence, including rape, and prostitution while others were Stakeholders recommend need for children to be involved in

#### environmental protection efforts By Beatrice Philemon

STAKEHOLDERS have suggested the need for children to be involved in all activities that aim at solving environmental challenges, adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change so that they enjoy their

FORUM on Climate Change (FORUMCC) Programme Officer. Msololo Onditi made the statement yesterday when briefing journalists on the effects of climate change on children and their rights. He said children should be involved in such activities because they are also affected by climate change in terms of their rights and welfare.

He said the effects of climate change have caused a lack of safe and clean drinking water in many areas across the world including Tanzania, access to education, health care, food and nutrition and all of which are children's rights.

"It is time for government, local government authorities, development partners, ministries, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and private sector to work together to integrate the rights and welfare of the children in their policy, plans, strategy and different activities that aimed at solving environmental challenges, adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change," he said.

The main goal is to ensure the rights and welfare of children are protected in all activities aimed at solving environmental challenges, adapt and mitigate the effects of

climate change from the household, community and national levels.

Advocate Witness Msole from Bridge Attorneys and Consultancy Company said: "We need to involve children in what we do because children are also affected by climate change."

Msole said children have the right to education, health, to be protected from abuse and harm, to share their views, and get safe and clean water. "We should make sure that children's acts are well implemented and observed to help them enjoy their rights.

"If drought occurs within our localities, it affects children's right in terms of access to education, it affects their nutrition and has negative impacts on the growth of their body and minds," she said.

She said during water scarcity, children miss out on classes as they are required to help their parents to search for water. She said when children cannot attend classes, their academic performance drops.

Msole added that children should be heard and considered in policymaking as well as during planning to make sure they continue enjoying their rights despite climate changes.

Tanzania Centre for Research and Information on Pastoralism (TCRIP)'s Advocate, Neema Ndemno added that climate change is preventing children from enjoying their rights.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s 2007 report indicates that 600 million children are impacted by climate across the world in -terms of children's health.



# Mwinyi urges graduates to conduct researches that will help address challenges facing nation

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has urged graduates from higher learning institutions to invest more effort in conducting research so as to help address various challenges facing the nation.

He made the call during the 20th graduation ceremony of the Zanzibar University (ZU) in Kibele, Unguja South Region.

He said due to various global changes associated with several challenges, graduates have a great role to find solutions and push the country's development.

He noted that research will bring development in the society,"

enable the country to address he added. various economic and development challenges within and beyond borders.

"It is time for academicians to invest their efforts in conducting research that will help bring solutions on various challenges facing the society and the country at large," he added.

Dr Mwinyi said the nation needs as many innovative and competent personnel to work in various sectors and bring positive impacts.

"We need to produce competent and creative personnel who will be able to utilise their skills well to

He said that education will always remain an important tool to bring development not only in Zanzibar but the whole world.

"Education is one of the agendas given priority in the CCM election manifesto of 2020/2025 with aim to stimulate development of our people because we cannot attain our development plans without having a strong workforce,"

He commended the college for initiating a degree in community health assuring them that the government will ensure that the course performs well to achieve all the intended goals.

Minister for Education Lela Mohamed Mussa, said despite the government investing in the blue economy, there is a great shortage of experts to work in the areas.

"So, you (ZU) need to initiate as many programmes that are in line with the blue economy policy and market so as to support the government's efforts towards having enough professionals who will facilitate achievement of development vision 2050.

Dr Abduliqudir Othman Hafiz, ZU chancellor said the college will continue investing in strategies to facilitate sustainable production of competent graduates to work in various fields.

During the graduation ceremony, a total of 568 graduates were conferred with certificates,

diplomas and degrees. 



Works and Transport Permanent Secretary Ludovick Nduhiye (2nd R), Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Services Agency advisory board chairman, Eng. Deogratius Nyanda (R), Temesa executive officer Lazaro N. Kilahala and ferry operations director, Eng Sylvester Simfukwe receives a briefing about special equipment during a practical training at the Dar es Salaam Maritime Institute where 43 TEMESA ferries staff will be trained at the college.

# Supervise registration of all school-age children for next academic year, leaders and teachers directed

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

LEADERS and teachers in Ludewa District, Njombe Region have been instructed to supervise and ensure that all school age children are registered to commence studies

District's executive director, Sanday Deogratius made the call here when receiving a donation of sanitary pads, exercise books and bags from KLF to support girls at Milo primary school and those in Mavala Secondary School.

He also wanted the leaders to

supervise and ensure that those who are expected to join form one next year also report to school on the scheduled dates.

"KLF has seen this importance and brought sanitary pads and other tools to support our school girls but also other students. This is a great help and it will help boost performance," he said.

He urged the beneficiary students to utilize the tools and concentrate on their studies for them to later achieve their dreams.

officer District education (primary), Daniel John said the tools

will encourage the students to study hard and attend all the sessions.

"We are well prepared to receive new pupils and students in January, all the needed infrastructures to support their learning are there, so we thank KLF for bringing their support to boost the efforts," he said.

John commended KLF for extending their support to the schools noting that some girls miss school during their periods due to lack of sanitary pads.

According to him, the district expects to register a total of 4,419

pre-school children and has so far registered 4,281 pupils.

"We also expect to register a total of 4,053 standard one pupils and we have so far reached 4,036 which is equal to 99.43 percent of the target, we expect to reach the goal by December 31, 2022," he added.

KLF director Ally Seif said the organisation has recognised the importance of extending its support to the school so as to support children as schools expected to reopen early January.

He noted that a good number of school girls as well as women from poor families in both rural and urban areas are facing great challenges to access the sanitary towels, something which thwarts their development goals.





Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, deputy minister Ridhiwani Kikwete speaks at a meeting between the ministry's officials and companies on formalisation in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

### Do not hold meetings intended to divide members, Chatanda warns

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE Chairperson of CCM Women Wing (UWT), Mary Chatanda has banned the practice by some of Wing leaders conducting meetings that discuss people saying the practice divide members.

She said such meetings are dangerous for UWT existence as they create misunderstandings among members that can make them work without cooperation.

Chatanda made the remarks in Korogwe Town, Tanga Region on Tuesday at a rally that welcomed her home since she was elected as the UWT chair recently.

She said it is important for UWT leaders to unite members to assist President Samia Suluhu Hassan fully implement her responsibilities, adding that women are a huge army.

"We should also break up the factions, the election is over, and now we should continue with the work before us, including defending the party, community development projects and increase new members," she added.

Without further elaboration, Chatanda said in 2025 women will have their issue, and that in order for it to be realised, they have to

unite as unity is strength.

"Let's unite together so that we can restore the party and its organisations as it was during the TANU era, because every member was then fully accountable in her position to make UWT strong," she

Chatanda further rebuked the habit by some CCM leaders to select leaders for the wing, saying they should instead leave the task to women themselves.

She said this following complaints from Kwasemshi Ward Councillor for Korogwe Rural, Twahiru Salehe (CHADEMA) who blamed some CCM leaders for his moving to the opposition.

"CCM leaders should stop the habit of favouring contestants for your own interests, let members choose for themselves the candidates they prefer," she said.

Earlier, when given the chance to speak after returning to CCM, Salehe said he moved to CHADEMA during the 2020 election campaign after he was barracked by some CCM leaders in the area.

He said the practice by CCM leaders not respecting the opinions of the people usually makes the party lose people preferred by voters, as it happened in the ward.

#### **NAIROBI**

COMOROS is set to be the first island state to take up the African Union (AU) chair next year after Kenyan President William Ruto withdrew from the race.

Comoros President Azali Assoumani and Ruto had been separately lobbying for the top post because this time round the AU chair position should come from the East African community.

- African Leaders Summit was the grandest stage for the two leaders to individually meet their regional counterparts.

The recently ended United States

But while in the US, Ruto revealed that he would be withdrawing from Kenya's withdrawal from AU chair race paves way for Comoros

chance. In a statement, government communications in Comoros thanked Ruto for his decision.

The government said: "President Azali Assoumani followed with great pleasure, a great relief, and great humility the announcement made during the USA-Africa Summit in Washington DC by his brother William Ruto, president of the Republic of Kenya, relating to the withdrawal of his country's candidacy for the presidency of the African Union, for the year 2023."

Comoros added that the decision Senegal, was also involved.

the race giving Comoros a clear by Kenya was noble and showed that the country was a leader in finding peaceful solutions to problems on the continent, particularly in East

> "This crucial decision, taken at the right time, confirms the greatness of the Kenyan nation but also the great wisdom of its leaders and their commitment to promoting unity and stability in the East African region," the statement reads.

> Kenva's withdrawal diplomatic engagements between the two nations. The current AU chair, Macky Sall, president of

For that, Assoumani was grateful. "The president sincerely thanks

the current president of the African Union, his brother Macky Sall as well as the president of the African Union Commission, his brother Moussa Faki, and all his other brothers from other African countries for the constant efforts that they haven't stopped deploying to encourage exchanges between the Comoros and Kenya, so that they can reach a consensus on this crucial issue, in the interest of East Africa and the African continent as a whole," Comoros said.

community, the AU leadership of Assoumani would present an interesting scenario.

Assoumani is a former military officer who came into power through a coup in 1999 after overthrowing interim president Tadjidine Ben Said Massounde.

In 2018, he amended the constitution to stay in office until

Ueli Staeger, a research and teaching fellow in international relations and security at the University of Geneva, said Assoumani would be a somewhat But to the international affirmative action decision.

"Having served already 13 years as head of state of Comoros, the 2023 AU chair has a different mindset on constitutionality. But giving voice to small, struggling nations can also be an opportunity for an AU lately dominated by bigger states," he

Since 2002 when the AU changed its name from the Organisation of African Unity, the chair rotates on an annual basis.

The News24 Africa Desk is supported by the Hanns Seidel Foundation. The stories produced through the Africa Desk and the opinions and statements that may be contained herein do not reflect those of the Hanns Seidel Foundation.









The Board of Directors of NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited is pleased to announce the appointment of Claver Serumaga as the **Managing Director**.

Claver brings on board over 17 years of experience in the Banking and Financial industry with a track record of consistent results.

He has served in several senior leadership roles within the East and West Africa regions. His most recent engagement was with Bank of Africa Kenya (BOA Kenya) where he served as the Deputy Managing Director. Prior to that he served as

the Chief Digital Officer for Bank of Africa Group based in Casablanca, Morocco where he was charged with the responsibility of leading the execution of the Digital Transformation strategy across 16 countries in Africa. He has served in other roles including General Manager Business Development with oversight of Treasury, Corporate, SME and Banking, Marketing and Product Development with Bank of Africa in Uganda.

Claver holds a Master of Business Administration in Executive Management from the Graduate School of Business (GSB), University of Cape Town, South Africa and Bachelor of Arts Social Science degree from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. He is a fellow of the Chartered institute of Marketing (UK) and has attained several professional certifications in Leadership, Banking and Finance.

Claver will be responsible for providing overall Leadership to the team in Tanzania and drive the turnaround strategy of NCBA Bank Tanzania business.

The Board congratulates Claver on his appointment and is confident in his ability to steer the bank through this transition.

Vinaykant Somaiya **CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS** NCBA BANK TANZANIA LIMITED

December 22, 2022

Regulated by Bank of Tanzania

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WASCO ISOAF Tz is a Tanzania -incorporated company with its head office in Dar es Salaam and its plant in Nzega District, Tabora Region. The Company has been contracted by East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project as a Thermal Insulation Contractor.

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: SOCIAL PERFORMANCE DATA COORDINATOR REPORTS TO: WASCO ISOAF SOCIAL COORDINATOR. **WORK LOCATION: SOJO, NZEGA DISTRICT, TABORA REGION** 

This position works within the Social team, liaising on a daily basis with the Social Coordinator and on a regular basis with the SP Lead.

<mark>JOB SUMMARY:</mark> Responsible to collect and manage data and keep record of field-based Social Performance activities for the purpose of planning, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and social performance improvement. Data need to be collected for, and record kept of the following Social Performance activities:

- Stakeholder engagement activities Grievance management
- Community support initiatives including updating community requests registry
- Community risk and impact management
- Socio-cultural training

#### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- · Implement Social Performance data processes (collection, recording, collation, organization, and administration) across field-based social performance activities.
- Keep record and document daily SP activities and processes.
- Develop and maintain stakeholder database. · Support Social Coordinator to prepare reports including qualitative and quantitative data analysis for performance tracking and assurance.
- · Support Social activities planning as necessary.
- Ensure the necessary tools for maintaining, processing, and analysis of collected data are developed. Conduct regular auditing of social data quality, integrity and comprehensiveness.
- · Recognize opportunities to improve social performance and communicate ideas to the SP team.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- · 3 5 years' experience in data management in a social science, community development or related field. Knowledge and understanding of Social Performance processes and data tracking.
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#### REQUIRED SKILLS

- · Excellent command of English and Swahili, both written and verbal.
- · Good communication skills, particularly good listening skills.
- Proven capability of database (software) administration and management. · Ability to use data and software effectively and creatively to meet performance tracking and reporting goals.
- · Excellent analytical capabilities.
- Good knowledge of data visualization. · GIS capability an advantage.

· A tertiary degree in social sciences or data management.

• This position works on a 45 hours/week schedule Monday - Saturday.

Apply to: hr-tanzania@isoaf.com

Deadline: 6th January 2023

Please note that, should you not be contacted for more than two weeks after the deadline, consider your application unsuccessful

**NEWS** 

# Chinese Embassy honours 30 students, two instructors from University of Dodoma

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Chinese Embassy in the country has awarded 30 students and two instructors from the University of Dodoma (UDOM) who have performed well in Chinese Language course offered by the Confucius Institute at the university.

The awards aim at strengthening the bilateral ties between the two countries.

Speaking during the award handover ceremony held in Dodoma recently Prof Razack Lokina who was a special guest at the event said that the awards have been given in recognition of the students' and instructors efforts in learning and teaching the Chinese language.

He explained that through learning the language, students will be in better position to grab job, business and scholarship opportunities both inside and outside the country.

"Through this programme you are in a better position to grab various opportunities in global market, migration department, tourism sector and investment sector, take this as an opportunity to work hard and explore more opportunities," said Prof Lokina.

He explained that, besides being employed in Chinese company operating in Tanzania there are also opportunities of Kiswahili teachers in China as well as language translators in Tanzania and China

He asked the awarded students to encourage others to join the Chinese language course so as to grab employment and scholarship opportunities worldwide because there is a huge demand of Chinese speakers in global market.

In a related development Lokina advised UDOM Administration to consider introducing Master's Degree in Chinese Language in order to strategically position the country in the global market following the huge demand of Chinese language speakers and professionals.

Meanwhile, Chinese Director of Confucius Institute at UDOM Huo Yuzhou said that the aim of the awards is to encourage students to love and work hard in learning the language so that they can grab the arising opportunities.

"The awarded certificate is the main criteria for students with high GPA in this course to get scholarship for studying in China and also getting

employment in Chinese companies and projects implemented in the country," said Yuzhou.

Yuzhou said that this is the 5th ceremony since the introduction of Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language Course at UDOM... in this year 30 students and two teachers have been awarded certificates and money by the Chinese Embassy.

The Tanzania Director of Confucius Institute at UDOM Dr Onesmo Chawala said that they need more students to join the institute to pursue BA in Chinese language because there is a high demand of Chinese speakers due to interactions, business and investment between China and Tanzania.

He also said that UDOM decided to offer BA in Chinese Language so as to help students who complete their secondary level education and they wish to study and specialize in Chinese language and culture to pursue their dreams.

"UDOM decides to offer this course not only for the purpose of strengthening the relationship between Tanzania and China but also helping students who are completing their secondary education level and they wish to pursue Chinese language in higher level of learning," said Dr Chawala.

"In recent years we have seen the government through the Ministry of Education establishing Chinese lessons in secondary schools, so we take it as an opportunity to offer them a chance to continue in higher learning institutions," he added.

The University of Dodoma is the only University which offers Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language in East African Community since



The awarded certificate is the main criteria for students with high GPA in this course to get scholarship for studying in China and also getting employment in Chinese companies and projects implemented in the country



AIDS Muheza district coordinator in Tanga region, Dr Yahaya Mbura, places a box of condoms at the office of Mbaramo ward executive officer for the

### **Dodoma collects 28.44bn/**in revenue for 2022/23 FY

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Region through its eight district councils has collected 28.44bn/- which is 39 percent of the projections of collecting 72.72bn/in the 2022/23 fiscal year.

Assistant regional administrative (planning secretary coordination), Charles Mdume said this yesterday here when presenting a report on the implementation of the 2022/23 budget up to November, this year during the regional consultative committee (RCC) meeting.

He said that Chamwino and Kongwa councils have collected 

more than 40 percent within five

"In a period between July and November 2022, a total of 28,443,375,295.38/- has been collected in all regional district councils from the projection of collecting 72,717,906,610/-, so we are going well but we need to increase efforts so as to achieve the intended target," he said.

He said that Dodoma with its eight councils has been allocated a budget of 372,065,282,000/- in the period between July and November, this year and it has received 168,294,018,634/- (45 percent).

He however said, the region youth and persons with disabilities servants.

will continue to invest efforts to increase collections and thus expand development activities in the region.

On development projects, the region has been allocated a total of 126,896,451,000/- in the period between July and November, 2022 and has received 62,454,189,002 which is equal to 45 percent.

The region through the eight councils has also dished out 8,192,048,615/- from internal revenues for the implementation of development.

"We also issued a total of 509,926,678.20 as loans to women, 210,248,415/- as salary arrears for

groups. This is part of the 10 percent that councils need to set aside from its internal revenues. This is 36 percent of the total funds of 1,397,262,241.30/-," he asserted.

On achievements, Mdume said the central government has issued a total of 32,766,004,551/- which is equal to 83 percent of the 2022/23 fiscal year budget to implement development projects.

He said that the government has also issued 25,497,669,595/- for recurrent expenditure in regional and local government authorities.

The government has also issued a total of 80,342,160,037/- for salaries in regional secretariat and local government authorities while also issuing 6,780,000,000/- for the construction of 339 classrooms in 127 secondary schools.

The government has also paid



Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Jumanne Muliro shows gadgets seized from Chinese citizens allegedly to interfere communications

### Medical team from China provides Christmas cheer for S. Sudanese orphans to high incidences of influenza

THE 10th batch of the Chinese medical team has provided Christmas gifts and free medical checkups for children in two separate orphanages in the South

Sudanese capital Juba. Angelo Kenyi Samuel, director of the Juba Orphanage Home, said the visit by the Chinese medical team was a relief to the heavy burden of treating orphans and supporting grappling with diverse ailments.

"The 10th batch of the Chinese medical team has been coming here on several occasions to conduct medical examinations,"

He disclosed that the longlasting collaboration involving the orphanage, and the neighboring Juba Teaching and Referral Hospital, where the Chinese doctors are based, has helped maintain routine medical visits to the orphanage.

Besides providing urgent medical checkups and treatment, the Chinese doctors also donated powdered milk, cookies, and medicine for treating wounds, cough, malaria, and typhoid.

"The weather now in Juba keeps on changing; sometimes it is very hot during the day and cold in the wee hours of the morning, leading among children," said Samuel.

Hellen Murshal Boro, executive director of the Confident Children out of Conflict, thanked the Chinese doctors for agreeing to provide essential medicine and treatment for typhoid, cough, epilepsy, and malnutrition at the orphanage.

"We have children here who have chronic medical conditions like HIV/ AIDS. So while AIDS drugs are free, malaria treatment is not free. You must have a clinical examination and tablets that are quite costly," said Boro.

"The bulk of our budget is channeled to healthcare, and the visit by Chinese doctors provides us with enough medicine that saves us from buying from the private pharmacies at exorbitant costs," she

Xu Zhangwei, leader of the 10th batch of the Chinese medical team, said they decided to provide Christmas gifts and medical checkups for the orphans as part of the social responsibility and in-kind support toward the community where they work.

Since 2013, Chinese medical teams have offered free medical services in South Sudan and also provided capacity building for local health workers and medical

### 75 percent of road accidents caused by driver's negligence, police reveal

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE police force said yesterday that 75 percent of road accidents in the country are caused by the driver's negligence.

The force, however said that drivers who will be found drunk while driving will be arrested and arraigned before paying penalties.

force's Spokesperson,

when addressing journalists on the state of the country's security ahead of Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Misime said that research conducted by the force revealed that many road accidents are caused by the negligence of the drivers.

David Misime made the statement will be controlled as we do not want to see people involved in accidents by drunk drivers. Drivers should be careful on the road and stop blaming God for every accident that happens on the road," said Misime.

He warned drivers from drinking while driving insisting stern legal measures will be taken against "The force is prepared to deal them. He said the stern measures with drunk drivers; reckless driving are expected to reduce the number of road accidents in the country. He said the country is safe with

police officers determined to ensure the security of people and their properties during end of year festivals. He said patrols will be conducted throughout the day.

Misime appealed to religious leaders to help in strengthening the peace and security committees at district and regional level. He said their intervention would contribute to reduced road crashes.

He asked local government leaders to cooperate with the police force to establish and strengthen community policing groups to enhance patrols.





Aerial view of Morogoro Road, Mbezi Luis section after a fence had been placed on the road side, so that

### Over 3,000 teachers benefit from digital training skills

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OVER 3,000 primary and secondary school's teachers have benefitted from the digital training skills enabling them to reach more students at a time.

Dar es Salaam Teknohama Business Incubator (DTBi) Fursa Lab project manager Michael Thomas said yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the closing ceremony of training to 80 teachers from five districts of Dar es Salaam aimed at enabling them to make students more competent.

He said the training had been in collaboration between DTBI, Airtel, Irish aid and The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

He said the training was part of the Africa code week marked every year to raise awareness of Information Communication Technology (ICT) for a critical mass of participants.

**By Special Correspondent** 

"Our target is to reach as many focus on practical based skills to teachers as we can to ensure that the digital skills are scaled up to other parts of the country," he said.

He however admitted that lack of infrastructure is one of the big challenges hindering ICT training in primary and secondary schools.

He said since the programme started in 2017, it has been conducted in Morogoro, Tanga, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.

Nuru Ismail Juba, train of the trainers at DTBI said the training aimed at building capacity to the teachers to teach students to use scratch applications.

She said the Africa Code Week is implemented in between 34 to 50 countries in Africa.

Kambangwa secondary school teacher, Omary Mhina said the knowledge will enable him to teach students practically.

Also, the training will enable them to give students with computers, innovations and digital skills.

"We as teachers are needed to initiative was launched. 

# Farmers urge distributors to send subsidised fertiliser to rural areas

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

FOOD and cash crops farmers in Shinyanga Region have appealed to distributors of subsidised fertiliser to go to the rural areas in order to reduce distances farmers in the areas to follow the input in urban

They made the appeal on Wednesday at different times during the visit by the Chairman of Kahama Cooperative Union (KACU), Hamisi Majogoro to inspect the fertiliser distribution exercise.

Neuster Paul, a farmer from Kinamapula Ward, Ushetu district said they are forced to travel 50 kms to look for the fertiliser from shops in Kahama Town, while the distributors have the ability to reach them in their wards.

He said they buy a 50kg bag of fertiliser at 70,000/- instead of 140,000/0 but the cost they incur subsidized fertiliser in Kahama

from the village to the town and back is more than the cost of the fertiliser, we therefore ask the government, in collaboration with KACU to look into a way to address the issue.

Another farmer, Metherius Anthony from Mirambo ward in Kaliua District said he was forced to travel 300kms to look for the fertiliser after Tabora Region ran out of the vital farm input.

He said instead of doing farm work they use most of their time looking for fertiliser

"The fertiliser has been very scarce as every farmer needs it, shops in Tabora Region have ran out of it, that is why we are forced to travel to Kahama to buy the input to rescue crops in our farms from withering due to lack of fertiliser," Anthony said.

Paul Mathias, a distributor of

Town said some farmers are with registration numbers that were not found in their system and sometimes if found, it reads different to the IDs of the farmers, creating doubts in regard to their authenticity.

He added that since the start of the distribution exercise of subsidized fertiliser, they have delivered more than 300 tonnes in Kagongwa Ward in Shinyanga Region and Mbogwe District in Geita Region and called on farmers to make sure they have the correct registration numbers for them to purchase subsidized fertiliser.

Meanwhile, KACU chairman, Hamisi Majogoro said there is enough fertiliser, but to reduce distance inconveniences facing farmers, he will make sure to send the fertiliser to primary cooperatives (AMCOS) countrywide.

He also said in the current farming season, KACU expects to produce more than 17 million kilos of tobacco while they only managed to produce 9 million kilos last season.

### TANOIL INVESTMENTS LIMITED

#### OFFER FOR SPOT PURCHASE OF CONDENSATE FROM SONGOSONGO

Date: 23rd December 2022

TANOIL INVESTMENTS, a TPDC subsidiary assigned to sell Songosongo Condensate hereby calls for expressions of interest from eligible firms (local or international) for purchase of 1650MT +/- 10% of condensate to be uplifted as a single lot. On top of obtaining the prospective buyer, the Seller intends to update the potential buyers' database. The projected uplifting Lay can is January 22nd to 27th 2022 subject to change; a confirmed uplifting date will be determined after considering other key factors. The most recent product's specification may be shared to interested buyers for reference. Where need be, the successful buyer will be allowed to draw sample and conduct analysis to verify specifications at his/her own cost.

For effective utilization, the seller prefers buyers with export market, andre-export or local buyers with approved permits (Buyers for local consumption or for re-export, must obtain EWURA Condensate dealership permit). For export, TANOIL Investments will process and issue export documents upon receipt of payments.

Fourteen days (14) before loading, inspection and vetting of the Vessel and Tug Boat nominated by the buyer will be undertaken by authorised Marine Surveyor/Engineer, appointed by the Seller. The inspector will also verify certificates, permits and/or approvals of the vessels. The successful buyer must mobilize and ensure the Vessel and the Tugboat are at site 24hrs and 48hrs respectively before the uplifting time for final inspection. Loading plans, arrangements and instructions will be set and agreed in the preloading operations meetings. Proposals from Applicants with pending issues/disputes with the Seller on condensate sale will not be considered. A Buyer must confirm interest and submit his/her proposal to TANOIL not later than on Thursday the 5th of January, 2023 at 11:00 hours. Proposal to be delivered physically, through registered mail or courier and reach the undersigned before deadline. The proposal must be accompanied by the buyers quote in a specific price form indicating price per (Metric ton) unit in USD and total value of the estimated volume. The proposal should be sealed; marked "Offer for spot purchase of condensate from Songo Songo" and addressed to:

General Manager, TANOIL INVESTMENTS, P.O. Box 77445, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. gmtanoil@tpdc.co,tz; operations@tanoil.co.tz;

Hard copies to be submitted to TANOIL OFFICES, TPDC ESTATE- MIKOCHENI. Tel: +255-753 333323.

#### **TERMS OF SALE**

No	Item	Terms
1	Price	<ul> <li>a)! FOB (SONGOSONGO) in USD/MT; (FOB quote to be accompanied by EWURA dealership License)</li> <li>b)! DAP (Export Destination) in USD/MT; (Indicate FOB separately for comparison with other offers; and actual delivery costs justified by supporting evidences).</li> <li>NB: i) Buyer's offer must be valid for 30 days from the date of submission.</li> </ul>
		ii) Buyer to quote either of the two.
		Buyer's PRICE FORM (in letterhead to evidence Unit price USD/MT and total Value in USD)
2	Mode of payment	Advance payment before delivery or Letter of Credit (Sight LC) issued and confirmed by a first-class bank. Other modes of advance payments like Cheques, cash deposits or Telegraphic transfer are acceptable.
3	Local taxes	Will be borne by the buyer.
4	Proposal details	The detailed proposal must comprise necessary information including: - a.! Application letter; Company profile; and Price form; b.! For qualifications and eligibility; submit licences, Registration Certificates, MEMARTS, TIN/VAT Certificates, permits and approvals from relevant bodies (EWURA, SUMATRA and BRELA etc.) including EWURA Condensate dealership license, also Hospitality/storage agreement. c.! Product utilization, final destination and evidence of its market; for local consumption and re-export, buyer must submit EWURA permit, dedicated storage approved by EWURA & commitment to submit returns to the Authority; d.! Evidence of Capacity to perform the task - experience of at least three (3) years in similar business; and financing capacity (Bank statement, and either Letter of Credit or Bank guarantee with validity not less than 30 days as payment security); e.! Evidence of hiring/engaging Vessel, mooring and Tugboats and assurance of timely availability at site (Evidence from service providers and approval from their relevant authorities). The buyer can submit proposal of two vessels and tugboats for vetting by the supplier.
5	Confirmation o	A Buyer must confirm interest and submit his/her proposal to TANOIL not later than
	interest	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at 11:00 hours at TANOIL offices located in TPDC ESTATES-

Notel: Songosongo terminal limitation include 4 meters draft; two un-lighting buoys distanced at 120m at the channel; mooring and berthing is during daylight only; proposed Vessel LOA 105m. Tugboat must have at least 5-ton bollard pull (a pull of >1.0kg per dead weight ton).

MIKOCHENI.

Buyer will be responsible with health, TRA and TPA clearances and port charges (wayleave and marine bills) all are facilitated by shipping agent or Clearing Agents.

#### TDB extends \$100mln financing to ETG to support smallholder farmers in Africa

THE Eastern and Southern African Trade Commodities Finance FZE-LLC (ACF), agricultural supply chain operators in Africa.

In addition to funding agricultural inputs such as seeds to smallholder farmers to increase crop production in member states, the facility will support ETG's purchase of sesame, coffee, cocoa, soybean, and cashew nuts from exporting smallholder farmers in TDB member states.

In a region where the majority of employment is in agriculture, 285,000 smallholders expected to benefit from value chain integration as a result, and 350,000 from training on good agricultural practices through various initiatives including this facility.

facility will The contribute to alleviating the impact of current supply chain disruptions, escalating inflation, and the urgent need for agricultural inputs and food across the region, as well as bridging the trade finance gap on the continent. Furthermore, it will facilitate intra and extra-regional trade flows, and boost forex revenues, to the benefit of member states' balance of payments.

Michael Awori, TDB CEO, said: "TDB is very pleased to extend this

and Development Bank facility to ETG. Through our longstanding of approximately 285,000 smallholder (TDB) has extended a relationship, we are contributing to farmers in the African region and work USD 100 million trade supporting food security in the region, towards building a sustainable future. finance facility to Agri building on sustainable and responsible ETG remains focused on uplifting practices, as well as sustaining income and market access for smallholder a subsidiary of the farmers. With over 50% of employment in Export Trading Group sub-Saharan Africa being in agriculture, (ETG), one of the largest TDB is a strong supporter of the sector. Currently, almost 20% of our portfolio is allocated in agriculture."

Anish Jain, ETG's Chief Treasury the importation of Officer, stated: "We are extremely grateful fertilisers and vital for the trade finance facility extended by TDB. This loan will help enhance agricultural value chains and livelihoods

farming communities by connecting smallholder farmers with international markets, expanding mechanization and processing capabilities, and increasing knowledge around quality inputs, irrigation, post-harvest techniques and yield-enhancing practices. The bank's support will allow ETG to strengthen and expand its operations across the agricultural value chain and will support access to critical fertilisers and food supplies across Africa."

increase student's awareness," he

Flora Simon, from Lieberman

primary school in Mbezi beach, Dar

es Salaam said that digital skills will

enable her to reach more students

through a programme aimed to

digital skills to enable them to use

programmes in computer to come

Africa Code Week is an initiative

that teaches digital literacy and

coding skills to young people,

working closely with private, public

and non-profit partners across

and men in ICT technology and

ICT related skills, enabling them

to engage better in a digitally

The project uses a 'train-the-

trainer' model, which has supported

trainers in the country since the

It empowers young women

up with solutions," she said.

"We empower students with

offer practical skills.

said.

Africa.

connected society.



#### **Braeburn International School Arusha**

### **JOB VACANCY**

Due to expansion, we are looking for an additional teaching assistant. You must have a Tanzanian teaching certificate or diploma and have a minimum of 2 years teaching experience with 2-5 year olds.

You should also be highly motivated, caring and work well as part of a team.

#### Closing date: 30th December 2022

Applicants should send a letter of application, CV with referees and copies of certificates to;

recruitment@braeburn.sc.tz

# Guardia.com

FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER 2022

Taking A New Look **At The News ESTABLISHED IN 1995** 

#### Ministry projections right, supply side interventions sure to tame food prices

THE habit and expertise are battling for airtime and space to present this or that view of what is happening in the food price situation, with the sharp though not unrelenting price rises in staples as the bone of contention. Now, a top ministerial official in the Investment, Industry and Trade portfolio has sought to shade the light on the issue, especially to counter voices seeking control of the situation by applying habitual methods of blocking exports of staples. It is a key aspect of the traditionalist 'comfort zone,' not just with food staples but troubled chicks trade.

The point the ministerial official raised was that food prices are likely to fall as irrigation, input use widens on account of energetic interventions of the sixth phase government during this year's budget. The crucial parameter was the vast rise in budgetary allocations to agriculture, rising from 200bn/in the previous year to 900bn/-, and when this is translated into a firmer base in grain production, there is no reason why vast increase of supplies won't be registered. Facts don't cheat.

What the ministerial administrator was suggesting was that it is a matter of patience for grain and other staples to stabilise, as irrigation for instance covers more than direct staples, and often not focusing on staplers but other strategic crops. There is plenty of competition as to which crops ought to be planted on specific irrigated acreage, and thus growth there is likely to be gradual, but as plans are already being implemented, the results will be there within this financial year. Budgeting is a strategic activity and when the change in allocation is as vast as that, nearly comparable results ought to be expected in acreage,

inputs use, yields.

There is one sphere of policy focus dispute between traditionalists and reformists on the issue, where critics of government policy or simply of the situation figure out that the problem is the rise in prices, a position rejected as far back as 2019 or thereabouts, during the fifth phase presidency. The late Dr John Magufuli told critics that if they feel the price of maize is too low, they can take out bank loans, put vast acreage under maize cultivation and sell the produce at low prices. Put differently, farmers have a right to sell at the price they can fetch, like all others.

One important parameter of farmers getting the right prices for their produce is the liberalization of  $cross\,border\,trade\,with\,members\,of$ the East African Community on the one hand, and the Southern Africa Development Community on the other hand.

Since 1982 agro-sector experts have insisted that markets need to be free so that investment in agriculture can take root, as investors can predict external demand with limited levels of accuracy. What investors can't do is to predict policy moods if the sector isn't liberalised and the protocols prove to be binding.

So, those who talk about prices being too high are failing to realise that there is another side to the balance, that with rising farming sector income, a lot of other things become possible. At the same time a cursory check on budgetary inputs shows that gross incomes are also rising, new earning opportunities are opening up, and thus the price of grain can never be high than ability to buy. If the price rise is substantial, it means that we also getting large amounts of funds selling grain to the region, so with wider acreage due to irrigation, prices will not be rising again.

### Small traders have a point on scrapping loan age limit rule

MALL traders in the capital modern market have lodged an appeal to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, first on having a bus terminal at the market to boost business, and then to alter rules on accessing municipal loans, now only accessible by those below 35 years of age. A leader of the Dodoma District Small Traders Association said they would like to take up loans provided by municipal authorities but the main obstacle is the age rule. It would be more convenient if it is scrapped.

There was something refreshing about remarks elicited from traders' leaders and a number of others, especially the feeling that the removal of small traders from city streets to big markets could be yielding fruit already. They were grateful to the government for building the modern market, while noting that working capital challenge they generally face. Still from a business startOup point of view their concern is positive but only secondary to what is already working, or what they admit to be working properly, namely a better trading environment, and profit.

When a trader has good space for working and is already on his feet, issues of operating capital scarcely arise, because it is supposed to be generated by the business itself. That is how loan arrangements work, that a trader can borrow a portion of the trading goods after paying a portion of the total, and then return what remains on restocking the goods from the same source. At times it is a formal credit arrangement especially between informal groups, or instant loans on mobile phone that have mushroomed all over the place. The government may just skip it.

On the other hand, it is undeniable that the age limit rule is frustrating for those who see the municipal loans channel as better compared to other sources. In that case the concerned authorities can look around to see how far such a change would be positive or workable, as the municipal loans aren't a routine financing channel where rules of 'first come first served' ought to apply. The facility is specifically designed for the disabled, startup youth, women nursing young families or others.

The traders expect that their bus terminal concern was already being worked upon and a clear result already intimated, that buses take up that zone as a terminal, by design. This was already a big plus for the way that President Samia Suluhu Hassan is supervising the way the government administers its finances, as a continuation fifth phase government effectiveness. If there is any respite in ardent supervision, appeals for infrastructure improvement won't be implemented.

It is not clear how much of a change there already is, but the market which became operational on November 1 is housing 3,200 traders so far. Many used to operate in the open with biting inconveniences, including operating unprotected from rains. This has led to a decline in apprehensions of small traders on designs of the top authorities on their role in the economy, as it now looks they can operate from markets, either specially designed or as an extension of central markets. They can find other ways of solving problems, like bonding with suppliers, or mobile loans.

**The Guardian Limited Key Contacts** 

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON 0757154767 General line: 0745700710

E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

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### Gender parity at the UN willfully ignores the facts

By Sanam Naraghi Anderlini

HERE are two sides to the problem of gender parity at the United Nations. On the one hand, member states need to appoint more women to their senior ambassadorial ranks. There is always tremendous competition for the post of UN ambassador, especially if a member state is on the UN security Council.

It's a pipeline question for the member states. To reach that level of seniority, a diplomat has to have the years of service. It will likely take time for countries to have the flow through of women ambassadors. So, the UN Secretary-General (SG) is correct in putting the onus on member states to change or accelerate their systems.

By Othello B. Garblah

ESPITE its external debt standing at a staggering figure of 1097.23 USD million in the second quarter of 2022 from 1061.90 USD million in the first quarter of 2022, Liberia continues to progress under the International Monetary Fund programme.

The progress under the IMF regime comes on the back of prevailing global economic challenges characterised by the lingering effects of COVID-19 and the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

The country continues to enjoy macroeconomic stability, largely due to the continuous policy advice and technical support from the IMF.

Liberia's enrollment under the current IMF program was not without a rocky start though, but priorities set by the IFM mission team under the George Weahled Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) administration have continued to provide some form of macroeconomic stability for now.

In its fifth review of a fourvear arrangement under the IMF Extended Credit Facility ECF), the IMF Mission noted that Liberia continues to enjoy macroeconomic stability, largely due to the continuous policy advice and technical support it continues to provide.

The fifth review which was held in Monrovia from October 31 to November 11, 2022, was led by mission chief Christoph Klingen with discussions surrounding the macroeconomic and financial situation of the country.

During the review process, the team also evaluated the program performance thus far, as against the end-September 2022 performance within the UN itself.

In the last 5 years, many governments notably the UK, Italy, the Scandinavians have sponsored the regional women's mediation networks. For example. I'm a member of the Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth (WMC).

The vision was to identify women with the requisite skills and experience in mediation efforts and provide a new pathway into senior UN positions particularly as Envoys and mediation work. In the WMC we have 50 amazingly experienced women from across Commonwealth nations.

Similarly, the Mediterranean Women's Mediation Network has members from that region. For senior positions, our governments have to support our candidacy, and they have done so.

That said, there is still a problem because when it comes to they need to look for us in civil Washington DC.

determining eligibility, their criteria still include things like '15 years of UN experience'. Well, the whole point is that most of us have gained experience outside of the UN bureaucracy or as expert consultants with the UN, but not as UN staff.

We bring a wealth of other valuable expertise, yet the skill and knowledge that outsiders might bring seems of less value to the recruiters, than then traditional institutional knowledge. As a result, the female candidates that member states might endorse, are blocked by the UN.

If they are serious about having more women in the peace and security sector, particularly women with the relevant experience in inclusive and gender responsive peacemaking, But the UN system is a blockage, security humanitarian work,

society. This is where most of the innovation has happened and is happening.

The work being done by women on the ground and lessons sharing that goes on through our networks is invaluable. It is exactly what the UN needs to be more fit for purpose. It is also the path towards actual reform and renovation of the UN architecture and practice.

But it can only happen if the member states and the UN leadership and bureaucracy have the vision, political will and willingness to change their recruitment priorities and practices.

Anyone claiming they can't find the women, is willfully ignoring the

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE, Founder & CEO, International Civil Society Action Network in

### Liberia's progress under IMF programme

criteria and indicative targets as maintain the current contractionary well as structural benchmarks.

However, during the review, IMF also set priorities for the future (in terms of policies and the economic growth outlook) after evaluating how government policies may affect growth, economic stability, and desirable stabilization adjustments in the short to medium term.

Keyindividuals with which the IMF Mission Team held consultations included Central Bank Executive Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue and Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel D. Tweah, as well as development partners, private sector representatives and senior government officials.

The IMF observed that the Central Bank of Liberia's (CBL's) Research, Policy and Planning Department downwardly revised its economic growth projection for 2022 from its previous projection of 4.5 percent to an estimated 3.7 per cent (in real terms) on the back of a slowdown in key primary and secondary economic sectors, mainly the mining sector.

However, it further noted that GDP in 2023 is expected to increase to 4.7 per cent, as economic activity in agriculture and fisheries, forestry, mining & panning subsectors as well as manufacturing and services related activities are expected to experience stronger growth.

authorities committed to fighting inflation and achieving single-digit rate of inflation (at most 5 percent - which is in line with the ECOWAS threshold) in the medium term. In this regard, and as will be testament in the upcoming 3rd quarter monetary

monetary policy stance, while being mindful to strike a balance between price stability and the promotion of economic growth." IMF Mission Team said.

It was quick to add though that average inflation outlook for 2022 which was projected at 7.2 is expected to increase to 8.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, the team explained that it is the view of the authorities that the path of inflation will depend largely on the stability of the domestic currency, economic diversification, increased domestic production of rice, public tax policies on key commodities (i.e., petroleum products and other consumables), increasing energy supply and accelerating infrastructural developments including farm to market roads.

Under the program, IMF Mission team observed that Liberia has met all quantitative performance criteria (PC) except three.

The three according to the mission include the floor on the primary fiscal balance, (ii) the floor on international reserves of the CBL and (iii) the ceiling on CBL gross direct credit to government.

Liberia is also said to have missed two out of four structural benchmarks for end of September. These, IMF said include (i) submitting amendments of the Financial Institutions Act (FIA) of 1999 to the Legislature, and (ii) submitting the audit report for the FY2020/21 budget to the Legislature. Some progress has been made to implement the TSA and prepare the needed legislation to reduce large tax expenditures. The authorities are committed to following policy meeting, the intention is to through on the missed structural

benchmarks in November 2022, before Liberia goes to the Board.

Fiscal policy and PFM reforms The Fund explained that

deliberations between staff and authorities on fiscal policy matters concentrated on two areas, (i) the outturn for 2022 as at the end of September and (ii) updates on the 2023 budget preparation.

It was observed that the primary fiscal balance through September 2022 reflects a budget deficit that breaches the quantitative target set in the program for that month.

"The breach reflects an overall expenditure overrun in the order of around US\$60 million. Conversely, the authorities have met the end-September indicative targets for revenues and on-budget investment of US\$473 million and US\$48 million, respectively.

They also met the PV target for new external loans. Thus, the higher deficit does not come from a revenue shortfall but rather from higher spending.

Preliminary evidence suggests that both investment spending and spending on goods and services are the major drivers of the expenditure overrun, with the latter taking the lion's share. To strengthen public financial management, the authorities are committed to enhancing the capacity of the Internal Audit Agency (IAA) and ensuring greater coordination between the IAA and the budget office." The Fund said.

The Fund notes that Liberia plan to push ahead with reducing the budget deficit and has begun engaging spending entities and provided indicative ceilings. To be

# To have it easy at varsity, practise and master the art of public speaking

S the New Year approaches, you should be getting used to the new college semester as a first year university student. Although you have been speaking publicly all your life, it will be different as you deliver presentations in front of your colleagues.

Well, college life yields almost a very interesting experience for any student. College has exposed each and every person to their fears and strengths all at the same time and has formally introduced a big number of students, myself included, to one of their biggest fear: the art of public speaking.

There's a popular joke that funeral attendants wish they were the corpse than stand amongst the mourners to read the eulogy. All this springs from the fear of public speaking literally.

Just before joining college, we all had presentations here and there but still managed to get through at ease due to the small number of students we had to present to. When students get high up the ladder at college and universities, the stakes seem much higher and voices seem much smaller mostly when standing in front of a very big crowd of students.

There's just something about standing up in front of a lecture hall of 50 peo-





ple or more and presenting yourself as a knowledgeable person. Sitting in my financial accounting class one day back when I was in my first year of college, the professor

"For your final project, you will be researching a nonprofit organization, writing a paper on it and presenting it in front of the class in formal attire."

Oh no! It wasn't the formal attire that had students go nervous, but the impending presentation that would circulate over their heads like an albatross for the rest of the semester.

I slowly looked around me just to count how many

heads would be staring at me as I presented come that dreadful day. How many students are in here? These thoughts haunted me until the day of the presentation.

The D-day arrived and as the other students presented, I breathed in and out heavily, trying to push the negative thoughts out of my head. I thought to myself how simple speaking was because we actually start speaking at age one, start walking soon after and actually learn to breathe right out of our mothers' wombs.

It should not be such difficult to stand and talk in front of a crowd. These thoughts lingered in my head so much that eventually encouraged me and gave me the energy to push myself out of my seat to the front of the lecture

From the front of the class, I stared into the wondrous a class of 50 PLUS stueyes of 50 plus students. The intellectual minds of my fellow peers were now transformed into judges with robes, funny though. I feared for my safety because I viewed them as judges who held ultimate powers to decide whether I did well enough to appease the professor into awarding me a that presentation was like high grade for the topic or not.

Would they shackle me and throw me in a cell for being a blubbering idiot during my presentation? I said a

silent prayer; I prayed that I don't make a fool of myself. These presentation things aren't predictable mostly because a slip of the tongue could make you a goner.

I started speaking enthusiastically about my topic of discussion. It was a powerful topic, and I wanted to convey everything I had learned about. This enthusiasm, however, was stomped out by the big, bad anxiety monster. I struggled with focusing on my materials and began to wonder what my listeners were thinking.

She's so weird, they'd think. Does she even know what she's talking about? Did that guy just yawn? These thoughts got to my head as my hands began to shake, my voice trembled and I eventually lost my train of thought.

So, what do you do when you're in front of dents, all eyes are on you and your nerves have a tight choke? Well, I didn't know. I fumbled through my note cards and quickly checked through my slides, while my voice cracked with every other word I spoke.

As vividly as I can recall, running for the first time after a long holiday. To the end, I was tired and out of shape. Is it possible to go throughout college without having to give another

presentation? I asked myself several times. The truth to this thought became the large red pill that I had to swallow all through my entire studies in college as it was a major strategy used for class lectures. Eventually, I managed to get a good grade in the class.

After that presentation I came to one conclusion: in order for any student to fight the fear of judgment in any presentation, they need to practise speaking in front of large groups more often. The more of this exposure one has, the less public speaking would make any of them shake with the thought of

I personally came up with a plan to connect with other students with social anxiety to learn different ways to cope. I got involved with a college support group that became a sounding board to all of the problems we had. This was just fine helping out each student with public speaking anxieties. Eventually, as I got to my third year I had mastered public speaking well enough and recommend students and everyone else to practise and master public speaking.

Public speaking will not only put your foot in the door but it will also get things done, proper communication is vital in all aspects of life not only in college presentations.

By Siri Abihudi and Pankras Luoga

communities in Tanzania and beyond due to its real and perceived medicinal benefits. And most of herbalists and traders show its presence in their products so as to convince consumers that the products are natural with no

This way, many people are caught in the trap and get to buy the advertised products said to have ingredients of aloe vera. Therefore, it is important that people to understand the history and other important information on aloe vera.

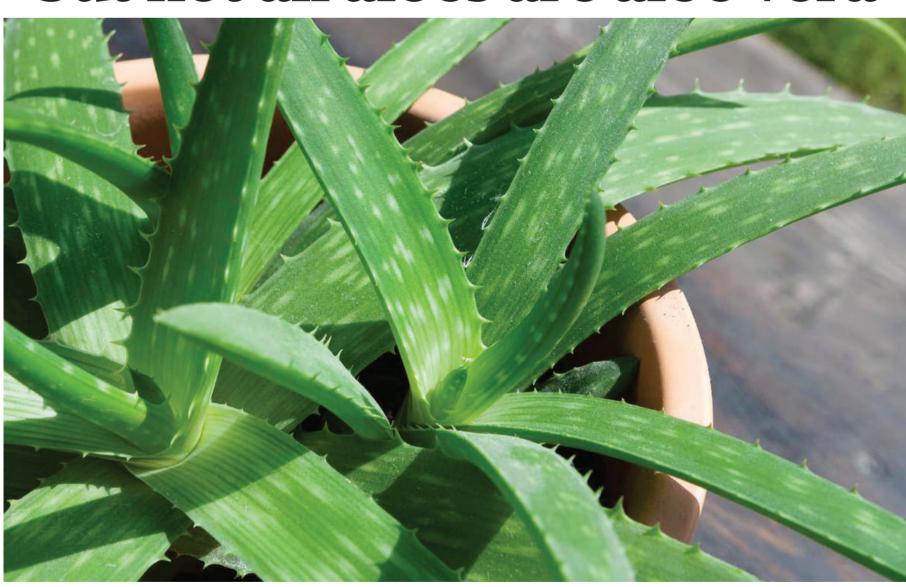
The most important piece of information is that there are many species of the plant. This is contrary to common used phrases like 'just use aloe vera and you will be cured,'

The main question is which species of aloe plant is good for the problem at hand? Mind you, every species of aloe is different from the other even though they may look similar. In fact, they test differently. For instance, some of the aloe plants are bitter and some are neutral.

#### Aloe species in Tanzania and their nature

Aloe (Shubiri), are the green succulent plants that can be easily distinguished from other species by their fleshy and saw-like leaves. Aloe is the most commonly known species in Tanzania and there are about 630 species of Aloe worldwide. In Tanzania, we have 52 species of which 24 can only be found in Tanzanian mainland, two are found in Zanzibar and the remaining species are trans-

## It is consumers' favourite herb but not all aloes are aloe vera



bordering other countries.

Their succulent nature provides high physiological and structural adaptation to the arid environment. The juicy nature of the leaves allows high storage of water to be held in the mucilage as gel. Most of the species in the genus give yellow exudate when the leaf is cut. The gel and the yellowish exudate always contain chemical compounds that are a potential source of medicine to various communities, although some turn to be poisonous. In Tanzania, only two species have been reported to be poisonous and others need to be taken in small dose.

#### The use of aloe species and the famous name aloe vera

The aloe plant has one of the longest histories of use in traditional medicine worldwide, dating back to the Sumerians (BC 2100). Many African societies use aloe species in their immediate surroundings for a wide variety of purposes, most notably human and veterinary medicine, cosmetics, hedging, fencing, brewing, weaning children from breast-

feeding and in traditional rituals.

To date, the use of aloe species is widespread in traditional and pharmaceutical medicine due to their potential for dealing with animal diseases as well as human health conditions such as inflammation, arthritis, diabetes as well as bacterial and fungal infections.

Since majority of people, especially the young ones refer to all aloe species as aloe vera rather than using local names, the use of aloe species in vernacular languages and Kiswahili names is declining. For the majority of the

people, this now serves as the common name for any aloe spe-

cies encountered in the country. Threat and conservation of aloe

With the exception of aloe vera which is extensively cultivated, the genus aloe is now threatened by illegal collection and trade due to high demand for it as a medicine and for production of commercial products. It is shocking to learn that about one-fourth (23 per cent) of species of aloe are threatened, according to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

A study conduucted in Tanzania by Fredrick Ojija and others (2022) on distribution, habitat and conservation status of critically endangered aloes in Tanzaniam and published in South African Journal of Botany, listed some endangered aloe species as aloe boscawenii, aloe flexilifolia, aloe leptosiphon and aloe dorotheae.

Another study done by Siri A. Abihudi and others (2021) on conservation status revision and communities' perceptions of 22 aloe species in Tanzania reported that 22 aloe species were in danger of disappearing in the country. Some of the causes are human activities such as deliberate fires, expansion of agricultural land into areas with natural resources, human settlements and overexploitation which all pose threats to aloe species.

Aloe species can be saved from extinction in the wild if they are cultivated in backyards and farms. Available research can help policymakers decide which of the many endangered aloe species which deserve protection with emphasis on local actions as suggested in the study by Ojija on the measures to be taken to save aloe species that are at the brink of extinction. Considering the scarcity of available resources and the large number of endangered aloe species, it is crucial to prioritize conservation efforts.

Siri Abihudi is Assistant Lecturer, Institute of Traditional Medicine at Muhimbili University of Health and allied Sciences (MUHAS) and Pankras Luoga is Assistant Lecturer in Health Systems Management, Project Management, Monitoring and Health-MUHAS.

# Biogas spreads among Cuban families as an alternative energy

By Luis Brizuelo

AYRA Rojas is one of a small but growing number of people in Cuba benefiting from the production of biogas, a renewable energy source still little used in a country highly dependent on fossil fuels.

The biodigester in the back of her house in the rural community of Carambola, Candelaria municipality in the province of Artemisa, 80 kilometers west of Havana, brings Rojas the benefits of not using firewood and electricity for cooking, with the consequent reduction in electric bills and cooking time.

It was built in 2011 with the help of her husband Edegni Puche, who worked in the installation of the gas pipes and other aspects.

Rojas and Puche, who raise pigs and grow fruits and vegetables on their small family farm, were advised by specialists from the Cuban Society for the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources and Respect for the Environment (Cubasolar) and the Movement of Biogas

Rojas also received materials from the municipal government and the local pig company to build the small-scale Chinese-type fixeddome biodigester of about six cubic meters in

She estimates that the total cost of the project ranged between 500 and 600 dollars at the exchange rate at the time.

Construction costs depend on the size, type and thickness of the material, as well as the characteristics of the site.



However, experts estimate that the average minimum cost for the construction of a small-scale biodigester - which more than covers the cooking needs of a household - currently stands at around 1,000 dollars in a country with an average monthly salary equivalent to 160 dollars at the official exchange rate.

Rojas says that "before, when we ment that provides methane gas as cleaned the pens, the manure, urine and waste from the pigs' food piled up in the open air, in a corner of the yard. It stank and there were a lot of

The organic matter is now decomposed anaerobically by bacteria, but in a closed, non-polluting environ-

an energy resource, instead of releasing it into the atmosphere.

Thanks to the alternative energy source Rojas can also keep her nails painted and her hair clean for long-

It also helped her husband and two young children become more involved in household chores, cleaning the yard and taking care of the animals on the family farm, "and created greater awareness of environmental care."

In addition, biogas technology provides biol and biosol - liquid effluent and sludge, respectively which are ideal for fertilizing and restoring soils, "as well as watering and keeping plants green," says Rojas, who has a lush garden where she grows varieties of exotic orchids.

Her biodigester has also proven useful to the community, because when there are blackouts due to tropical cyclones that frequently affect the island, "neighbors have come to heat up water and cook their food," she adds.

There are an estimated 5,000 biodigesters in Cuba, with the potential to expand the network to 20,000 units, at least the small-scale ones, according to conservative estimates by experts.

More than 90 percent of Cuba's electricity comes from burning fossil fuels in aging thermoelectric plants and diesel and fuel oil engines, in a nation where a significant percentage of the 3.9 million homes use electric power as the main energy source for cooking and heating water for bathing.

# The Trap: A ourney from Afghanistan to Europe

**KABUL & ATHENS** 

aliha looks confident in a café in Athens as she tells the story of her journey from Afghanistan to Europe. But as she starts recounting how a smuggler assaulted her in Turkey two years ago, she pauses, looking the other way and fiddling with her loose hair.

It makes her anxious when she remembers it. She was traveling alone and soon realized she was the only woman on board a bus to the border with Greece.

"[The smuggler] told me to get off. He wanted me to himself." With unusual strength, the young woman managed to escape as the man was trying to rape her. Still shaken, she tried to report the crime to the local police, but she felt they were more concerned about her status as an illegal migrant than the attempted rape. "Luckily, I had a contact on Facebook [who is] a cousin who I knew lived in Turkey but whom I never met." He happened to live near that police station, and he convinced the officials to let

Now Maliha lives in Athens as a "free woman" - a fact that she remarks upon while wearing leggings and no head covering.

The violence experienced by Mahila is not an isolated case. An investigation into the journey of Afghan women from their home country to Europe carried out in Afghanistan, Turkey and Greece has revealed a pattern of systematic violence throughout, their vulnerability heightened by lack of documents and money. Women, some traveling alone or only with their children, pay to get to Europe only to become victims of trafficking and sex slaves.

According to 31-year-old Aila, an Afghan refugee and former Médecins sans Frontières worker in refugee camps in Athens, "some 90% of women suffer a form of violence during the journey."

"When your life is in the hands of smugglers," continues Aila, "it's not up to you to decide whom to stay with, what to do, where to go: it's the smuggler who decides. Even if you are with your family or the members of your family, he can still threaten you with a weapon, and if he wants to separate you from them, he'll do it".

Afghans are now the second largest group of asylum seekers in the EU after Ukrainians, but the flow of asylum seekers started well before the Taliban takeover of Kabul in August 2021. According to the International Organization for Migration, nearly 77,000 women and girls were registered at arrival by sea and by land in Europe between 2018 and 2020, making up 20 percent of total arrivals. Women make up an increasing percentage of asylum requests globally, all facing gender-based risks.

The reasons behind Afghans' search for a safe place run deep in a country torn by decades of war. Social and financial restrictions within a deeply patriarchal society and the hope for a better life abroad had already pushed many to leave the country even before the arrival of the

However, the challenges of the journey can be harrowing. "I remember traveling with a 10-year-old and her grandmother," Aila recalls. "During the journey, her grandmother died, and she was handed over to the trafficker," says Aila, describing one of the most traumatic epi-



Afghan refugees picnic in a park in Athens Their journeys to Europe dangerous. Credit: Sara Perria/IPS

sodes she witnessed.

"Was she raped? Of course. For them, she was a woman".

The risks are so stacked against women that word of mouth has led to the development of 'survival' techniques, such as dressing up as a man. Aila says she put on a similar short jacket, jeans, and sneakers to that of other boys. "I kept my hair hidden under my cap. And when the trafficker gave me his hand to get on the boat, he said, "Hey, boy." I didn't answer. "Never talk to traffickers," is the second 'tip' dispensed by Aila.

Acceptance rates of Afghan asylum seekers are now high, especially in countries such as Spain and Italy, with 100% and 95% in 2021, respectively, and 80% in Greece, the first EU frontier for the many who come after spending months or years in Turkey or Iran.

Yet getting adequate assistance after suffering abuse, rape and forced prostitution is a different story. The violence suffered often doesn't get

denounced by the police due to cultural or linguistic barriers and the stigma surrounding rape or forced prostitution. Lack of adequate protection in Europe is also a reason, so NGOs set up by fellow Afghans try to

step in. Months of interviews with Afghan asylum seekers in Afghanistan, Turkey, and Europe expose the extent of the danger for women who embark on a journey organized by smugglers. Direct witnesses' accounts and NGO transcripts, seen exclusively by this reporter, reveal a pattern of how women - and in particular Afghans belonging to ethnic minorities - fall into a 'trap' of violence.

Freshta spent years between Iran and Turkey with a sick brother before eventually succeeding in reaching a refugee camp in Greece and then a place in Athens hosted by a friend. However, her attempts to find a job and become independent soon turned into a prolonged series of tortured experiences. The possibility of asking for help was radically reduced by her illegal status and I was full of pain and didn't know

lack of documents.

"One day, I was in a café with my friend, and she introduced me to this man. We only knew that he was a trafficker of Iraqi nationality." He, himself a refugee, knew very well how vulnerable women like Freshta are. "He started following me and kept saying that I should go with him." Her constant rejections didn't work. On the contrary, he threatened to kill her brother, who was still in the refugee camp - a sign of the long reach of influence traffickers can call upon.

One day, despite attempts to protect herself, hiding for days at a friend's house, the man managed to kidnap her and take her to her apartment. He then hit her on the head, threatening her with a knife pointed at her stomach and forcing her to get into his car. At that moment, Freshta became a slave, first suffering violent rape, with beatings that made her pass out because she also suffered from asthma.

"When I woke up, he wasn't there.

what to do; I was in shock. I went to the bathroom, got washed, dressed, and cried."

Upon his return, the trafficker told her that she now belonged to him. If she went out and told anyone what had happened, then he would kill

Freshta managed to hide at her friend's again, but again the man managed to take her by force, beating her and locking her up at home for weeks, repeatedly raping her. Freshta got pregnant. "He told me I couldn't do anything because he had become a Greek citizen, and I was nothing; I didn't have any document."

It took many weeks and the help of an association to allow her to report the incident. She had an abortion. The woman has since been moved by the Greek government to a secure facility in an undisclosed location.

To add to Freshta's tragic testimony is the fact that, as the operator of an NGO in Athens explains, "There are many cases of sexual slavery like this, which are not reported by the victims because they are afraid of being stigmatized and of their lack of documents." The perpetrators of the violence can be fellow nationals, generally belonging to a different ethnic group and, to a lesser extent, other nationalities.

The lack of support is accentuated by a form of class distinction within the refugee community and by the way resources are thus distributed, according to some of the Afghan women interviewed in Athens. "The refugees who arrived in Europe through the evacuation program [in Kabul] consider themselves 'different' from those who arrived here on foot, with the traffickers. And they are also treated differently by the authorities," says Aila.

While for men, the lack of documents, money, and a family network leads more easily to labor exploitation, women can often fall victim to sexual exploitation. Some women are "passed from trafficker to trafficker," says Aila, while the local association also reports cases of forced prostitution just outside the camps. But even in the aftermath of a violent attack, NGOs are worried about the short time women are allowed to spend in safe structures, as well as the limited space available there. Resources do not meet the seriousness and extent of the problem.

"When they asked me if I wanted to report the man [who kept me as a slave], I said yes, but only if I had a safe place to stay first," says Freshta. "I was so desperate that I left behind everything I had."

# Why fish farming on Lake Volta needs radical rethink

By Efua Konvim Okai

S the leader of the Norway-Ghana Initiative (NORGHATI), which launched in 2015, Dr Cudjoe has played a key role in the development of aquaculture in Ghana and Africa. However, he recently flagged up the need to save Lake Volta and Africa's other key fresh water resources, because they face threats to their ecosystems, and to the livelihoods of millions of Africans who depend on them.

Born in the Volta Region, Dr Cudjoe grew up to love the culture and environment of the lake - which accounts for up to 90 percent of the country's aquaculture output.

The Norway-Ghana Tilapia Initiative (NORGHATI) was founded in 2015 and is working to develop Ghana's tilapia industry

"My parents were fisherfolk. The livelihoods of today's fisherfolk are under threat by so-called strategies which, if not properly thought through, will render the basis of their livelihood, Lake Volta, degraded due to pollution and diseases that threaten the aquatic environment and all natural aquatic animal life," he explains.

This was most tragically reflected by the outbreak of infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus (ISKNV), which devastated the lake's tilapia farms in 2018-2019.

"The ISKN virus outbreak was a very nasty experience which set our aquaculture back several years, at a time when we were trying to intensify aquaculture to close the gap between our fish demand and supply, so that we could reduce our fish import bill," he explains.

And he also cites the recent mass tilapia mortalities in Lake Victoria as another warning.

"In East Africa, we have recently had an unfortunate problem with fish mortalities. Let me be very frank. These experiences will certainly happen again, if we do not take appropriate measures, as a matter of urgency," he



We want to make shortterm gains from aquaculture production, but the lake is a living entity that has a tolerance limit and needs to be protected

Dr Cudjoe is aware of Lake Volta's advantages for cage farming, but he is also concerned by the range of pressures on Africa's great lakes.

"The very size of these water bodies presents major challenges. All kinds of materials find their way to the lake - pesticides and other agricultural waste, industrial waste, human waste from the many communities dotted across the lake. These are formidable problems, even when you have good biosecurity or environmental management strategies in place, which we have not had. We want to make short-term gains from aquaculture production, but the lake is a living entity that has a tolerance limit and needs to be protected," he

The second Ghana National Aquaculture Development Plan (2023-2027) has just been launched, with a clear emphasis on making improvements in the sector's environmental sustainability, and Dr Cudjoe is cautiously optimistic about the scheme.

Africa's great lakes are under multiple pressures from run-off and pollution, which makes farming difficult

"It is certainly commendable. I have been involved in the development of the fish health management aspects of the plan. We must enforce the observance of environmental and fish health standards by fish farmers, and we must check foreign operators, who are harming our aq-

uaculture business and our environment. But remember that the bulk of pollution going into the lake emanates from farming, industrial and other activities outside the purview of our aquaculture authorities. A holistic environmental management strategy must be devised and enforced as soon as possible. I believe it is time to take some bold measures to protect the lake," he argues.

"Escapes of unauthorised cultured fish can introduce disease which can devastate wild fish stocks and directly affect the livelihoods of arti-

sanal fishermen," he adds. However, he also argues that the country's philosophy on aquaculture needs to fundamentally change.

"We must de-emphasise large-scale aquaculture production, especially on Lake

Volta. It is a multi-purpose resource with many users. It is a major drinking water source. Diverse unregulated commercial activities and practices are detrimental to the lake environment. Uncontrolled and unregulated setting up of cage farms without regard to the lake's carrying capacity, will lead to nutrient pollution, losses due to introduced disease-causing agents and the creation of conditions which will not allow aquatic animal life to thrive," Dr Cudjoe argues.

Cudjoe believes that pond farming beside the lake could offer a more environmentally sustainable alternative to cage culture

And he believes that pond farming beside the lake could offer a more environmentally sustainable alternative to cage culture.

or oxygen that may not be at optimum levels. Wastewater from farm operations must in a like manner be treated to remove solids in the form of faecal materials and unconsumed feed. In addition, wastewater needs nitrogen removal through denitrification processes before being returned into the lake. Such simple measures can prevent economic loss through mass fish mortalities and protect the aquatic environment," he elaborates. We can get things right in Ghana, and Africa, by placing an emphasis on sustainabil-

land-based operations, bore-

hole water is safe for use but

needs water quality moni-

toring to check for soil con-

taminants and adjust for pH

ity and fish health management and by dealing with the illegal operations of foreign operators in our water bod-

However, Dr Cudjoe does not recommend the wholesale application of this practice across Africa.

"Instead of farming directly

on the lake, small- or medi-

um-scale farmers can draw

water from the lake, treat it

and farm in ponds or other

suitable media, and plough

it back to the lake after treat-

ing the wastewater. This way,

they start out with clean wa-

ter, and return clean water to

the lake, preserving its integ-

lake must be treated with

sand filtration systems incor-

porating activated charcoal

for solid and toxin removal

and disease prevention. To

kill off disease causing agents,

the water could be further

treated with UV-light or ozone

before using it for land-based

aquaculture operations. It

might be advantageous to

pump the water further into

a reservoir for oxygenation

before use. Alternatively, for

"Water pumped from the

rity," he argues.

"In some parts of Ghana our formerly rich rivers and lakes have been polluted by illegal mining, and I would not recommend deploying such water resources in aquaculture," he notes.

Despite his concerns Dr Cudjoe believes that it is not

too late to make a change. "We can get things right in Ghana, and Africa, by placing an emphasis on sustainability and fish health management and by dealing with the illegal operations of foreign operators in our water bodies. Aquaculture can provide jobs, especially in the rural areas where they are really needed. And of course, it is one of the best vehicles for advancing food security. It is the best means of providing protein in Africa," he con-

#### **SOUBRE**, Ivory Coast

N a small coplantain the southwest of Ivory Coast, a group of men hack away at the yellow and red fruit used to make chocolate.

farmers The against time, working tirelessly on individual plots of land to collect as many cocoa beans as possible during the West African country's main harvest season, between October and March.

A smaller harvest begins in April. However, erratic rains caused by climate change have dampened the group's spirits as some fear they will harvest less than expected.

"I have to support a family of eight people, and I will only make around \$1,200 to \$1,500 from this year's harvest," said Eugene Kouassi, tending a two-acre plot in Soubre, a town in the heart of Ivory Coast's cocoa land. For most smallholders like him, cocoa farming is their sole source of income. "This money has to last for most of the year,"

Cocoa farmers in the region are on the "front lines of the climate crisis", according to West Africa director of the Rainforest Alliance, Siriki Diakite. And when their harvests suffer, so do their liveli-

This is further compounded by how little they are paid per kilogramme for their crop,

something the Ivorian government has been trying to tackle as it fails to force the world's multibillion-dollar chocolate industry to pay farmers fairer cocoa prices.

Ivory Coast produces around 45 percent of the world's cocoa beans, but receives only around four

cost of around \$32.

mum profit'

tempts by the Ivorian government to make chocolatiers pay premiums on the price of cocoa have failed as large companies push back on anything that will eat into their

and Ghana - which supply dustry meeting in Brussels, a sign that they will no longer sell the commodity at unfavourable

"The chocolate companies want to accumulate the maximum profit," Ivory Coast's minister of agriculture, Kobenan Adjoumani Kouassi said. "And when they prioritise profit, it is poor people

percent of the chocolate industry's estimated annual worth of \$100bn. Millions of cocoa farm-

ers in the country survive on an average of just \$0.78 a day, according to the World Economic Forum. For context, 1kg of Leo-

nidas chocolate, a popular upmarket brand in Europe, would take Kouassi around 45 days of work to be able to purchase at a

'Companies want maxi-

Since 2020, several at-

In October, Ivory Coast 65 percent of the world's cocoa - boycotted an in-

# Cocoa farmers extract cocoa beans at a plantation in Ivory Coast



who suffer. They have to understand that it is exploita-

tion, and it needs to stop." In 2020, both West African countries introduced the Living Income Differential (LID) - a \$400 premium placed on every tonne of cocoa transferred directly to the smallholder farmers. The chocolate companies pay the premiums to traders that purchase the beans from large collectives dotted around the country. The collectives gather the harvest from local farmers, adding the premium to the price.

However, despite accepting to pay the levy, some chocolate companies quickly

found ways to avoid it. Media reports alleged that American chocolate giant, The Hershey Company, bought 30,000 tonnes of cocoa via the United States futures exchange, ICE, in a bid to avoid paying the LID; however, this could not be independently verified.

Chocolate companies usually buy cocoa directly from the source, but if they buy the commodity on the secondary market, through an exchange, they will not have to pay the associated premi-

Two years since the premium came into effect, Yves Ibrahima Kone, the director general of Le Conseil du Café-Cacao, the national regulator which introduced the LID, said that in reality, "no one [the chocolate companies] wants to implement it".

'They will have no choice' In Ivory Coast's cocoa region, knowledge of the premium varies depending on whom one speaks with.

"We have never heard of the LID," said Lobou Doudou Honore, the chief of a small cocoa farming village called Gripzao, north of Soubre. The chief is the spokesman for around 60 cocoa farmers, each of whom tends plots of varying sizes around the village. He says every single person in the village relies on cocoa as a primary source of income.

Around 50km (31 miles) south of Soubre, the director of a collective of more than 2,000 cocoa farmers said they were paid the LID for the past two years.

"Our buyers are Tony's Chocoloney, Mondelez and Ferrero," said Doumbia Assata Kone, director of the Meagui cooperative. The forward-thinking director is trying to encourage farmers to engage in other sources of income-generating activities, like making honey.

However, authorities say the latest strategy used by

companies to avoid paying the LID is by not paying another charge known as the origin differential - a premium set according to the country of origin.

If traders do not pay the origin differential, they can claim to pay the LID but in reality, the price is the same as if no premium were added. The LID was set by Ghana and Ivory Coast but the origin differential is a premium determined by the market based on quality and provenance of the beans.

#### Cocoa farmer in Ivory Coast

A farmer holds cocoa pods on his farm in western Ivory Coast [File: Luc Gnago/

"This is what the chocolate companies are currently playing with," said regulator Kone, who travelled to Rome in September to tell manufacturers that Ivory Coast would no longer sell cocoa at a negative origin differential for the first time in three years. There has not yet been an official response from the industry.

Early reports suggest that global commodities trader Cargill, which processes and distributes grains, oil and vegetables among other agricultural products, bought 25,000 tonnes of cocoa with a positive income differential for the 2023/2024 season, and it is hoped others will follow. This should have a positive impact on the money that farmers receive at the end of the supply chain.

Yet, industry insiders believe that Ivory Coast will continue to face stiff opposition from chocolate companies which can generate more annual revenue than the entire African country.

Ivory Coast's agricultural minister, Kouassi, however, believes that the West African country finally has chocolate companies in a tight spot. "They will have no choice but to eventually pay the prices we demand," he said. "We produce the most cocoa in the world."

#### 'Reduce the supply, increase the de-

Paul Schoenmakers, head of impact at Dutch chocolatier Tony's Chocolonely, said most chocolate companies have plenty of room to redistribute wealth further down the supply chain.

12 Friday 23 December 2022

Guardian Guardian

**FEATURE** 

# We either deal with corruption or we perish as an organisation - Ramaphosa

#### BY MARIANNE MERTEN

NC renewal and unity on Tuesday remained perennial as the governing party, unprecedentedly, adjourned its national conference without adopting policy commission reports and resolutions. However, second-term party president Cyril Ramaphosa gave a few hints in his closing address to a hall that was barely half-full.

These include better and quality service delivery with a focus on energy and water security. Also, quality education and healthcare regardless of the ability to pay as envisaged by the National Health Insurance (NHI).

Economic transformation through accelerated spending on infrastructure, fibre provisioning in rural areas through, for example, incentives, tax rebates and private sector compacts, and a focus on rural and township economic develop-

Dealing with the "turmoil of load shedding", as President Cyril Ramaphosa put it in Tuesday's adjourning of conference address, was another policy point. As was redressing "the original sin of land dispossession" through measures to accelerate land reform and support productive land use.

From Ramaphosa's signals, the ANC's policy direction fundamentally remains on track, including pledges to fight corruption, and economic transformation



for inclusive growth. So no surprises there, nor in the briefing by rapporteurs of the various policy commissions, who gave what was described as the "flavour" of discus-

No real details could be provided as commission reports and resolutions must first be adopted. This can only happen after the conference, which was adjourned to provincial hybrid sessions, on 5 January. It's now part of the lead-up to the January 8 statement that traditionally sets the ANC's policy priorities for the year. The 55th ANC national elective conference ended on Tuesday as it started on Friday - messily, fraught and unresolved.

The plenary hall was mostly empty by the time Ramaphosa started his address; transport pressure by delegates in distant provinces was cited as a reason, along with the messy registration process.

Given the nature of the heavily contested leadership, Ramaphosa pledged to pursue party unity and lay down the unity line for everyone to toe.

"The branches have spoken by choosing the leadership that emerges from here. Once the branches have made their choice all of us are expected to fall in line and embrace and accept the decisions that are taken here," said Ramaphosa.

Such renewal and unity were needed even if tense moments would arise in the fight against corruption within ANC ranks, which was "a dire threat to the continued existence of the ANC".

Despite progress made over the past five years, more needed to be done to end corruption and reverse the effects of State Capture in the state, society and in party ranks.

"We have no choice: we either deal with this problem [corruption] or we perish as an organisa-

It was one of the harder points in the presidential speech. Much of it was also about how the ANC had astounded opponents and critics.

"As always, we've ended up as a united organisation, much to the surprise of those who do not wish us well," said Ramaphosa, adding the party he leads for a second term now followed the "path of principled unity".

Messy and dysfunctional

But the 2022 Nasrec ANC elective national conference had been messy, and in many respects dysfunctional.

Delays came right at the beginning with a messy and drawn-out registration process that left some delegates with upside-down photos and wrongly placed party logos and names on their conference tags. That up to a quarter of branch delegates designated to attend the conference were substituted by others, did not help. A bunch of Free State delegates' tags were snatched in a heated moment, according to the credentials report to the plenary.

Delays also arose from and caused the horsetrading, cajoling and slate deal-making which continued messily right to the start of the voting.

#### That meant votes were split.

It worked against supporters of ex-health minister Zweli Mkhize, who lost his presidency challenge, when Mzwandile Masina, the former Ekurhuleni mayor, only withdrew in favour of ANC national spokesperson Pule Mabe while voting was under way.

It worked against Ramaphosa's side for the deputy president post, now held by Paul Mashatile rather than the preferred candidate, Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane, and on the first deputy secretary-general post that went to Nomvula Mokonyane by a narrow 50-vote margin.

The margins were also slim for the post of national chairperson, which incumbent Gwede Mantashe held on to by 44

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votes, against Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha, with 280 going to David Masondo, the deputy finance minister and second deputy secretary of the South African Communist Party (SACP), who was also on the Ramaphosa slate.

Questions would be raised about the Ramaphosa slate's tactics, and the delays in releasing its preferred names for additional National **Executive** Committee (NEC) posts only on Tuesday morning. The votes for the 80 NEC members ran past the presidential adjournment speech - at that time around 3,000 or some 70% of delegates had voted – and would be released after the conference was adjourned.

That the margins were this tight indicates the fluidness of factional dominance and that Ramaphosa cannot ease his guard despite a sweep of five of seven top officials' posts.

But supporters have argued the elective conference outcome boosted the President, who can now act against critics, and those deemed ineffective in government. A Cabinet reshuffle is loading, possibly as early as January.

And although the ANC conference discussed severing ties with its alliance partners, the SACP and labour federation Cosatu, both indicated approval of the ANC deliberations and leadership elections.

A reconfigured alliance was crucial to the renewal of the ANC, according to an SACP statement, while Cosatu president Zingiswa Losi said workers could not afford a divided ANC or an ANC leadership compromised by corruption.

"The [elective] results provide a chance to renew the ANC, rebuild the state, grow the economy, slash unemployment and provide relief and protection for workers."

It's a tall order. But the unprecedented kicking for touch of the policy side of this 2022 Nasrec ANC conference which really only fully dealt with the leadership contest, has created some breathing space. For now. **DM** 

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# **Guardian** PROPERTY MATCH DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER 2022

### RESEARCHERS INNOVATE TECHNIQUE TO

## SLASH THE COST OF BUILDING

By Maureen Njeri

ESEARCHERS at Meru University of Science and Technology developed a technique for using clay soil to make cement, a strategy they projected will reduce the cost of construction.

The researchers noted that the product will be available in the Kenyan market in 2023 after completing all the necessary proce-

According to the researchers, the construction cost will be reduced by 40 per cent if people embrace clay-made cement.

"The cost of cement is proportional to the cost of clinker, which is a component of cement manufacturing. This is often imported thus increasing the cost of cement," Joseph Mwiti, the lead researcher, stated.

He added that introducing the product into the Kenyan markets would also reduce the amount of cement imported, noting that it had been perfected for four years through numerous experiments.

"If we are to actualise affordable



Sustainable architecture: innovative and inspiring buildings

housing we have to significantly lower the cost of cement. What we have in regions without cement factories is the abundance of clay, we from Nyeri and Meru counties. need to capitalise on this to manu-

facture cement," he remarked. According to the researchers,

most of the clay used was sourced

"When we start producing ce-

ment out of clay, this means we can have cement factories based in every county since they all have clay," Mwiti declared.

Consequently, this will create more jobs for the youth and boost the country's economy.

He added that in January 2023, they will partner with institutions in India to manufacture a pilot plan so that key players in the cement manufacturing industry can adopt the

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) also called for talks to discuss how the product will be made available in the market, including the necessary quality checks.

The institution's Vice Chancellor, Simon Thuranira, noted the plan is in line with the global mindset to reduce the effects of climate change.

"We are proud of our innovators. Other than the University of Pretoria no other university has come up with the idea in Africa," he added.

Researchers anticipated partnership with Makerere University in Uganda, the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, the Padova University in Italy, and Uppsala University in Sweden for more research.

# Z'bar Island gets global award for low-carbon ecological restoration

**By Guardian Reporter** 

CHUMBE Island has received a prestigious international award for its low-carbon landscape, tourism and conservation management.

The International Forum for Human Settlements, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Council has recognized Chumbe Island as important in the world under the 'Tourism (Scenic spot) and Ecological restoration' category.

A statement from the International Forum for Human Settlements said Chumbe was described as a role model in the world with two and a half decades of contributing to the conservation of nature and marine life.

According to the forum, Chumbe has managed to properly supervise conservation activities and has recorded a number of successes by maintaining a low carbon landscape through the use of renewable energy such as solar and hydro power as well as the use of wastes in production of manure.

The award was presented to Chumbe community members during a ceremony held virtually on December 16, 2022 at the 17th annual general meeting of the International Forum for Human Settlements.

ager for Conservation and Public Education, Salim Abdallah said the award is for all Zanzibaris.

"The international forum said

He said the award has demonthe ecology of Chumbe Island has been conducting a monitorstrated to the international com- has successfully integrated the Commenting on the award, munity that tourism activities environment and biodiversity Chumba Island Assistant Man- can be done sustainably and in conservation. People in Chumbe tourist activities and maintainregard to principles of the blue practices sustainable ecological tourism," said the manager.

He said that Chumbe Island

ing program for biodiversity, which is important in guiding ing the integrity and diversity of the ecology.



# achieves fifth certification under ICMI

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

THE International Cyanide Management Institute (ICMI) announced that Barrick Gold Corporation's Bulyanhulu gold mine has been recertified in full compliance under the International Cyanide Management Code (Cyanide Code).

This is the Bulyanhulu gold mine's fifth certification under the Cyanide Code.

The Bulyanhulu gold mine was initially certified under the Cyanide Code in February 2009 and was recertified in July 2012, in December 2016, and in June 2019.

As required under the Cyanide Code, the mine was again audited against ICMI's Verification Protocol by an independent professional third-party auditor within three years of its previous certification.

ICMI has received and accepted the auditor's Detailed Audit Findings Report, which found that the Bulyanhulu Gold Mine had maintained full compliance with the Cyanide Code's principles and standards of practice since its previous certification.

The summary audit report and auditor credentials form are available on Barrick Gold Corporation's Signatory Page on the Cyanide Code website. The operation must be re-audited every three years to evaluate continuing compliance with the Cyanide Code.

The Cyanide Code is a voluntary industry program focused on the safe and environmentally responsible management of cyanide by companies producing gold and/or silver and by companies manufacturing, warehousing, and transporting cyanide.

The Cyanide Code was developed under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme by a multi-stakeholder steering committee and is amongst the most established certification programs in the mining sector.

The Cyanide Code is intended to complement an operation's existing obligation to comply with the applicable laws and regulations of the political jurisdiction in which the operation is located.

ICMI has been established to administer the Cyanide Code, promote its adoption, evaluate its implementation, and manage the certification process for operations using, producing, and transporting cyanide.

A detailed list of the operations covered by signatory companies' applications, along with the full text of the Cyanide Code and its implementing and administrative documents, are available at www. cyanidecode.org.

## Minister dissatisfied with small response in land formalisation exercise in Ubungo

**By Guardian Reporter** 

ANGELINE Mabula, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human settlements development has expressed dissatisfaction over the small response by Ubungo District residents in Dar es Salaam Region to the opportunity to obtain title deeds for their unplanned plots in the ongoing land formalization exercise.

This came to light on Tuesday at the event of handing out land title deeds to 1,081 residents of Ubungo District at Kimara Stop Over, Saranga Ward, in Dar es Salaam.

Elaborating statistics on land formalization exercise in Ubungo District, Dr Mabula said the main task has been done by Ubungo District Land office where 1,089 title deeds were formalised out

of 23,967 land plots that had been surveyed and approved.

"There are some people who had their land plots surveyed but have not come up to collect their title deeds, what should the government do?" queried Dr Mabula.

According to the Lands Minister, challenges facing formalisation of unplanned settlements are found in both sides - residents and the firms that conduct land was 76,250. formalisation exercise, hence it is difficult to accept that only 1,089 out of 23,967 land plots had been finalised.

"It is not possible - that in Ubungo District, the total land plots identified were 182,215 from 520 land survey plans. The number of land plots dealt with was 177,325 while the number of plots that had beacons erected

"Those surveyed and approved were 23,967. The number of invoices issued was 4,338, the total number of applications was 7,164, and the total number of title deeds issued was 6,885 but today there are q,089 title deeds, this means that there is no approved title deed still remains in the Lands Office," said Dr Mabula.

his part, Kibamba For

Member of Parliament, Issa Mtremvu despite the fact that the formalisation exercise went on well in some wards in his constituency including Saranga, Ukombozi and Mpakani wards, but people are faced with challenges regarding paying for the title deeds in order to get them, and asked the Ministry to look into how to assist them.

#### CONSTRUCTION

## NEW TRENDS IN ELECTROLYSER TECH TO CATALYSE GREEN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION

By Maitreyi Karthik

REEN hydrogen, one of the major fuels to propel India's clean energy transition, is produced by electrolysis of water done using clean electricity from renewable sourceswind, and solar.

The cost of electrolysers and electricity make up the largest share of the production cost, and thus, developing more efficient electrolysers will give a major boost to green hydrogen generation in

Apart from such costs, the other included costs are operating costs, transmission & distribution costs, wheeling costs for electricity, and the local duties and taxes in India.

At present, the cost of hydrogen production through electrolysis is high, ranging from \$4.10-\$7 per kg based on the technology used and the other associated costs (operating costs, transmission and distribution costs, wheeling costs for electricity and the local duties and taxes in India), according to a report by NITI Aayog.

Generally, electrolysers consume around 50-55 kilowatt-hours of electricity to produce a kilogram of hydrogen. The size of electrolysers ranges from a few kilowatts to several megawatts.

Alkaline and Polymer Electrolyte Membrane (PEM) electrolysers are the most widely used commercial technologies. In the former, a liquid alkaline electrolyte of sodium or potassium hydroxide is used. For PEM, a solid polymer membrane acts as a separator between the anode and the cathode compartments.



Solid oxide electrolysers use solid oxide or ceramic as an electrolyte to produce hydrogen (or carbon monoxide) and oxygen. Newer technologies, such as electrochemical (thermally activated chemical water-splitting process) use time cycles to separate the hydrogen and oxygen generation.

Anion exchange membrane electrolysis has positively charged functioning bodies that use a semi-permeable membrane to conduct the anions and reject the cations.

The cost of the electrolysers must be reduced to produce hydrogen at competitive rates. India has an edge regard-

ing the levelised cost of energy for renewable sources such as solar and wind globally, even though it imports natural

Improvement in the design and the development of new electrolyser techniques is a trend catching up globally. The creation of a local electrolyser production market would help India realise its engineering expertise and be recognised as an international market player in the segment. In the process, the country will be able to avail of the financial benefits of clean energy transitions.

Even though energy and electrolyser costs determine how green hydrogen will be priced in the long run, other fi-

nancial components would help reduce its manufacturing costs. Around \$3.2 per kg of levelised cost of hydrogen can be attained by exempting duty costs and lowering the goods & services tax as well as transmission and distribution fees.

The interstate transmission system costs for electricity produced from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind has been exempted by the Union Ministry of Power.

The exemption of the costs has been covered for the programmes to be installed from June 30, 2025 onwards and includes the pumped hydroelectricity and battery energy storage projects.

Cutting down such costs for hydro-

gen production using renewable energy sources would help develop green hydrogen financials.

Apart from the above-mentioned exemptions, the charges for renewable energy for producing green hydrogen should be reduced.

#### Power of solar

The photoelectrolysis process using semiconductor photoelectrodes is a clean and green way of producing hydro-

The source of energy for splitting water in a photoelectrochemical cell is sunlight. This type of electrolysis generates dihydrogen, which can be used in fuel cells to produce energy and heat as well as to generate electricity.

In a report by the International Renewable Energy Agency, an intergovernmental organisation for renewable energy research and adoption, the following methods have been identified for photoelectrolysis--using photovoltaic solar panels, using photoelectrode with a photo absorber, and using a photocatalyst

Another option being explored at present is positioning the electrolyser close to offshore wind turbines for an offshore mode of operation. This would provide an opportunity for reducing losses and all-around costs and eliminate the requirement for alternating current recti-

Offshore hydrogen would address environmental concerns through the creation of a zero-emission fleet. The offshore wind farms would benefit from becoming hydrogen refueling stations for transportation in the future.

### New trends for shopping malls and offices in SA

#### **JOHANESBURG**

SOUTH Africa's commercial real estate sector has been on a steady journey to recovery, with new projected trends to shape the coming year. says John Jack, the CEO of Galetti Corporate Real

Over 2022, the industry breathed a collective sigh of relief when most lockdown restrictions were lifted mid-way through the year, allowing many employees to return to in-person work. However, it faced additional challenges in the wake of the six successive interest rate hikes in 2022, bringing the current rate to 10.5% as of December 2022.

"Despite the pressures brought on by interest rate hikes, we are confident that the recovery reflected in the commercial real estate sector in 2022 will continue into the new year," said Jack.

"The growth indicators are strong, and the latest increase rate is still far off from all-time highs. The commercial sector is less affected than residential because many investors have wisely stored capital rather than paying dividends.'

Looking ahead, Jack predicted the following trends for the commercial real estate market, specifically dealing with retail and workplaces:

According to Jack, the continued high levels of vacant offices in the country have made it necessary for landlords to change how they do business with a shift away from traditional office

"Today there is a lot of talk around 'space as a service, and this is set to gain further momentum

Historically, offices were viewed as merely 'four walls' to work in. However, today landlords are breathing new life into their buildings, said Jack. "Spaces are being repositioned and reinvigorated as a service."

"Landlords are attracting and retaining tenants by elevating their space through exciting amenities such as on-site coffee baristas, relaxation areas, canteens and breakaway areas."

There may be an increase in demand for offices that are generally smaller, older and with fewer amenities.

"There is a massive opportunity in B-grade space and for investors to revamp vacant buildings and bring them to market. Most A-grade spaces standing empty have failed to attract tenants despite already catering to their wants and needs.

## Chinese company completes first phase of light rail project in southwestern Nigeria

#### **LAGOS**

NIGERIA'S southwestern state of Lagos on Wednesday marked the completion of the first phase of a 27-km electric-powered light rail project.

Undertaken by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) since 2010, the completed tracks of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Blue Line project span 13 km in the first phase and cover five stations.

The LRMT Blue Line project is the first rail infrastructure traversing Okokomaiko, a densely populated area in the western part of Lagos, and Marina, a business district on Lagos Island.

It is part of an ambitious transport master plan, which aims to meet the demands of the state as Nigeria's commercial and economic hub and one of the world's fastest-growing megacities.

Declaring the completion of construction on the Blue Line project at a ceremony, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, governor of Lagos, described the moment as "historic," saying Lagos became the first sub-national government in West Africa to fund and deliver a rail system from the state's balance

Sanwo-Olu said the milestone was a culmination of "impactful reforms"



of this project for our people." The governor said the construction of the second phase of the Blue Line rail project, which covers 14 km, will be launched immediately after the inauguration of the first phase next month.

More than 2,000 Chinese and local employees worked together to optimize the construction even in the face of multiple challenges, such as complicated geology and the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Chu Maoming, China's consul general in Lagos.

Huge infrastructure projects like the railway construction would continue to energize the Nigerian economy and promote speedy development, Chu operation.

Speaking at the event, Zhang Zhichen, chairman of CCECC Nigeria Limited, said the Chinese firm will continue to maintain the enterprise spirit of "diligence, integrity, and tenacity" while building the follow-up projects with high quality and efficiency.

The first phase of the LMRT Blue Line project is expected to carry over 250,000 passengers daily when in full

### Illicit trafficking in cultural property harms Africa's identity: UN

#### **NAIROBI**

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has said the illicit trafficking in cultural property harms Africa's identity.

Hubert Gijzen, UNESCO Regional Director for Eastern Africa, said in a speech read on his behalf by Misako Ito, the Regional Adviser for Communication and Information for Africa at UNESCO, that illicit export of physical cultural objects has been practiced throughout the history of the continent in various forms and with different intentions.

"The scourge threatens, in the long run, the very identity, history, and memory of the African peoples," Ito said in Nairobi, Kenya's capital, during a capacity-building workshop on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in eastern Africa.

The five-day forum aimed to raise awareness and build capacity on the importance of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, Xinhua news agency reported.

Ito called on all stakeholders region, including Comoros, to join forces in the protection of Africa's rich heritage because they represent unique instruments of cultural diplo-

She observed that certain works of art and culture play a critical role in the history of communities from where they were taken and the severing of the cultural property deprives people of their heritage because it is unjust for the symbols linking them to be denied, and for the roots that have taken hold to be severed.

According to Ito, eight countries in the Eastern Africa is keen to ensure that it puts

Djibouti, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, and Tanzania, have ratified the 1970 Convention on the illicit transfer of cultur-

al objects. Peninah Malonza, Kenya's Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage Cabinet Secretary, said that the Covid-19 pandemic worsened illicit trafficking in cultural property in the Eastern Africa region and increased the challenges that now include large-scale looting and illegal online sales.

Malonza added that Kenya

in place robust preventive measures and commits to engaging in inter-regional and international cooperation to eliminate the illicit trafficking of cultural objects.

She noted that Kenya is also fast-tracking the ratification of the 1970 Convention on the illicit transfer of cultural objects so that it can join other state parties to the agreement.

Malonza said the ratification of the convention will further reinforce the role and contribution of culture as an enabler for the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER, 2022

**CONSTRUCTION** 



# COOPERATION WITH CHINA BRINGS BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE, MORE JOBS,

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO AFRICA

**NAIROBI** 

AVING seen African people benefit from the decades-long cooperation with China, which ushered in newer infrastructure, more job chances and greater momentum for the continent's sustainable development, Malian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop said he deems the partnership "a friendly cooperation between

Indeed, a slew of cooperation projects and productive mechanisms for equal dialogue have all become clear proof of China-Africa cooperation that is carried out in line with the principles of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith, and with commitment to the greater good and shared interests.

"Today, the outcomes of China-Africa cooperation are all over the African continent. The roads, railways, airports, ports, high-rise buildings, stadiums and other structures that China helped build can be seen everywhere," said Chinese Ambassador to Liberia Ren Yisheng in a recent article published in Liberian me-

Between 2000 and 2020, China helped African countries build 13,000-plus-kmlong railways, nearly 100,000 km of highways, about 1,000 bridges, nearly 100 ports and more than 80 large-scale power facilities.

China has also aided the construction of more than 130 medical facilities, 45 sports venues and more than 170 schools, trained more than 160,000 professionals across various fields and created more than 4.5 million jobs for Africa, said the ambassador.

Since the existing infrastructure gap acts as a drag on Africa's economic growth, cooperation in upgrading infrastructure is of particular relevance for the continent. The African Development Bank reckoned that improved infrastructure will facilitate Africa's domestic and international trade, reduce business costs and enhance competitiveness both as an exporter and an investment desti-

In this regard, China has been playing a significant role. "In 2020, for instance, Chinese firms were responsible for 31 percent of all infrastructure projects in Africa with a value of 50 million U.S. dollars or more," Deloitte, a consultancy company, said in a report.

Investment in African infrastructure is "a global public good in the context of the worldwide significance of Africa's demographic evolution and its necessary productive transformation," the



A section of the Nairobi Expressway built by China Road and Bridge Corporation in Nairobi, Kenya.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said in a report.

China has been providing public goods through its cooperation with Africa despite COVID-19 disruptions. After the onset of the pandemic, Chinese and local staff were struggling to overcome difficulties to keep more than 1,100 cooperation projects running consistently, and the implementation rate of the outcomes of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Beijing Summit has exceeded 70 percent, said Ren.

Describing Africa's infrastructure achievements as an illustration of the win-win partnership with China, Diop, the Malian minister, said, "since the creation of the FOCAC in 2000, China-Africa relations have continued to grow, particularly in the economic, industrial and agricultural and diplomatic areas."

During the 8th Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC held in Senegal in November 2021, China pledged to jointly roll out nine programs with African countries, and upgrade China-Africa cooperation in various fields including medical and health care, improvement of people's livelihood, green development, digital economy and capacity building.

In the Dakar Declaration issued during the conference, China welcomes and encourages African countries to join the Belt and Road cooperation.

Over the past years, the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has helped enhance infrastructure connectivity across the continent and boost intra-African trade in the long run. It has become even more attractive to Africans, given that China has aligned the initiative with the Agenda 2063, an economic blueprint proposed by the African Union.

In Kenya, for instance, the 480-kmlong Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway financed and built by China has greatly facilitated the movement of goods and passengers. As one of the flagship BRI projects, it is the first modern railway built in Kenya in the past century, also the country's largest infrastructure project since its independence in

China-Africa cooperation in trade and investment has helped to create a booming job market in Africa.

Since 2017, China's imports in services from Africa have been growing at an average annual rate of 20 percent, creating close to 400,000 jobs for the continent every year, said a white paper titled "China and Africa in the New Era: A Partnership of Equals" released by China in November 2021.

Chinese private companies have become the main investment force in Africa. With more than 80 percent of their employees being locals, they have created millions of jobs. By the end of 2020, China has established over 3,500 companies across Africa.

Increased investment and upgraded infrastructure drive the growth of various industries, naturally generating more jobs. For example, when it comes to a 56.5-km-long asphalt road recently completed by the China Communica-

tions Construction Company in Ethiopia's Oromia region, the local government said it believes that it will not only facilitate the transportation of agricultural products, but more importantly, to unleash the potential of tourism, a catalyst for job growth and economic

Not coincidentally, the 1,344-km-long Benguela Railway constructed by the China Railway 20 Bureau Group Corporation in Angola has delivered win-win outcomes. Chinese enterprises have provided technology, experience and standards to Africa, while local employees have acquired jobs, skill training and higher income, said Zhu Qihui, chairman of the board of the Chinese group's subsidiary in Angola.

The above-mentioned Mombasa-Nairobi railway has also created 46,000 direct and indirect jobs for local com-

On top of the impressive achievements made through their cooperation in the past decades, China is continuing to play a key role in fast-tracking Africa's development and lend support to the sustainable development of the continent.

China has been Africa's largest trading partner for 13 consecutive years by the end of 2021. China has promised to provide zero-tariff treatment on 98 percent of taxable items originating in the leastdeveloped countries, including Togo, Djibouti and Rwanda, and has become Africa's second-largest agricultural export destination.

"The biggest feature of China-Africa cooperation is mutual benefit and common development," said Ren, the Chinese ambassador, adding China welcomes Africa to take the express train of China development and share its ben-

In these turbulent and changing times, observers are still optimistic that flourishing China-Africa cooperation will withstand the test of time and bring more mutual benefits for both sides through synergy between their development plans.

"As for China's solutions to global issues, I'm impressed most by the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Security Initiative (GSI). They are in line with the current international calls and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and are also significant to the African continent," said David Monyae, director of the Center for Africa-China Studies at the University of Johan-

### **Equip Africa's youth for global competitiveness**

**By Chioma Okafor** 

IN the world's youngest continent, the migration phenomenon and frenzy is widespread among African youths. In order to avoid and reverse the consequences of mass youth emigration, the African continent needs to tap into its diaspora, as well as improve its governing systems and in-country physical and digital infrastructure to create the environment needed for youth to thrive on the continent.

The 2022 African Youth Survey, which captured the viewpoints of 300 youth across 15 African countries, showed that the prominent force driving the emigration trend is the dearth of long-term prospects. More than half of the survey respondents said that they were considering emigrating to another country in the next three years to secure employment and educational opportunities for their future.

As professional Nigerians with graduate degrees we have both experienced firsthand the difficulty in finding meaningful work with adequate compensation given the investment in our education. We both have family members or friends in our extended circle who has remained abroad

lack of opportunities for their families, or who has engaged in further education programs because they could neither find work at home, nor get the visas needed to work abroad.

We have friends who have become perpetual travelers or who have taken up informal jobs to make ends meet. We see brilliant, talented, and hardworking youth leaving our continent as a last resort to achieve their dreams, and we want this to change.

This situation is the result of layers of complex issues, including the lack of sufficiently-paid, stable jobs, the slow pace of completing educational programs, and the disconnect between the educational curriculum and the job market which limit the global competitiveness of African youth. Back in 2015, the African Devel-

opment Bank reported that onethird of Africa's then 420 million young people aged 15 to 35 years were unemployed, and only 1 in 6 was in wage employment. While grappling with low productivity due to the dearth of job opportunities, African youths also have to deal with the likely loss of life and property from living in conflictaffected or fragile settings.

The impact on the health sec-

due to concerns over security or tor is particularly pervasive, because a continent that accounts for over 227 million years of life lost and produces an annual productivity loss of over \$800 billion has an average of only 0.45 physicians per 1,000 people in 26 African countries. In Nigeria, health authorities have expressed the need for better pay and adequate medical facilities as the main reason for the exit of Nigerian medical professionals.

As health care workers from various African countries leave to destination countries that offer higher remuneration and incentives, access to quality health care is reduced leading to avoidable loss of lives. The lives lost could have contributed to these countries' economies.

African development agencies have stepped up with projects to respond to the glaring need to address the triggers and root causes of youth emigration. One such initiative is the African Development Bank Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy launched in 2016 with the goal of equipping 50 million youths with employable skills and establishing 25 million jobs over the next decade.

Today the World Bank launches its central and western Africa education strategy. "We will not be able to deliver change without building and sustaining political momentum in the region," write Ousmane Diagana and Mahamudu Bawumia in this opinion.

The private sector is equally involved with initiatives such as Boost Africa and the Tony Elumelu Foundation focused on creating jobs, alleviating poverty, and spurring economic growth by funding and providing technical assistance to entrepreneurs. While these interventions are laudable, they are time bound and require country ownership for sustainability and impact.

Mass youth emigration will persist in the absence of good governance and leadership, with a clear vision and accountability frameworks for creating an enabling environment for people to thrive.

In recent years, there has been an awakening and youths have become more demanding for accountability and competence in the public sector. More youths are occupying positions of leadership and are increasingly participating in elections, as seen in Lesotho and more recently in Nigeria.

An enabling environment for African youth

time-intensive venture, so while working toward addressing the triggers of mass migration, African countries need to explore ways to leverage the potential and resources of the diaspora.

One such strategy is the brain circulation strategy that taps from the diaspora to fill skill gaps rather than spend limited resources on expatriates to execute projects or research within the continent. Several Africans in the diaspora are ready and willing to return home to build their nation, as seen in the cases of Rwanda and Somalia. However, governments need to create an enabling environment and invest in infrastructures, both physical and digital, to encourage them.

#### Via Twitter.

Another strategy is to seek more innovative and strategic ways of utilizing remittances from the diaspora by shifting from using remittances for consumption to strategic investments as exemplified by a Kenyan billionaire in the diaspora that established a medical and tech hub in Kenya set to reverse medical tourism in Kenya and neighboring African countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic has

Achieving good governance is a demystified remote working and opened up options for working from anywhere in the world. Several companies are tapping into the opportunities that borderless workplaces present to source for top talents. This presents a great opportunity to reverse brain drain, since visas and work permits are not required for remote

Still, governments need to invest more in enabling access to personal technology, digital connectivity, and digital security so that African youths can explore and take advantage of remote work opportunities.

Again, the mass African youth migration is a response to the systemic and serial failure of several African countries' refusal to prioritize human capital. As succinctly captured by a Sudanese proverb, "We desire to bequeath two things to our children; the first one is roots, the other one is wings." African youths are seeking what might be considered the barest minimum in other climes; systems and structures that reward hard work, an enabling environment that allows them to live with dignity, and opportunities to maximize their full poten-

### **Guardian**www.ippnedia.com

# WORLD

# WHO chief says many reasons for hope in 2023

**GENEVA** 

ALTHOUGH 2022 has been a highly challenging year for global health, there are still many reasons for hope as the new year approaches, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday.

During 2022, the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were also global outbreaks of mpox, cholera outbreaks in many countries, and an Ebola outbreak in Uganda. Drought and flooding hit the greater Horn of Africa and the Sahel, and there was flooding in Pa-

However, WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a press briefing on Wednesday that the COVID-19 pandemic is waning, as is the global mpox outbreak, and there have been no new cases of Ebola in Uganda for more than three weeks.

"We are hopeful that each of these emergencies will be declared over at different points next year," he said.



WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus looks on during a press conference at the World Health Organization's headquarters in Geneva, on Dec 14, 2022. AFP

The number of weekly reported COVID-19 deaths worldwide has dropped by almost 90 percent since the peak at the end of January, he added, when the Omicron wave was in full swing.

However, he also warned that the pandemic is not over. Gaps in surveillance, testing and sequencing still make it difficult to understand exactly how the virus is changing; and gaps in vaccination have left millions of people, especially health workers and the elderly, at high risk of severe disease and death

The WHO chief identified five priorities for the world health authority in 2023: focusing on health promotion and disease prevention by shifting from sick care to healthcare; promoting universal health coverage, particularly primary healthcare; strengthening emergency preparedness and response; pushing forward research, science and technology; and continuing to reform the

He also said that political commitment from national leaderships is crucial, since all five priorities should be implemented at national level. *Agencies* 

## Xi hails China-Russia partnership

**BEIJING** 

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, called on Wednesday for a political settlement of the ongoing Ukraine crisis, and reiterated that the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era is a long-term strategic choice that the two countries have made based on their own national conditions.

Xi, who is also Chinese president, made the remarks while meeting with Dmitry Medvedev, chairman of the United Russia party, at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. Medvedev was visiting China at the invitation of the CPC.

Medvedev handed Xi a letter signed by Russian Presi-

and good wishes to Xi. During their meeting, Xi and Medvedev exchanged views about inter-party exchanges, bilateral relations, the Ukraine crisis and other international and regional issues of common concern.

On the Ukraine crisis, Xi said that China has always decided its own position and policy based on the merits of the matter itself, and it takes an objective and fair position on the issue and has made ac-

He expressed his hope that the parties concerned will show rationality and restraint, start a comprehensive dialogue and address each other's security concerns through political means. Xi hailed China-Russia ties,

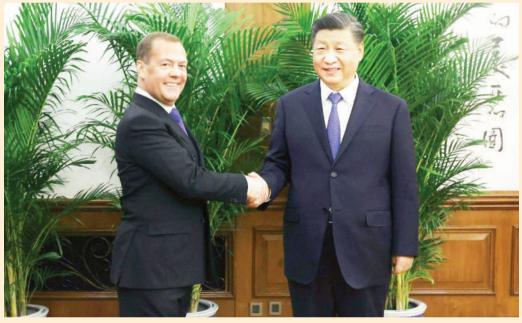
saying that over the past decade, bilateral relations have stood the test of the volatile changes in the international landscape and maintained healthy, steady and high-level development.

China stands ready to work with Russia to push for global governance to become fairer and more equitable, while advancing the development of bilateral ties, he said.

Xi also briefed Medvedev about the 20th CPC National Congress, which he said had dent Vladimir Putin that con- clarified the central task of veyed his friendly greetings building China into a modern moting mutually beneficial co- Medvedev congratulated Xi CPC to strengthen exchanges socialist country in all respects and advancing national rejuvenation through a Chinese path to modernization.

The nation has the confidence and capability to pursue the Chinese path to modernization and provide more opportunities for world peace and prosperity, he said.

Xi praised the long-term exchanges between the CPC and the United Russia party, saying that these have contributed to consolidating China-Russia tive efforts to facilitate peace political mutual trust and pro-



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese president, meets with Chairman of the United Russia party Dmitry Medvedev, who visits China at the invitation of the CPC, at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on Wednesday. [Photo/Xinhua]

operation and strategic coordination, and have also provided strong support for the steady growth of China-Russia relations in the new era.

He expressed his hope that the two parties would continue to develop in-depth exchanges in governance experience, promote synergy between the countries' development strategies, advance multilateral international cooperation among political parties and learn from each other on the building of the ruling party.

on his reelection as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee as well as the significant accomplishments of the 20th CPC National Congress, saying that the greater progress China has made under the leadership of the CPC will not only benefit the 1.4 billion Chinese people, but also has great relevance to the world.

Noting that party-to-party cooperation is an important part of bilateral ties, Medvedev said that the United Russia party is willing to work with the

governance experience, implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state, actively advance bilateral cooperation in trade and the economy, energy and agriculture, and jointly resist pressure from external forces and unfair practices.

Medvedev said that the Ukraine crisis happened as a result of complex factors and Russia is willing to resolve the related problems through peace talks.

Xinhua

### Conflict, drought driving rapid increase in food insecurity in Ethiopia:

**ADDIS ABABA** 

CONFLICT in parts of Ethiopia has driven a rapid increase in food insecurity, compounding the impact of an unprecedented drought affecting the country's eastern and southern regions, the United Nations has warned.

The report, produced by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme, is a twice-yearly report on the acute

food insecurity situation in countries where conflict and insecurity are primary drivers of acute food insecurity. The report, issued on Monday, provided an overview of how conflict and violence contributed to rising food insecurity between January and October 2022 in Ethiopia.

"The recent escalation of conflict in parts of northern Ethiopia and other regions, in particular Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia, has driven a

rapid increase in food insecurity, compounding the impact of an unprecedented drought affecting eastern and southern regions," the report said.

"The situation in parts of northern Ethiopia remains of the highest concern. This is due to the high volatility of the context in the past months and the persistence of one or more drivers of severe food insecurity," the report added. Ethiopia has seen a devastat-

ing conflict between governmentallied troops and forces loval to the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) since November 2020, which left thousands dead and millions in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

On Nov. 2, the Ethiopian government and the TPLF signed a cessation of hostilities agreement to end the two-year-long conflict.

Xinhua

#### 'Asia's El Chapo' extradited to Australia over drug trafficking

**WELLINGTON** 

AUSTRALIAN Federal Police (AFP) said vesterday it had taken the head of a global drug trafficking syndicate, dubbed 'Asia's El Chapo', into custody after he was extradited from the

The AFP said the arrest is the culmination of a long-running investigation into an organized crime syndicate known as "Sam Gor", or "The Company", that it says trafficked methamphetamine worth millions of dollars of into Australia.

The AFP did not identify the person arrested by name, and does not typically disclose the names of arrested individuals

A person familiar with the case said the man arrested was Canadian citizen Tse Chi Lop, one of the world's most prominent drug lords. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

The person declined to be identified citing lack of authorisation to discuss the case publicly. A second man was arrested by the AFP in June in connection

with the case. "We allege the individuals charged by the AFP today and in June this year conspired to traffic commercial quantities of methamphetamine within Australia," said AFP Assistant Commissioner Krissy Barrett.

"The AFP will make Australia a hostile environment for all trans-national serious organized crime syndicates that target our communities.'

Reuters reported in 2019 that Tse was the prime target of Operation Kungur, an-AFP led investigation involving around 20 agencies from Asia, North America and Europe.

The United Nations' narcotics agency estimated the Sam Gor syndicate's meth revenue in 2018 at \$8 billion a year, but said it could be as high as \$17.7 billion, with a 40 percent to 70 percent share of the wholesale regional meth market that has expanded at least fourfold in the past five years.

#### Israel's Netanyahu says he has secured deal to form new govt

**JERUSALEM** 

ISRAEL'S longest-serving prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said on Wednesday he had secured a deal to form a new gov-



ernment after weeks of unexpectedly tough negotiations with religious and far-right coalition partners.

"I have managed (to form a government)," Netanyahu said on Twitter, minutes before a midnight deadline set by President Isaac Herzog. A Herzog spokesperson confirmed that Netanyahu's statement had been received.

Netanyahu's conservative Likud and like-minded religiousnationalist parties close to the ultra-Orthodox and West Bank settler communities won a comfortable majority in a Nov 1 election, promising him 64 of parliament's 120 seats.

But agreement to form a government was held up by disputes over a package of proposed legislation on issues ranging from planning authority in the West Bank to ministerial control over the police. The new government - which Netanyahu must now pre-

sent within a week - will take office after a year that has seen the worst levels of violence in the West Bank in more than a decade, with more than 150 Palestinians and more than 20 Israelis killed.

A stable government would be a departure from a turbulent period that saw Israelis go to the polls five times in less than four years. But the weeks of wrangling have made clear that the coalition may still face significant internal tensions.

Its makeup as well as proposals that would give parliament greater powers to overrule court decisions have also caused alarm in Israel and abroad. Critics see a threat to the independence of the justice system.

The inclusion of the hardliners Itamar Ben-Gvir of the ultranationalist Jewish Power party and Bezalel Smotrich from the far-right Religious Zionism party has shocked Palestinians and liberal Israelis.

Both oppose Palestinian statehood and support extending Israeli sovereignty into the West Bank, adding another obstacle to a two-state solution, the resolution backed by Palestinian leaders, the United States and European governments. Ben-Gvir will serve as security minister, with authority over

police, while Smotrich's pro-settler party will have control over planning in the West Bank, giving it wide powers over the lives of Palestinians and opening the door to an expansion of Israeli settlements.

Ben-Gvir also wants to take greater direct control over the police with legislation that would give him direct authority over policy matters normally decided by the police commis-

At the same time, Aryeh Deri, head of the religious Shas party, is bidding to become finance minister, despite a conviction for tax fraud. He would take over the ministry for two years under a shared arrangement with Smotrich, who would serve for the first two years of the government's term.

### China to strive to elevate global biodiversity governance to new height

"WE will do our best to provide support and assistance to fellow developing countries through the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, so as to elevate global biodiversity governance to a new height," Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a speech he made recently.

Xi delivered the speech via video link at the opening ceremony of the high-level segment of the second part of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) held in Montreal, Canada, on the evening of Dec. 15, 2022.

In his speech, Xi stressed the necessity to build global consensus on biodiversity protection, push forward the global process of biodiversity protection, promote green development through biodiversity protection, and uphold a fair and equitable global order on biodiversity protection.

Xi's remarks injected important impetus into the consultations on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which have entered a critical

Biodiversity makes Earth full of vigor and vitality, and lays the foundation for human survival and development. Today, mankind is standing at a crossroads of protecting biodiversity and achieving sustainable develop-

The latest research has found that more than one million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction, and the monitored animal populations had fallen 69 percent since 1970.

According to the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook released by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), none of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the world's first biodiversity conservation targets spanning 10 years from 2011 to 2020, was fully met by 2020.

The international community expected the second part of the COP15 to conclude the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and identify targets and pathways for global biodiversity protection.

As the presidency of the COP15, China has fully performed its duties and promoted communication and coordination among various parties in a multi-facet, multi-dimensional, and multi-level manner, actively advancing the process of consultations and negotiations on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

In October 2021, Xi delivered a keynote speech via video link at the leaders' summit of the COP15 held in Kunming City, capital of southwest China's Yunnan province.

In the speech, Xi put forward important proposals including taking the development of ecological civilization as humanity's guide to coordinate the relationship between man and Nature, letting green transition drive the efforts of countries to facili-

tate global sustainable development, concentrating on bettering people's well-being to promote social equity and justice, and taking international law as the basis to uphold a fair and equitable international governance system. At the summit, Xi announced China's initiative to establish a Kunming Biodiversity Fund and take the lead by investing 1.5 billion yuan (about \$214.81 million) to support biodiversity protection in developing countries. By doing so, China has contributed its wisdom, solution, and strength to promoting global biodiversity protection.

During the second part of the COP15, China has continued to guide substantive and political affairs of the conference, and actively facilitated the formulation of a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework with ambitious, balanced and pragmatic global biodiversity conservation targets. As one of the most biodiverse coun-

tries in the world and also one of the first countries to sign and ratify the CBD, China has made active efforts to promote ecological civilization construction and biodiversity protection.

China has continuously strengthened biodiversity mainstreaming, applied a system of ecological conservation red lines, established a protected areas system with national parks as the mainstay, carried out major biodiversity protection projects, and conducted the most stringent supervision and management of law enforcement in the environmental protection sector. **People's Daily** 

### Trump paid no income tax in 2020, reported losses in office

#### **WASHINGTON**

DONALD Trump paid no income tax during the final full year of his presidency as he reported a loss from his sprawling business interests, according to tax figures released by a congressional panel.

The records, released late on Tuesday by the Democratic-led House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee after a years-long fight, show that Trump's income, and his tax liability, fluctuated dramatically during his four years in the White



The records cut against the Republican ex-president's long-cultivated image as a successful businessman as he mounts another bid for the White House.

Trump and his wife, Melania, paid some form of tax during all four years, the documents showed, but were able to minimize their income taxes in several years as income from Trump's businesses was more than offset by deductions and loss-

The committee questioned the legitimacy of some of those deductions, including one for \$916 million, and members said on Tuesday the tax returns were short on details. The panel is expected to release redacted versions of his full returns in coming days.

Trump refused to make his tax returns public during his two presidential bids and his campaign for office, even though all other major-party presidential candidates have done so for decades.

The committee obtained the records after a years-long fight and voted on Tuesday to make them public.

A Trump spokesman said the release of the documents was politically moti-

"If this injustice can happen to President Trump, it can happen to all Americans without cause," Trump Organization spokesman Steven Cheung said on Wednes-

Democrats on the panel said their review found that tax authorities did not properly scrutinize Trump's complex tax returns to ensure accuracy.

Though the US Internal Revenue Service is supposed to audit presidents' tax returns each year, it did not do so until Democrats pressed for action in 2019.

The IRS assigned only one agent to the audit most of the time, the panel found, and did not examine some of the deductions claimed by Trump.

#### The IRS declined to comment.

Prior to taking office, Trump reported heavy losses for many years from his business to offset hundreds of millions of dollars in income, according to media reports and trial testimony about his finances.

The documents released by the committee showed that pattern continued during his time in the White House.

During that time Trump and his wife were liable for self-employment and household employment taxes. As a result, they paid a total of \$3 million in taxes over those four years

But deductions enabled them to minimize their income tax liability in several

In 2017, Trump and his wife reported adjusted gross income of negative \$12.9 million, leading to a net income tax of \$750, the records showed.

They reported adjusted gross income of \$24.3 million in 2018 and paid a net tax of \$1 million, while in 2019 they reported \$4.4 million of income in 2019 and paid

\$134.000 in taxes. In 2020, they reported a loss of \$4.8 million and paid no net income tax.

### Biden approves more military aid as **Ukraine's Zelensky visits Washington**

#### **WASHINGTON**

U.S. President Joe Biden pledged visiting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday to offer military aid, mentioning in particular the Patriot surface-to-air missile battery he just approved for Ukraine in a new tranche of security assistance totaling 1.85 billion U.S. dollars.

The weapons package approved by Biden, according to a list from the Pentagon, also included "precision aerial munitions," which it didn't explain in detail regarding the type and

According to U.S. media reports, they might be the so-called "Joint Direct Attack Munitions," which would transform the unguided "dumb" bombs into "smart" bombs by the addition of fins and a precision guidance system.

Arriving in the United States Wednesday for a visit, Zelensky told Biden he wished to "come earlier" but was unable to because of the once difficult situation in Ukraine that has now been under control.

Although Zelensky was effusive in his praise for Biden, he didn't mince words when it came to the Patriot battery -- the most advanced weapon system the United States has offered and something Zelensky has long

He told his counterpart that just one such item is not enough for Ukraine. "We would like to get more Patriots," Zelensky said to laughter from Biden, who stood next to him during a joint press conference held after their bilateral meeting.

Biden stressed that the United States is committed to ensuring that Ukraine continues to have the ability to defend itself "as long as it takes" during the press conference.

Zelensky told reporters that he floated to Biden the idea of a "global formula for a peace summit" and

offered "very specific steps what America can do to help us implement

He didn't elaborate further. The Ukrainian president said later while delivering a speech at a joint session of Congress that the peace plan he proposed contains "10 points," that the summit "can be held," and that "President Biden supported our peace initiative today."

However, John Kirby, the National Security Council's coordinator for strategic communication, told CNN during a live coverage prior to Zelensky's congressional speech that while Biden "obviously wants to seek a just peace in accordance with what Ukrainian President Zelensky desires," as regards the peace summit, the administration will have to "study that a little bit more."

In his address to U.S. lawmakers, Zelensky requested for more weapons from the United States. "We have artillery, yes, thank you. Is it enough? Honestly, not really," he said.

On Tuesday morning, the House Appropriations Committee released the "Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023," which will provide Ukraine with 45 billion dollars in emergency assistance. It is contained in a 1.7-trillion-dollar omnibus spending bill to fund the federal government through fiscal year

That 45-billion-dollar sum represents the biggest infusion of Washington's aid to Kiev, surpassing even the White House's request made to Congress last month to ask for a 37-billion-dollar appropriation aimed at helping Ukraine in the ongoing conflict.

Kevin McCarthy, Republican member of the House who is expected to become the next Speaker, said after attending the joint session that Zelensky gave a "good speech," but "my position has never changed. I sup-

### US' origin marking requirement inconsistent with rules - WTO

#### **HONG KONG**

A World Trade Organization panel ruled on Wednesday that the origin marking requirement imposed on Hong Kong products by the United States is inconsistent with the global trade body's rules.

Since Nov 10, 2020, the US has required that all products exported from Hong Kong to the US may no longer be marked as originating in "Hong Kong", but must be marked to indicate "China". Following a swift and robust objection from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government, the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) agreed on Feb 22, 2021 to establish a panel to handle the dispute.

In its report submitted to the DSB, the panel clearly ruled that the US' origin marking requirement imposed upon Hong Kong products is inconsistent with the most-favored-nation treatment requirement in respect of origin marking under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.

The panel also completely refuted the US' invocation of security exceptions and recommended the US to bring the measure into conformity.

"We welcome that the Panel has fully affirmed the status of Hong Kong, China as a separate customs territory," said Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau Ying-wah.

He pointed out that the ruling has once again confirmed that the US has disregarded international trade rules, attempted to impose discriminatory and unfair requirements unilaterally, unreasonably suppressed Hong Kong products and enterprises, and politicized economic and trade issues.

The revised origin marking requirement is politically motivated and a vain attempt to interfere with Hong Kong's internal affairs through weaponizing trade, he said.

"The US' despicable intent and ulterior motives will neither stand nor be accepted by the international community. Not only is the requirement imposed



Labels reading 'Made in Hong Kong' are displayed amongst piles of face masks in a shop in Hong Kong on Aug 12, 2020. Since Nov 10, 2020, the United States has required that all products exported from Hong Kong to the US must be marked to

WTO rules. It completely disregards the rules-based multilateral trading system and irresponsibly infringes on Hong Kong's rights as a member of the WTO," the commerce chief said.

The HKSAR government strongly condemns such a measure, he

He also stressed that the panel has in its report categorically refuted the erroneous and groundless views of the US, and gave a clear ruling that the US has violated WTO rules.

Speaking at a press conference in the city on Thursday, the commerce chief said he had written to the US Trade Representative, urging the US side to respect the panel's ruling and recommendations, immediately withdraw the illegal provisions and stop violating WTO

The US would have 60 days to lodge an appeal if it disagrees with the report's ruling, and the SAR government would closely monitor developments before deciding on its next action, he added.

Under "one country, two syson Hong Kong products by the US unterms", the HKSAR's special status sioner's Office of the Chinese Foreign

warranted, it also seriously violates is conferred by the motherland through the Basic Law. Pursuant to the Basic Law, Hong Kong is a separate customs territory and may, using the name "Hong Kong, China", participate in international organizations such as the WTO, and develop mutually beneficial economic and trade relations with economies around the world, said the government said in a statement.

> The city's special status has been widely recognized and respected by the international community. The rights and obligations of Hong Kong in the WTO are on par with that of other WTO members, it said.

> The "Made in Hong Kong" marking on Hong Kong products has been accepted internationally for many years. This not only shows factually that Hong Kong is a separate customs territory and complies with relevant WTO rules, but also provides consumers with clear and accurate information on product origin, added the statement.

> Commissioner's office hails rul-

Welcoming the WTO panel's ruling, a spokesperson for the CommisMinistry in the HKSAR pointed out in a statement on Wednesday that the US, disregarding Hong Kong's status as a separate customs territory, has put its domestic laws above international rules and laws of other countries since 2020 and unilaterally asked to change the origin marking of products imported from Hong Kong.

Pointing out that the SAR remains one of the most competitive economies in the world, and has made irreplaceable contributions to economic globalization, it said Hong Kong's status as a free port and a separate customs territory is confirmed and protected by its Basic Law and WTO agreements and has long been recognized and respected worldwide. The status is not granted by the US, and cannot be revoked by the US at its will, it added.

"The WTO ruling fully proves that security exceptions are not an excuse for unilateral hegemonic acts. In the global order underpinned by international law, might doesn't always make right, and the United States is no exception."

The US side must stop undermining the multilateral trading system with unilateral bullying acts, and stop abusing the concept of national security with double standards, it

"We urge the US side to earnestly abide by the WTO rules it participated in making, respect the WTO ruling, immediately correct its illegal acts, and return to true multilater-

### China's economic growth expected to embrace continuous pickup

IMPACTED by COVID-19 resurgence, China in November saw restrained consumption and service sector, a fall in the rise of foreign trade, and weakened expectation of manufacturing enterprises.

Facing new situations and challenges, local authorities and departments have implemented the new measures rolled out by the country to optimize pandemic response, so as to make COVID-19 prevention and control more sciencebased and targeted.

Besides, they have also made all-out efforts to implement a series of stimulus packages and follow-up measures to bolster the economy, leveraged policy-backed and developmentoriented financial instruments, offered new relending facility to support businesses in upgrading their equipment, and expanded medium- and longterm loans to the manufacturing sector.

In general, China' economy has withstood the impacts from unexpected factors and shown strong resilience and potential, said a spokesperson of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top economic regulator. The spokesperson noted that the country has seen a steady increase in development quality, as well as stable employment and commodity price. The trend for stable economic recovery remains unchanged, the spokesperson added.

"At present, Chinese economy is facing a more complicated and severe external environment, and weakened momentum for global growth. The country still needs to make arduous efforts to promote sustained economic recovery," the spokesperson remarked.

The spokesperson noted China will keep implementing a series of stimulus packages and follow-up measures to bolster the economy, give play to the coordination mechanism on effective investment for ma-



The headquarters of the Bank of Hainan in Haikou, south China's Hainan province is under construction, November 2022. (Photo by Zhang Mao/People's Daily Online)

jor projects, and further expedite the financing of projects via policy-based and developmental financial instruments and speed up infrastructure construction.

The country will also accelerate the recovery and development of key consumption areas, reinforce its support for medium-, small- and micro-sized enterprises and individual businesses, strengthen the security of food, energy and resources and industrial and supply chains, and ensure stable supply and price of important livelihood commodities.

"China's economy will continuously pick up with the implementation of optimized COVID containment measures and stimulus policies taking effect.," the spokesperson noted.

Since this year, the Chinese economy has shouldered continuous pressure. However, it is still highlighted by the new energy, digital economy and high-tech manufacturing sectors.

According to statistics, the total added value of high-tech manufacturing climbed 8 percent in the first 11 months this year compared to a year ago, 4.2 percentage points higher than that of industrial enterprises above the designated size. During the same period, investment in the hightech field was up by 19.9 percent, 14.6 percentage points higher than the total investment.

The artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT), photovoltaic and new energy

vehicle sectors delivered remarkable performance.

The NDRC said it will work with relevant departments to accelerate the implementation of the innovationdriven development strategy, and further give play to the important tole played by the high-tech industry in leading and supporting high-quality economic development.

They will encourage and guide market entities to develop core technologies, massively put into use innovation outcomes, and bolster areas of weakness in the fields that concern development security. They will enhance risk monitoring and warning for important industrial and supply chains and the evaluation of emerging problems, so as to maintain stable industrial and supply chains.

They will work to foster and strengthen new models and businesses, promote cluster development of strategic emerging industries and foster a large batch of areas of economic growth. The construction of new infrastructure will be taken as an important approach to expanding effective investment.

The country will accelerate the development of digital economy, speed up the implementation of major projects in the sector such as channeling computing resources from the eastern areas to the less developed western regions, and promote in-depth integration between digital economy and real economy, to build digital industry clusters that are globally competitive.

The country will promote in-depth integration among innovation, industries, capital and human resources, draw innovation factors to enterprises and consolidate the dominant position of technology enterprises in scientific innovation.

It will also explore a diversified investment mechanism and vigorously promote the construction of innovation platforms, including engineering research centers, industrial innovation centers and enterprise innovation centers, to nurture and attract more high-level talents for innovation and generate more major original and leading achievements.

According to recent forecasts by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the country's economy is expected to grow around 5.1 percent in 2023 due to continued optimization of COVID containment measures and a relatively low comparison base.

People's Daily

Friday 23 December, 2022

### **Guardian**



### African team can reach 2026 World Cup final - CAF boss Motsepe

**JOHANNESBURG** 

AFRICAN football boss Patrice Motsepe told a press conference in Johannesburg on Wednesday he believes a team from the continent can reach the 2026 World Cup final.

"Morocco opened the door by reaching the semi-finals this month and I am confident an African nation will go further at the next World Cup," said the South African billion-

"The main objective of CAF (Confederation of African Football) is for an African nation to win the World Cup and that goal is within reach."

There will be nine or 10 African qualifiers for an expanded 48-team 2026 World Cup in the United Stages, Canada and Mexico -- up from five in

Morocco made history in Qatar by becoming the first African representatives to reach the semi-finals.

The Atlas Lions stunned Belgium in the group stage, then eliminated two more powerful European sides, Spain and Portugal, in the knockout stage before losing to France in the semi-finals.

"There are at least 10 African nations that can compete at the highest level and win the World Cup," added

He also hailed Cameroon and Tunisia for shock group victories over five-time World Cup winners Brazil and twice champions France respec-

"We should be proud of what Cameroon and Tunisia achieved. These and other African countries must learn from Morocco," said the CAF president.

The shock victories were not enough to get Cameroon and Tunisia past the first round, but Senegal did make the last 16 before being eliminated after a heavy loss to England.

Reigning African champions Senegal suffered a massive pre-tournament blow when star forward Sadio Mane was ruled out by injury.

Motsepe disclosed that a dispute between CAF and sports agency Lagardere had been "resolved amicably", but refused to give details, citing a confidentiality clause.

Lagardere signed a one billion dollar (940 million euros) contract with the Cairo-based African football body in 2017, which was supposed to last until 2028.

However, just one year into the television and marketing deal, it was scrapped after two legal judgments said it breached competition rules.

A senior CAF official, who requested anonymity, told AFP his organisation would pay Lagardere 25 million dollars in instalments to settle the dispute.

Motsepe said Algeria, Benin, Morocco, Nigeria and Zambia were among countries wanting to host the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations after Guinea withdrew recently, saying they were "not ready".

# Rose Chiuta and sporadic affinity to dance music, fragmented memories



JKT Kimbunga Band in the 1970s. (Agencies

classical have surprised hear from a veteran of National Service Jazz Band who briefly featured as part of the band while doing two years of National Service, that is, basic training and a specific atmosphere, 18 months as a service

Her name is apparently spelt as Rose Chiuta, and from what she spoke of at least one famous song of that band - or its successor format as JKT Kimbunga - there was clear evidence of insufficient exposure to its

That is not what one could have expected to say of a male ex-member of a well-known band.

at that moment cen- or a serviceman. tered on 'Salaam Baba The lady, to her credit, na Mama,' which the one time band member aligned it with the Uganda war in 1978-79, while pundits doing the interview were all persuaded it was different.

The proper song of the band, by its later name, sang by Zahir Ali Zorro, was clearly more tuned to the later period, to-

tally unlike the song that bling was a clear impresthe lady was attributing to the wartime singing.

The thematic elements in the song prove that this was definitely not so. Looking at the 'Salaam' lyrics and beat, it is squarely located in the late 1960s and early 1970s period, both in theme and style, while the lyrics also point to where the lady's explanations or projection

would not hold water. One such element is the gross assurance that is given the boy's parents that all is well, with a clear sentiment in the song that nothing is amiss, and the only problem is the relative lack of communication.

That blends perfectly well with going around in this or that camp, whether as a recruit un-The discussion was dergoing basic training,

> had an early Christmas song, which also shows her church loyalties to which she then returned after her two year stint in National Service.

> It shows that these are her proper loyalties, as even up to now she sings in choir at her specific

church, a city parish. What was a bit trousion that she lost contact with her early preoccupations in the National Service, and surprisingly didn't have a reliable recollection of songs in the period since she left.

It was the only explanation why she would have totally failed to locate the period the song was aired, not grasping contextual links of style or of sentiment involved. Anyone familiar with

the songs of the late 1960s to early 1970s knows that 'Salaam' falls squarely with the beats of that period, and is entirely outside the more voluble, eccentric (rapid, somewhat breathless) singing of the later period, which not surprisingly later caught up with the talk and shout industry of hip hop.

The later period (late 1970s and most of the 1980s) also had its spate of proper dance music, tunes which remained cool headed and to the ground, setting up mental scenarios compelling someone to think, take a position on a social issue.

When it comes to the later song by JKT Kimbunga as the youths left Uganda, the contrast is clear, from the atmosphere of pursuing duty

in a rather hidden situation where the concern is merely health, to an issue of returning hero-

In other words, no generalized assurances could have been issued for the later engagement, as the lyrics say 'those who died, died heroically and those who came back, came back hero-

'Salaam' doesn't have any such larger-than-life totems of the young man talking or writing to his parents being a hero or anything of the sort.

The tone of the song was that he was doing his duty and that involves moving around and is so engaging that it isn't easy to sit down and compose a letter of anything, but they shouldn't be worried.

That situation is consonant with changing camps from time to time or being constantly on errands as military training has little free time worth speaking of, and the parents are being assured not to worry about

It is a totally peaceful situation and not a life-engaging, predicating situation, where the parents stand a distant possibility of receiving a body bag.

In that case the feelings expressed by the talk show hosts of 'Salaam' being a product of moving between National Service camps fits rhythmically with the earlier period.

It remains a fact that the lady singer never really became part of National Service Jazz Band, for instance in the reflection that 'Salaam' was produced by JKT Kimbunga as if the troupe came up in the late 1960s, whereas it was part of the 'Kavasha' movement as its adherents call it, kicked into place by the likes of Orchestre Lipua Lipua and here solidly taken up by Shabani Marijani.

JKT Kimbuga came about as a matter of identifying their style, while in the earlier period everyone was doing rhumba, as different from twist, calypso or pachanga.

The litany of styles was a pain in the neck, with each band having a so-called style, such that one critic wrote in a Sunday column, that if one forms a banana crop parastatal it will form a band, whose style would be 'Matoke kula kula!' Is it style?

### Chance the Rapper to bring free concert, festival to Ghana

WHEN Chance the Rapper visited West Africa earlier this year, he initially thought his trip with fellow Chicago hip-hop artist Vic Mensa would be just another va-

cation getaway. Instead, the Grammy winner connected with Mensa's father's family in Ghana and other natives from the Motherland on a deeper level. He saw Ghana's beautiful ocean coastline and waterfalls, engulfed himself in the musical culture and art scene and learned more about the country's rich history of being the first sub-Saharan African country to free itself from

After a couple more trips to Ghana, Chance decided to create a free concert series and visual arts show so others could experience the country's vibrant culture just like he did. During the summer, Chance and Mensa brought eight students from Chicago to Ghana to learn more about Africa.

"I felt so free in Ghana. .. and I want others to feel the same way," said Chance, who along with Mensa will host the inaugural Black Star Line festival in Accra, Ghana, in 2023. The weeklong festival will feature events, panel discussions



FILE - Chance the Rapper performs at the BET Awards on June 26, 2022, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. The Grammy winner along with rapper Vic Mensa will host the inaugural Black Line Star festival in Accra, Ghana, in January 2023. The weeklong festival will feature events, panel discussions and performances on Jan. 6, from Chance, Mensa, Erykah Badu, T-Pain, Jeremih, Sarkodie and Tobe Nwigwe. (AP Photo)

and a free concert on Jan. 6 with ment to the political freedom that performances by Chance, Mensa, Erykah Badu, T-Pain, Jeremih, Sarkodie, Tobe Nwigwe, Asakaa Boys and Manifest.

The event will be held in Ac-

was won by Ghanaians in 1957. The festival's title was inspired by civil rights leader Marcus Garvey's Black Star Line, which was founded in 1919 and operated by Black cra's Black Star Square, a monu- people who helped link global

shipping and tourism opportunities between America, the Caribbean and Africa.

Garvey inspired Chance's music video "YAH Know, "featuring King Promise, and his upcoming album "Star Line Gallery," which

He's already released a few other new music videos – such as Child of God," " A Bar About a Bar " and " The Highs & Lows with Joey Bada\$\$ - in which he calls "album art" to highlight popular artists in Africa.

Chance said Naila Opiangah 's art piece for "Child of God" will be on display at the festival. He said his new "songs are candid realities of Black life."

"Artists have amazing graphics and album covers and single artworks that are made by great artists every day that's released," he said. "But the only time you get to see it is on this little inch-by-one inch depiction of it. These pieces are painted by world class artists. The ability to go see those pieces and interact with them in real life kind of adds people's understanding of the music."

Through his festival, Chance says he wants to bridge the gap between Black people abroad and

"I think that specifically the story of the founder's independence is something that all black people should know," he said "There are no free sub-Saharan African countries until 1957. I think they should know about the revolu-

is expected for release next year. tionary leaders on the continent and abroad. I think that if we had this connectedness and this interaction, people will actually have a chance to see this.'

Initially, it was tough gaining commitments from big-name music artists to travel and perform in West Africa. With few sponsors, much of the expenses to fund the free concert were out-of-pocket.

But Chance's team found a way to make the trip more affordable for travelers through a partnership with United Airlines, which is offering discount fares to Ghana

It's taken a lot of work to organize the event in such a short time, but Chance believes this festival could live on successfully for the next 50 years. In the future, he wants to host the festival in other countries, such as Jamaica and

But for now, Chance's focus has been on attracting more people to Ghana, a place he can envision his family living after his daughters head to college.

"I wish I could live there right now," said the rapper, who has lived in Chicago his whole life. "I want people to see the convergence and similarities in all of these Black lives." **AP** 

### Pele's cancer advances as football legend now needs heart and kidney treatment

football legend Pele's cancer has advanced and he now requires treatment for heart and kidney trouble, according to a medical report released on Wednesday.

Pele, 82, has been battling colon cancer since September 2021 and was hospitalised on 29 November for doctors to reevaluate his treatment.

He will spend Christmas in Hospital, his daughter Kely Nascimento-Deluca said in an Instagram post.

"We decided with the doctors that, for various reasons, it would be better for us to stay here," she said, posting from Albert Einstein Israelite Hospital in Sao Paulo.

She added: "We, as always, thank you for all the love you show here in Brazil as well as around the world! Your love for him, your stories and your prayers are a HUGE comfort because we know we

Earlier this month, the three-time World Cup winner said he was feeling strong following his regular treatment in a social media post responding to concerning reports about his health.

Brazilian news outlet Folha claimed earlier on Saturday that the former striker had been moved to palliative care and that his chemotherapy to treat colon cancer had been suspended.

"My friends, I want to keep everyone calm and positive," it read. "I'm strong, with a lot of hope and I follow my treatment as usual. I want to thank the entire medical and nursing team for all the care I have received.

"I have a lot of faith in God and every message of love I receive from you all over the world keeps me full of energy. And watch Brazil in the World Cup too! Thank you so much for everything."

Doctors for Pele, formally known as Edson Arantes do Nascimento, released a statement on Wednesday on his condition.

It read: "Hospitalised since 29 November for a reassessment of chemotherpay for colon tumor and treatment of a respiratory infection, Edson Arantes do Nascimento's cancer has progressed and requires greater care for renal and cardiac dysfun-

Pele underwent surgery to remove a tumour during September 2021 and there have been increasing concerns about his health.

His legend still looms large over the Brazil national team 45 years after his retirement from professional football. He remains tied for the team's alltime top goalscoring record with current forward Neymar, at 77.

# Argentina's government defends chaotic World Cup parade

ARGENTINA's government on Wednesday defended the mammoth parade held to welcome home the World Cup winners even though the event was abruptly cut short amid organizational

After days of high-profile activity, team captain Lionel Messi and most of the other members of the national soccer squad were largely staying out of sight and spending time with family and friends.

There had been speculation that Rosario, Argentina's third-largest city, would put on its own celebration for hometown hero Messi. But after Tuesday's chaos in Buenos Aires, where millions swamped the streets eager to get a glimpse of the winning team, officials were emphasizing that the players preferred to rest.

In talking about the early end to Tuesday's parade, Security Minister Anibal Fernandez said: "The objective was to protect the players - not because they were going to be harmed, but rather because anything could help when so many people were trying to get close to them.'

The World Cup and the success of the national team brought a brief respite from the political infighting that is common in Argentina, a country that has been plagued by economic malaise for years and is suffering one of the world's highest inflation rates. But controversy over the parade brought back

Soccer officials had said early Tuesday that the team would travel in an open-top bus from the Argentine Football Association headquarters outside the capital to the Obelisk, the iconic downtown Buenos Aires landmark that is the traditional site of celebrations. Fernandez said he warned early on that was a mistake.

"Look at the photos. Put a bus in the middle of there and you realize that they would have stayed living there for six days," Fernandez said.

President Alberto Fernandez sought to play up the celebration itself, saying that "if you see the happiness that there were in the streets, the objective was met.'

The initial plan was for the bus carrying the players to travel 74 kilometers (46 miles), but after going 12 kilometers in only four hours under a scorching summer sun, the players were boarded onto helicopters for a capital flyover that the government billed as an aerial parade.

After the flyover, the helicopters returned to the soccer federation headquarters and from there players traveled home, including Messi, who flew to Rosario alongside teammate Angel Di Maria.**AP** 

# Who are the best soccer players of all time?

By Sanjesh Singh

Lionel Messi cement G.O.A.T. of soccer?

The 35-year-old Argentine star finally captured the title that has eluded him for so long - the World Cup.

Messi Argentina beat France in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Final in Qatar with Messi scoring a brace converting penalty in the decisive shootout. He also claimed the Golden Ball Award with seven goals and three assists to his name throughout the tournament.

Now that La Pulga has penned the ultimate trophy to his alreadystacked resume, it gives him even further credence as the best the sport has offered.

Along with Messi, these players are among the best soccer has ever seen in its profound history, in no particular

#### Ronaldinho, Brazil

We don't see many players like this anymore, but Ronaldinho was truly one of a kind. His ball progression as a dribbler or passer was unrivaled, his feet and the ball humming on the pitch in sync to deliver some of the best touches any player can make. The versatile Brazilian attacker finished his career with a 2002 World Cup title, a 2005 Ballon d'Or, a 2005-06 Champions League title, three domestic league titles and two FIFA Best Player of the Year

accolades. You probably won't see Ronaldinho cracking the top 10 often in similar rankings, but in terms of winning with style, very few did it like

Lev Yashin, Russia There had to be at least one goalkeeper worthy of a mention in this list, so it makes perfect sense that Lev Yashin made the cut. Often regarded as the best goalkeeper of all time, the "Black Spider" could literally do anything needed of him between the sticks. He was an elite shot stopper thanks to his positioning, and athleticism. Scoring past him was equal to winning a \$1 billion lottery - your odds were extremely low. Yashin won nine European Goalkeeper of the Year awards from 1956 to

#### Ronaldo, Brazil

1966. Utter dominance.

What makes a good No. 9? Do they have elite ball striking and passing in the final third? Are they fast and can control the ball in tight spaces? Can they score headers when the opportunity arrives? We can keep going, but Ronaldo truly could do it all and deserves the shouts of being the best pure No. 9 of all time. He was simply a goalscoring machine, netting 280 times in 384 games in domestic league competitions. The Brazilian won two World Cups (1994, 2002), two Ballon d'Ors (1997, 2002), three FIFA World Player of the Years (1996, 1997, 2002) and so much more.

Eusébio, Portugal

Speaking of goal-scoring machines, next up is



Pele poses with the World Cup trophy during a press conference, outside the Hotel de Ville in Paris in 2014 (AFP)

one of Portugal's greatest. Eusébio most notably dominated at the club level for S.L. Benfica in Portugal's Primeira Liga, the top-flight league in the country. He scored 317 goals in 301 games in the league for Benfica and is widely considered the club's best ever player. He helped the club win 12 league titles in 15 years from 1960 to 1975 and, in total for his career, scored 733 times in 745 professional matches. He won the Ballon d'Or in 1965 and helped Portugal finish third in the 1966 World Cup, the country's best ever placement in the tournament.

#### Paolo Maldini, Italy

Switching gears from attacking to defense, there wasn't a player who commanded a backline better than Paolo Maldini. He could shift between a centerback and left-back with no drop off in quality, and opposing attackers had to move mountains to overtake him on the way to getting a shot off. The Italian defender became an AC Milan club legend as he helped the club win seven Serie A titles and five

European Cups/UEFA Champions from 1985 to 2009. Yes, vou read that right. He made 647 appearances in the league spanning 24 years.

#### Cruyff, Johan **Netherlands**

Both as a player and as a coach, Johan Cruyff's playstyle and philosophy are still a major part of modern football. The Dutch maestro had the ball on a string anytime it came his way. His final touches and the stealth of his moves of not revealing what he'd do next are just some reasons he became an icon. As a player, Cruyff won nine Eredivisie titles, one La Liga with Barcelona and three Ballon d'Ors (1971, 1973, 1974). As a manager with Barcelona, he won four La Liga titles and a European Cup in 1991-92. Cruyff was one of the popularizers of "Total Football", a system in which any player can move around and step into any other position and play it flawlessly, bar the goalkeeper.

#### Cristiano Ronaldo, **Portugal**

Considered the best left winger of all time,

Cristiano Ronaldo has also popularized the "CR7" phrase as the No. 7 position and jersey number is now often associated with him. The Portuguese star has been a prolific scorer and playmaker throughout his lengthy career for both club and country. He's won multiple league titles with Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus along with the 2016 UEFA European Championship. The fivetime Ballon d'Or winner (2008, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017) will be looking to win the 2022 World Cup to add to his stacked resume.

it's not surprising that

#### Lionel Argentina

Moving to the other wing, Lionel Messi is considered the best right winger of all time. The Argentine forward became a legend with Barcelona, scoring 474 times in 520 league appearances to go with 10 La Liga titles, four Champions League wins and six Ballon d'Or wins (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019). Since joining Paris Saint-Germain in 2021, he has won the Ligue 1 title in his debut season and the Ballon d'Or award in the same season. That year, he also won the Copa América with Argentina. And now, finally, Messi

assists throughout the tournament. Diego Maradona, **Argentina** 

Speaking of Argentine

claimed his first World

Cup title in Qatar to go

with the Golden Ball

Award after logging

seven goals and three

legends, Maradona is up next. Often operating as No. 10 who had no trouble finding the back of the net as if he were a fulltime striker, Maradona made waves with clubs in Argentina before making big moves in Europe, most notably with Italian side Napoli. With Napoli, he won two Serie A titles (1986-87, 1989-90) to transform the club up the European ladder and into a well-known giant. He also won two Ballon d'Ors (1986, 1990) along with a World Cup win in 1986. Of course, you can't mention that triumph without bringing up the infamous "Hand of God" goal scored by none other than Maradona himself.

#### P**elé, Brazil**

Rounding out this list is Pelé, who even FIFA has deemed the greatest of them all. The Brazilian forward, who operated as a second striker, is recognized by Guinness World Records with the most goals scored of all time with 1,279 in 1,363 games for both club and country, including friendlies. With Brazil, Pelé won three World Cups (1957, 1962, 1970) which marks the most all time by one player. He also would've had seven Ballon d'Ors to his name, France Football acknowledged, but the esteemed award was only given to European players until 1994. He and Messi then would have been tied with the most all time.

\*Who are the best soccer players all time? originally appeared on

# Guardiola says Champions League title needed to 'complete' City stint

PEP Guardiola has insisted his time as manager of Manchester City will "not be complete" if he fails to win the Champions League.

Guardiola has won nine major trophies, including four English Premier League titles, as City manager but he is yet to bring European club football's most prestigious trophy to the Etihad Stadium.

The 51-year-old guided Barcelona to two Champions League titles when manager of the Spanish giants, having won the European Cup as a player with the club in 1992.

But the Spaniard's best finish in the competition during six full seasons at City came when they were runners-up in 2021 after losing 1-0 in the final to Premier League rivals Chelsea.

Guardiola, who last month extended his City contract until the end of the 2024/25 season, is determined to bring the club just their second major continental trophy after they won the now defunct European Cup Winners' Cup back in 1970.

but I admit it's the trophy we want, and of course my period here will not be complete if we don't

the Champions League.

"That's not the only reason I extended the contract, absolutely not, but I will do everything in the time we have together, and we are going to try -- but I'd say the same as we tried before.

"It's the trophy we don't have and we'll try City, semi-finalists last

season, will resume their quest to win the Champions League against RB Leipzig in the last 16 in February.

Guardiola, who joined City after a spell at German giants Bayern Munich, had no doubts about committing his future to the club.

"First of all, I want to say thank you for the confidence they have in me," he said. "It will be difficult to repay the confidence they have shown me in these many years. It was difficult for me to reject them.

"We will continue to try to do our best. I don't have enough words to express my gratitude to this club for having me

Meanwhile, Guardiola on Wednesday paid tribute to Julian Alvarez and Lionel Messi following It's not the only one Argentina's World Cup triumph.

City striker Alvarez was a central figure as Argentina won the win it," said Guardiola of World Cup for the first time since 1986, with for Argentina as a coun-Sunday's dramatic penalty shoot-out win over France in an outstanding final in Qatar representing the summit of a brilliant career for Messi, who enjoyed club success under Guardiola at Barcelona.

Former City defender Nicolas Otamendi was also a member of Argentina's victorious team, with Guardiola saying Wednesday: "For Julian, we are delighted. He played a lot and his contribution was amazing for the team, for the way they played. We have a world champion in our

"We are incredibly happy for him. Congratulations to him, for Nico Otamendi and, of course, personally for Leo Messi,

try, well deserved champions.

Messi's performance cemented his place as one of the greatest players in football history, not that Guardiola, who twice won the Champions League with him at Barcelona, needed any additional proof.

"Everyone has an opinion but nobody can 
Cup holders Liverpool doubt he's there. I've said many times, for me, he's the best," he said. "It is difficult to understand how a player can appear and do what he's done in the last 10-15 years.

"The people who saw Pele or (Alfredo) Di Stefano, or (Diego) Maradona -- they can say their favourites.

"In these opinions, they can have a sentimental approach.

"If he (Messi) had not won the World Cup, my opinion about what he has done for world football would not change, but it is normal for people that it depends on if they win.

"For him it is the final achievement of an incredible career."

- City tackle League City return to action following the World Cup break with a League Cup quarter-final at home to trophy holders Liver-

pool on Thursday. The last encounter between the Premier League rivals in October led to several unsavoury incidents on and off the field.

Leading figures have since tried to dampen

down the tensions that have surfaced in recent seasons when both clubs have been vying to be crowned champions of England.

Guardiola, asked if he had a message for the fans, also told a prematch press conference on Wednesday: "Be supporters and support your team unconditionally in the good moments and bad moments."

City had 16 players away at the World Cup. Ilkay Gundogan and Kevin De Bruyne played in a friendly against Girona last week but Rodri, Aymeric Laporte, Nathan Ake and Manuel Akanji have only been back in training a few days.

**AFP** 



20 Friday 23 December, 2022

# Guardian www.ippmedia.com

# NBC Bank presents Mayele with the Best Player of the Month Award

### Martinez: From fan at the **2018 World Cup to savior** in Qatar

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**By Guardian Correspondent** 

HE National Bank Commerce (NBC), the main sponsor of the NBC Premier League, on Tuesday presented a cash prize and an award to the league's best player of November, Fiston Mayele from Young Africans SC (Yanga).

The handing over ceremony took place shortly before the start of the game between Yanga and Coastal Union held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, a game that after the final whistle ended with the Jangwani Street side winning 3-0.

Mayele, who received the player of the month award, scored two goals for Yanga, as the third goal was netted by Feisal Salum.

The event was witnessed by a member of the league board, Azim Khan, whereas the NBC's Director of Business Banking, Elvis Ndunguru, handed over a cheque worth Tsh 1 million to the striker along with the prize for the best player of November.

Speaking shortly



The NBC's Director of Business Banking Elvis Ndunguru (L) hands over a dummy cheque worth 1 million Tanzanian Shillings along with an award to Fiston Mayele, Young Africans Sports Club's top striker, who was declared the Best Player of the Month for November in the NBC Premier League early before the kick-off of the game between Young Africans SC and Coastal Union played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es salaam on Tuesday. Witnessing the handing over is Azim Khan (R), a member of Tanzania Premier League Board. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

handing over the prizes, tivation to players and Ndunguru said NBC Bank coaches every month to will continue to give mo- make the league more com-

petitive for both the players and coaches.

"We give these monthly

awards to bring enthusiasm to the players and coaches of all teams that take part in the NBC Premier League, so that they do well and promote themselves internationally, and also to help improve this game of soccer in the country," said Nduguru.

He also elaborated on the bank's plans to continue to boost its sponsorship as they are in the final stages of starting to provide bus loans to various clubs that participate in the league to facilitate the travel of those teams.

"Also NBC will continue to sponsor other sports in the country such as athletics through the NBC Dodoma Marathon and golf, whereby currently we're sponsoring the Lugalo Golf Club. Our goal is to help the sports sector in the country to be at the international level and also to improve the interests of sportsmen in general," he said.

On his part, Mayele, the Young Africans SC key striker, was grateful to receive the award and promised to continue to boost his efforts to become the top player and help his team secure three points in every game.

"I would like to thank the NBC Bank for the award. This will push me and the other players and coaches to improve their performances because this is a huge motivation to everyone. I also thank the technical bench and my teammates together for making it possible for me to get this award and I will continue to do well," said Mayele.

## Coach Nabi set to axe some of foreign players

**By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi** 

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) head coach Nasreddine Nabi is expected to make decisions on foreign players to be axed at the club during this mini transfer window, in order to make space for new two entries that are expected to be signed by

The NBC Premier League defending champions through its President Hersi Said have already confirmed that they will sign two international players to strengthen their squad, in the pursuit of the FA Cup championship and participate properly in the league together with the group stage of the CAF Confederation Cup.

The registration of the two players should be done during the ongoing mini transfer window. There are 12 foreign players registered in the club, and they should be reduced to ten.

The foreign players who are in the squad so far are Djigui Diarra, Joyce Lomalisa, Djuma Shaban, Yannick Bangala, Khalid Aucho, Jesus Moloko, Bernard Morrison, Stephane Aziz Ki, Heritier Makambo, Fiston Mayele, Gael Bigirimana and Tuisila Kisinda.

However, information states that two other foreign players who were not part of those registered according to the TFF rules, Lazarous Kambole and Yacouba Songne, have recovered after being out of the field for a long time due to the injuries they were facing, thus making the number of foreign players to be 14.

According to the president, Kambole and Sogne were injured and have recovered and as for who remains, that is the coach's responsibility according to the needs of his team heading into the upcoming

He has said that according to the number of foreign players who are required to be registered they have to leave two because they will add other two foreign stars in this mini transfer window that was opened on December 16, this year.

"According to the number of foreign players, we have to leave two players. We have left all decisions to coach Nabi, between Yacouba and Kambole on who will remain. We have also received loan requests for some of our players from other clubs and we will allow them in this mini transfer window.

"This is the time for Yanga to make a mark in international competitions. Our system is the same, the player we are recruiting must be very good or better than the one we have in our squad," said the president.

Yanga is leading the Tanzania Mainland Premier League standings with 44 points, followed by Simba SC with 38 points while Azam FC are in third place with 37 points.

At the Tanzania Mainland Azam Sports Confederation Cup, Yanga have reached round of 32 after beating Kurugenzi FC of Simiyu 8-0.

In the CAF Confederations Cup, Yanga were drawn in Group D with US Monastir (Tunisia), TP Mazembe (DR Congo) and Real Bamako (Mali).

# We have to be clinical in away games, says Mgunda

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC interim head coach Juma Mgunda has admitted lack of clinical finishing in front of opponents' goal and the defensive errors after the 1-1 NBC Premier League results against Kagera Sugar, and now he is looking at the next game against KMC FC which will be played on Boxing Day in Mwanza to make corrections.

Simba was preceded by an early goal by their hosts through Deus Bukenya in the 15th minute, before they equalized with a header scored by the Democratic Republic of Congo defender Enock Inonga Baka in the 39th minute.

Coach Mgunda has said they played with good opponents and that the results were fair for both teams, and now they go back to the drawing board to make sure that they correct mistakes and get results in their next fixture against KMC.

"Soccer is a game of mistakes. We have made mistakes and Kagera Sugar punished us in the first minutes. We also used their mistakes to equalize. After that we played very sloppy, we were not clinical in front of goal. Our creative players played very deep thus failing to cre-



Juma Mgunda

ate enough chances. We tried to find good results, but luck was not on our

"There are shortcomings and I have seen them. Together with my colleagues on the technical bench we will work on them before our next game which we will play on Monday in Mwanza against KMC.

"We are still in the process of fulfill-

ing our obligations this season. The season is not over and what happens is part of the football game. This can happen even to our title rivals, so what we should focus on right now is to continue the fight to achieve our goals," said Mgunda

Kagera Sugar head coach Mecky Mexime said that the 1-1 draw against Simba SC is like a victory for his players due to the difficulty of the game. Mexime said that despite failing to get three points at home, the results are not bad for him as it has become a good test for Kagera Sugar, which faced two tough games in a row against local soccer giants.

He said his players fought by following his instructions, but Simba used their experience and pressed them while attacking them repeatedly and reached the point of sharing the points.

"For me, this match, I have won. As a coach you have to test yourself by playing with teams like these that are good and even if you get a draw, you have to count yourself as having won. So I congratulate my players.

"We have played here with Azam FC a few days ago and we got a 2-2 draw, so you will see that my players have shown great fighting spirit and pay attention to what I instruct them to do. In general, it was a good game against Simba. This game is over and we are preparing for another game," said Maxime.

Having dropped points, Simba now are six points behind leaders Yanga with 38 points, while Kagera Sugar after two successful draws against league contenders they have collected 23 points and unbeaten in their last five matches.

### Flexibles by David Chikoko

