



BUSINESS CAG Kichere faults online business licensing system



Kenya Airways 'travellers' have lost billions in expired tickets

Absa recovers from losses, earns 9.4bn/- annual net profit in 2021



Ten oil CEOs face jail and fines in fuel crisis probe

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Fake visa stickers rub out 2.4bn/-

'Minerals, gem traders could help in fighting smuggling'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TRADERS and dealers in minerals must chip in to aid the fight against smuggling of precious stones as it leads to huge losses in uncollected revenues, Mineral minister Dotto Biteko has declared.

At a meeting with stakeholders in the sector here yesterday, convened to discuss ways of improving the business environment in the sector, the minister said



The government has set aside the markets strategically so that traders take minerals to those places

unscrupulous traders smuggle out substantial amounts of minerals, despite government initiative to build markets with all the facilities needed for selling precious stones.

"The government has set aside the markets strategically so that traders take minerals to those places," he said, underlining that the markets should be a point where going to do business there is something to be proud of. Ministerial officials have been meeting various stakeholders through local and foreign exhibitions to see how existing challenges can be resolved in a timely

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This is a re-enactment of the biblical Good Friday crucifixion of Jesus Christ as performed yesterday at Dar es Salaam's Azania Front Cathedral of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Bishop: Families torn apart for not forgiving

By Guardian Reporter

MANY families are falling apart because there is no forgiveness, and the men find it difficult to apologise when they do wrong to their spouses, a top cleric declared

yesterday.

Bishop Liberatus Sangu of the Shinyanga Diocese of the Catholic Church told worshippers in his Good Friday homily that Tanzanians need to learn to forgive to avoid conflicts that lead to families

being ripped apart, apart from other effects for society at large.

Leading the service at his Ngokolo-based church, Bishop Sangu said that in order for Tanzanians to live happily and peacefully, they should forgive each other, because

forgiveness promotes love, and where there is love God exists, so there will be no divisions but peace will reign.

"Let us humble ourselves and

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Education, Science and Technology (EST) minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (4th-R), Tanzania Commercial Bank CEO Sabasaba Moshingi (3rd-R) and the bank's director of human resources and administration, Diana Myonga (4th-L), display the Overall Winner trophy the bank scooped recently. This was at the NACTVET (National Council for Technical and Vocational Education & Training) Annual Gala Dinner 2022 held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday to recognize and award employers known to play an outstanding role in supporting skills development in the country. Others are NACTVET executive director Dr Adolf Rutayuga (L), Association of Tanzania Employers executive director and CEO Suzanne Ndomba-Doran (2nd-L), EST ministry permanent secretary Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka (3rd-L), NACTVET board chairman Prof John Kondoro (2nd-R) and the Swiss Ambassador to Tanzania, Adrian Schlaepfer. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

LOSS amounting to 2bn/- following use of fake visa stickers by the Immigration Department to visitors who arrived in the country through airports is unearthed in the latest audit of government departments and agencies.

Charles Kichere, the Controller and Auditor General (CAG), says this anomaly was identified in an investigative audit of visa revenues from visitors entering the country via the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA)

In his annual report for fiscal 2020/21 presented in the National Assembly earlier this week, the CAG on August 2, 2019, the Director of Criminal Investigation (DCI) noticed the presence of forged visa stickers at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA).

A preliminary investigation by the DCI revealed that forged visa stickers were sold by the Immigration Department to visitors entering through KIA, he stated.

"Due to the situation, DCI requested my office to conduct a deep audit, to map out losses incurred by the government and to identify immigration officers involved in the matter from January 1, 2019 to 30 June 2019," he said.

In the investigation, it was found that the gov-



Due to the situation, DCI requested my office to conduct a deep audit, to map out losses incurred by the government and to identify immigration officers involved in the matter from January 1, 2019 to 30 June 2019

ernment had incurred a loss of 2.42bn/- due to the sale of 21,208 forged visa stickers and whose records were deliberately deleted from the Visa Application System (VAS) by Immigration officials stationed at the key northern zone airport, he stated.

The stickers apply to foreigners who pay for visas on arrival, he said, elaborating that 32 KIA Immigration officials are now facing charges of conspiring to provide the visitors with fake visas and thus getting 2.42bn/- illegally.

Before August 23, 2019, the KIA Immigration Department was using VAS to record details of visitors paying visas upon arrival and those with unpaid visas (gratis VISA), he said.

Recording in the VAS was completed after the visitor has paid visa fees and received a revenue receipt, while there were no records kept in VAS pertaining to diplomats, residence permits, exemption certificates, passports, returnees, online visas and visas issued to embassies, he elaborated.

Despite the existence of VAS, there was also a PISCES system monitoring all security dispositions, a system originating from the Department of State (the foreign ministry of the United States of America), known as the Personal Identification and Secure Comparison (PISC) electronic system, tied to the terrorist interdiction program (TIIP) in 1997.

It was introduced to enable countries to improve their watchlisting capabilities by providing a mainframe computer system to facilitate immigration processing in half a dozen countries to start with.

To ensure that no Tanzanian or foreigner who

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apologise, and when you are forgiven forgive seven times seventy times so that peace can reign and you live in love," the prelate emphasized.

"Without forgiveness what follows is revenge, leading to violence, hatred, intrigue, divisions and disruption of peace," he reaffirmed, insisting that without God's forgiveness and sending Jesus Christ to die for the wrong that mankind lives with, lawlessness and revenge would prevail. Tanzanians need to live in the image of God and forgive each other, he pleaded.

Messages of forgiveness, peace and unity dominated Easter prayers in various areas, with clerics calling upon Tanzanians to embrace what brings them together and not their differences.

They similarly wanted followers of various religions and denominations to heighten their prayers for benediction and diminution of ongoing hardships in day to day living around the country.

Anglican Church lead pastor at Chumbageni in Tanga said that as Tanzanians wait for Easter, forgiving each other should be the priority spiritual duty. Pastor Kamote said forgiving another person guarantees forgiveness in heaven, creating peace of mind. "This way we shall have a nation that fears God and is full of love," he declared.

"Let us not celebrate Easter habitually but do it how God wants us to, by celebrating because we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ who died to make us free," he said.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Arusha parish pastor, Reverend Daniel Sadera urged worshippers to put God first in everything they do, in easy or tough situations. Tanzanians need not lose hope on account of life being difficult but pray for divine intervention that life becomes easier.

People who are at the forefront of defending the rights of others must those goals.

Bishop Ayoub Muna of the Arusha Pentecostal Church called upon Christians countrywide to change behaviors and refrain from criminal acts. His Good Friday message highlighted how it was embarrassing to see supposed believers being involved in criminal activities.

He urged fellow bishops in the region to continue collaborating to ensure that the church remains strong, while Archbishop Issac Amani of the Catholic Church Archdiocese of Arusha said a God fearing life is a precondition for peace to reign. "Peace is found at the cost of understanding and letting anger go away," he emphasized.

Karatu District Commissioner Dadi Kolimba hailed the association of churches in Manyara Region and reminded them of the need to participate in the forthcoming Population and Housing Census.

Retired Bishop Dr Alex Malasusa of the Azania Front Parish of the Lutheran Church in Dar es Salaam said commemorating the death of Jesus is a reminder that nothing should be spared in seeking to live the will of God and the command of love.

Churches all over the country held prayers and gave homilies on the spirit of hard work, self-employment and combating domestic violence and female genital mutilation (FGM).

32 Zion christian church members killed in bus tragedy in Zimbabwe

HARARE

Thirty-two (32) members of the Zion Christian Church (ZCC) died while several others were seriously injured after their bus crashed near Jopa market in Chipinge on Thursday night.

Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) national spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi confirmed the accident to ZBC News.

Asst Comm Nyathi said the ZCC congregants were travelling to an Easter church gathering when the bus veered off the road and plunged into a gorge, killing 29 people on the spot.

Three of the deceased later passed away as they were being ferried to the hospital. The injured were admitted at Chipinge District Hospital.

Asst Comm Nyathi said police have established that the bus belongs to Charles Lwanga Secondary School and was overloaded.

Chimanimani East legislator, Joshua Sacco (ZANU PF), who rushed to the accident scene last night, expressed sadness over the loss of lives and urged drivers to exercise extreme caution on the road.

AGENCIES



President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience in Washington, DC, on Thursday with Dr Derek Mitchell, President of the National Democratic Institute - a non-partisan, non-profit American NGO that works with partners in developing countries to enhance the effectiveness of democratic institutions. Photo: State House

'Minerals, gem traders could help in fighting smuggling'

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manner, he explained, promising more such meetings to listen to grievances.

He urged traders and dealers to form a union so that there is one voice which that can be heard easily, while the

chairman of the Tanzania Mineral Dealers Association (TMDA), Jeremia Kituyo said the sector already contributes quite significantly to GDP, but more needs to be done for it to contribute more.

He hailed the government

for establishing selling centres for minerals as they had contributed much to the pace of growth in the sector. Tanzania has an abundance of minerals such as gold, diamonds and tanzanite, apart from the globally tested industries of coal and

natural gas. By late last year, nearly 500 active license holders had explored over 40 types of minerals in various parts of the country, he stated. Mining activities are a prominent industry in the country's economy, with mining

and quarrying accounting for seven percent of GDP for 2020. The sector employed more than 310,000 people, with total earnings from exports of minerals eclipsing \$3.6bn during the period, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured at Masjid Noor Muhammad Mombasa kwa Mchina yesterday presenting a prize to the first winner of the seventh major Quran Tajweed Zanzibar recitation competition organised by Majlisul Quran Zanzibar. Left is Zanzibar's Chief Sheikh, Saleh Omar Kaab. Story on Page 3. Photo: Zanzibar State House

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is banned or barred from entering the United Republic gets access, it was necessary for all passengers landing via KIA to go through the PISCES system, he stated.

Yet from January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019 about 41 Tanzanians and 107,119 foreigners ar-

rived in the country via KIA, where 11,341 were granted visas online and 7,044 were granted visas from embassies located in various countries, the audit report indicated.

About 13,678 foreigners had no visa due to exemptions, not having passports, existing contracts and other reasons, with 41,286 foreigners paying visas upon arrival at KIA, he said.

About 212 guests obtained and paid visas at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) and the Abeid Karume International Airport in Zanzibar despite landing at KIA, while a total of 33,558 guests arrived through KIA although information on electronic revenue receipts, entry forms and bank depositing information were not available," the CAG asserted.

The audit found that fraud was committed due to a loophole in the VAS system which was easily detected, he explained, elaborating that following an investigation into the VAS system, it was found that it allows visa sticker information to be printed prior to storage.

Unprotected information can be deleted without authorization, he stated, highlighting that

the VAS system also allows deleted information to be completely removed from the database without recourse for recovery steps to be implemented, noting that this is a massive challenge in accountability of its operations.

On the basis of the loopholes found in the VAS system, the audit confirmed that 32 KIA Immigration Department officials received money from foreigners

and published their information on forged visa stickers without storing it on the VAS system. They then deleted that information in the VAS system, he pursued.

Despite the fact that the Immigration Department has stopped using the VAS system and launched a new electronic visa system from 23 August 2019, an investigation should be con-

ducted to see whether the weaknesses identified in the previous VAS system remain in any facet in the new system, to prevent frauds being conducted upon the government, he emphasized.

The Immigration Department needs to take appropriate disciplinary actions on the 32 officers responsible for causing a loss of 2.42bn/-, he added.

African tourism experts expect better communication to support industry's sustainable recovery - council

By Special Correspondent, Cape Town

AFRICAN tourism experts have said the continent expects the rest of the world to help bring its tourism industry back to financial fitness in a sustainable way.

"If you look at South Africa for example, when we've a protest or something that makes it in the inter-

national news, all of a sudden, the whole country is violent, South Africa is bad," CEO of Tourism Business Council of South Africa Tshifhiwa Tshivhengwa said during the three-day World Travel Market Africa in Cape Town.

The continent faces the same situation as South Africa does, and Africa's branding and communication is not

sufficient, he said in a session about Africa's tourism recovery amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Africa needs a scenario plan when there is a "tourism crisis," thereby knowing how it is going to respond and build confidence among tourists and ensuring people knows the real situation, he said.

There is confusion in people's mind

about Africa, and they "still think African as a country," said Mariette du Toit-Helmbold, founder of tourism marketing agency Destinate and former CEO of Cape Town Tourism.

The private sector in Africa's tourism industry should be more involved in making travel easier by offering travelers better and clear information, she said.

She expects Africa can break down perceptions and stereotypical ideas people still have about it and get them to rethink what Africa is about.

regional director for Africa and the Americas of Seychelles Tourism Board, David Germain suggested using social media for marketing, as many people refer to social media to get confidence or insight in travel.

If people get information from someone who is traveling, they can have a sort of confidence, he said.

This year's World Travel Market Africa included a business-to-business tourism exhibition and other events, aiming to bring benefits and opportunities to travel professionals in Africa.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango presents a peace award to Peace Committee advisor Altaf Hirani shortly after iftar the committee hosted in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Make patriotism, national interests top agenda, Majaliwa urges media

By Guardian Reporter, Ruungwa

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged the media in the country to continue informing the public by prioritizing patriotism and issues of national interests.

Majaliwa made the call on Thursday here when launching four stations that aim to increase sensitivity of TBC Taifa and FM radio located in Ruungwa in Lindi Region, Ludewa (Njombe), Mlimba (Morogoro) and Ngara (Kagera).

The Premier wanted journalists in the country to do their job of informing the public with great professionalism by conducting in-depth investigations so as to avoid providing confusing or insulting information as doing so would undermine the media industry.

In addition, he directed the responsible ministry to monitor and supervise interests and contracts of journalists from media owners who are well treated but also continue to monitor social media and ensure press freedom is protected as per ethics and guidelines of the industry.

Minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology commended the Universal Communication Service Access Fund (USCAF) for providing a grant of 3.1bn/- to the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) as part of the implementation of the third program to increase the frequency sensitivity of TBC taifa and TBC FM in different parts of the country.

He commended USCAF and TBC for their cooperation to ensure that the public has access to accurate and reliable information.

Nnauye also hailed the Parliament for restoring live broadcast which was a major step in protecting media freedom in the country.

USCAF executive director Justina Mashiba said they have funded projects to increase radio frequency sensitivity in 13 parts of the country and among them four projects have been launched and others are ongoing with the aim of ensuring all Tanzanians have access to information through local radios.

TBC director general Dr Ayoub Rioba said there are many ongoing projects to increase radio sensitivity which when completed will be 83 percent, from 50 percent in 2016.

Dr Mwinyi: Participate in foreign Quran competitions to market tourism

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has challenged Zanzibaris to participate in international Quran reciting competitions and use such platforms to market the Isles as the tourist destination of choice.

Dr Mwinyi threw the challenge yesterday during his speech while addressing

participants of the 7th Quran Tajweed Zanzibar competition which was held at Masjid Noor Muhammad at Kwamchina in the Isles.

He said by taking part in the competitions taking place in other Muslim countries, Zanzibaris stand a better chance of helping increase the number of tourists hence more jobs and money in the sector.

He said there is need to mobilize Muslims to participate in various competitions such as tahfidh Quran during this month of Ramadan to get blessings and good luck.

The Zanzibar leader thanked the office of the Mufti of Zanzibar for organizing the various competitions asking other stakeholders to collaborate so that the competitions are carried as organized.

He hailed the Majlisul Quran for coordinating the competition saying the organization should continue to ensure the matter continue every year to develop the tendency of reading among youth but also market Zanzibar abroad.

"You should continue having such kind of competitions but also ensure you invite judges from other countries like you have done," he said.

The competition involved judges from Bangladesh, Kenya and Egypt and was aimed at training youth from reading the holy book.

Zanzibar Mufti Samahat Sheikh Saleh Omar Kaab called upon youth to develop the tendency of reading the holy book.

Earlier when reading the history of his organization Majlisul Quran Shelkh

Mohammed Kombo said the institution which was established in 1994 and has managed to organize and prepare the competition for several years.

"We've managed to organize the competition year after year and have managed to groom the best Quran leaders where some are going to participate in this year's international Quran competition to be held in Dar es Salaam today.



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zuber bin Ally (2nd-R) with the NMB Bank Plc's chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi (R), during iftar the bank hosted for its customers in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Factory assists 4,800 sunflower farmers with contract farming

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Dodoma-based Pyxus Agriculture Tanzania Limited has entered into contract farming with at least 4,800 sunflower farmers in efforts to improve production of sunflower oilseeds in the country.

The farmers are based in Dodoma, Manyara, Iringa, Kite-to, Morogoro, Tanga, Kilimanjaro and Singida regions.

Factory's managing director Malcolm McGrath said through the robust program, the factory separates the growers into three categories, noting that the first category involves the smallholder farmers (AMCOS and registered groups) owning 1.5 to 80 hectares of land, whereby the second category attracts the farmers with from 5 to 80 hectares.

McGrath added that most of the commercial farmers were from Katesh, Simanjiro as well as Babati.

"The company will continue to enter into patriotic contracts with commercial and smallholder farmers within the country to grow sunflower seeds that will be processed at our newly acquired and upgraded Edible Oil mill and refinery in Dodoma region," McGrath added.

He further said the company has a strong and well-planned agronomy support structure, logistics' infrastructure and support system in place within Tanzania that are used to ensure and improve farmer's performance and their incomes.

"The company continually trains its contracted farmers on how best to increase productivity and yields, the development which enable them to fetch more profit," he observed.

He informed that the company's annual seed processing capacity is at 20,000 MT which produces approximately 6,000MT (6.6 million liters) of refined fortified sunflower oil.

The company's smallholder farmer's manager, Edwin

Shio, said the farmers have been introduced to best varieties, which involves mixture of improved and Open Pollinated Varieties (OPV), naming the seeds as Hysun 33, Agura 4 and 6, Super Sun, and Records.

"The objective is to ensure the farmers are getting good yields, but also produce grain seeds with high oil content," he said.

According to the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) oil demand for consumption in Tanzania is 600,000MT per annum.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

1. The public is hereby notified that there will be a movement of special load from Holili to Moshi by vehicle with registration number (s) **KDB189J / ZG5310 and KCW052Z / ZG3212** of Spedag Interfreight.

The Journey is scheduled to start on 19.04.2022 to 05.05.2022

2. Special load Dimensions: Length - 28.4 M Width - 5.0 M Height - 5.6 M

3. Route: From Holili to Moshi Via Soweto

Travelling time will be only time (06:30 am 06:00 pm)

We regret for any inconvenience caused

Economic violence faces many people in the country, says MP

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

IRINGA Urban MP, Jesca Msambatawangu has said many men are unable to afford to pay for sex, a situation that makes them run away from innocent children and inflict sexual violence on them.

The lawmaker said that this stemmed from what she called the economic violence facing many people in the country, pointing the finger at the government for failing to have effective strategies to uplift their economic status.

Jesca made the remarks here on Thursday evening when contributing to the 2022/2023 ministerial budget estimates for the ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG).

The MP opposed the idea made by Special Seats MP, Esther Matiko (CHADEMA) who proposed the need for a man accused of committing sexual violence should be castrated, saying there were reasons why men should defile minor children, including lack of money and superstition.

"Love is a product like other products, young people do not have the power to buy, so they go to young children and oppress them. Why have they reduced the power to

buy love? It is because of economic hardships that we've contribute," she said.

Jesca clarified: "If there is a ministry that cannot give priority to Tanzanians in government-implemented projects, that is what is causing these problems of cutbacks and sexual violence."

Without mentioning who said so, MP Jesca said: "When someone says all the poles should be bought abroad, where young people who have planted trees in different regions will get the money to buy love when they need love?"

"Right now no woman will love you shape? No man who gets a woman because of good-looking...a man is being loved because of cash he has," the MP said, adding: "Where will men go, when they have a desire to have sex?"

She also said that if superstition contributes to acts of sexual violence in the country, should be addressed spiritually using the power of God.

The MP also said that government figures show 33 percent of the victims are children and 67 percent are women.

She however said there was also violence against men and research showed that the rate of men being beaten by their wives had increased to 71.7 percent while their beatings were 73.5 percent.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) technicians clear a sewerage system in the city's Kariakoo market area earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

US gov't vows to continue supporting HIV/Aids prevention

By Guardian Reporter

THE US government has pledged to continue supporting HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programmes in Tanzania.

Walter Reed Chief Science Officer Dr Karen Peterson made the pledge recently when US military Commander of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), Colonel Chad Koenig, visited several health facilities and diagnostic and research laboratories across Tanzania. WRAIR—the US government agency working within the Department of De-

fense, that has been operating in Tanzania since 1999.

She said: "I'm glad to hear that we have a proposal to continue this important work and move it forward. We will continue to follow up on this project and see that it moves ahead."

Walter Reed's main objective in Tanzania is ending the HIV epidemic through research and the implementation of PEPFAR prevention, care, and treatment programs. This visit was Commander Koenig's first time in Tanzania, and the Colonel spoke very highly of the quality of health facilities and care that patient

were receiving saying: "I am quite impressed with the level of care you are able to provide, even in the more remote regions of Tanzania."

Walter Reed focuses its HIV work in five regions in the Southern Highlands—Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, Songwe, and Ruvuma. In these areas WRAIR, through its implementing partner the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for Medical Research International (HJFMRI), provides comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and treatment services. With funding from the United States government, HJFMRI provides care and anti-retroviral drugs to

over 210,000 HIV positive clients.

Commander Koenig and his delegation, which included the Director of the United States Army Medical Research Directorate—Africa, Colonel Shannon Lacy, focused much of their visit on Walter Reed's research programs in Tanzania. Visiting with partners from PharmAccess International in Dar es Salaam, who run Walter Reed's Global Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme.

The team also visited the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital in the Southern Highlands to observe Walter Reed supported research facilities including the National

Institute of Medical Research—Mbeya Medical Research Center, and laboratories run by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with HJFMRI. These facilities included TB diagnostic laboratories, HIV vaccine trial clinics, HIV viral load and sequencing facilities, COVID-19 diagnostic and sequencing laboratories, and a long-term research study that has tracked HIV patients across Africa since 2008 with the intent to inform and shape government policy and programming. Speaking of this 20+ year collaborative relationship Colonel Koenig said, "We are hopeful that through our sup-

port for research in Tanzania, we will be able to put this country in a strengthened position to be able to fight not only HIV, but future epidemics as well."

The team concluded their trip with a visit to Lugalo General Military Hospital where they met with representatives from the Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) Chief of Medical Services and the Lugalo General Officer Commanding, Brigadier General Dr. Agatha Katua. The US government, through Walter Reed, has been supporting HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programs for the TPDF since 2006 and

Police in Iringa hold two over possession of ivory

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

TWO men in Iringa Region have been arrested after they were found with four pieces of ivory.

Iringa Regional Police Commander, Allan Bukumbi told reporters here that the duo was arrested in collaboration with Ruaha National Park (RUNAPA) officers. They were arrested after a search inside the house of one of the suspects a resident of Ifunda in Iringa District, Iringa Region.

According to RPC Bukumbi, on April 4th at around 11 am in Kibaoni B area of Bandabichi Village, Ifunda Ward in Iringa District, the police in collaboration with RUNAPA officers, arrested a 43-year-old Hassan Makalava and 32-year-old Hassan Kamchape four with pieces of ivory.

The RPC said the two suspects were found with pieces of ivory after a search inside Hassan Makalava's house, added that the suspects will be arraigned in court after the investigation is completed.

Meanwhile, RPC Bukumbi called on the people of the region to be law abiding during this Easter celebration, saying that people should not leave their homes unattended all the time, and those using cars, bajajis and motorbikes on the main road and in other areas to be obedient.

He also urged people to inculcate a habit of cooperating with the police force by providing timely information, so that they can be dealt with.

"The situation in Iringa Region as a whole is calm, there are small incidents that we deal with every time they happen," he said.

According to him, police in Iringa continues to conduct various anti-crime patrols and searches, including road operations, and has been successful in apprehending criminals and various properties.



Iringa Regional Police Commander Allan Bukumbi (gesturing) briefs journalists yesterday on the arrest of two people he said were found in suspicious possession of four pieces of ivory. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

AfDB Group to launch new trust fund for circular economy

By Guardian Reporter

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved the establishment of a €4 million Africa Circular Economy Facility to drive integration of the circular economy into African efforts to achieve nationally defined contribution (NDC) targets.

The Facility, a multi-donor trust fund, will operate over a period of 5-years and will receive an initial support of €4 million from the Government of Finland and the Nordic Development Fund (NDF). The board approval took place on 30 March 2022.

The circular economy is a model of pro-

duction and consumption that involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. Under the Paris Agreement, NDCs embody efforts by each signatory to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. All 54 African countries are members of the Paris Agreement.

The Facility will focus on three strategic areas: institutional capacity building to strengthen the regulatory environment for circular economy innovations and practices; providing support to the private sector through a business development program; and providing technical assistance to the

African Circular Economy Alliance. The African Development Bank hosts the Alliance's secretariat.

Acting Director for the government of Finland Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Unit for Southern and Western Africa Jussi Nummelin said: "Enhancing and promoting Circular Economy is very important for Finland. The world's first national circular economy roadmap was developed in Finland in 2016."

"We are very keen on starting the cooperation with the African Development Bank and with the African Circular Economy Alliance and the Nordic Development Fund to enhance circularity in the World," Nummelin concluded.

Director for Portfolio Origination and Management at Nordic Development Fund (NDF) Henrik Franklin said: "NDF is pleased to join forces with the African Development Bank and the Government of Finland to establish the Africa Circular Economy Facility (ACEF). Circular economy is key for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and has vast potential to create jobs, improve productivity and strengthen the economic competitiveness of African countries."

Officer-in-charge for Climate Change and Green Growth at the African Development Bank Al-Hamndou Dorsouma said: "Putting in place a dedicated financing vehicle for the circular economy positions the Bank as

a champion of solutions that decouple Africa's economic growth from unsustainable extraction of natural resources."

Circular economy principles play a strategic role in advancing the African Development Bank's High-5 development priorities.

The facility is expected to consolidate the Bank's portfolio of operations that align with the circular economy, including renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture and green manufacturing sectors. In addition to supporting African countries' achievement of NDC targets, it will also advance their progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Contractor paid too much for street lights in Mtwara - CAG

By Guardian Reporter

THE Controller and Auditor General's (CAG) audit report for the financial year 2020/21 has identified an additional charge for street lights 588.45m/- in Mtwara Municipal Council.

According to CAG report for the financial year 2020/21 released on Tuesday this week, CAG Charles Kichere, he noticed that street lights were installed on various roads through a contract entered into under section no. 5 were paid at rates higher than the agreed price in the contract.

He says that was due to poor management of the respective tenders, thus leading to an increase in the rate of payment per street light.

The CAG further clarified that Article 36.1 of the General Terms of Contract No. LGA / 085/2017/2018 / W/OI entered on June 8th, 2018 for 23,176,087,870/- for a period of 18.5 months between Mtwara Municipal Council and the contractor states that:

"The construction cost estimate document is used to cal-

culate the contract price; and the contractor will be paid according to the level of completed work at the prices specified in the estimated cost of materials for each element."

"But, in this matter it's not the case," he said, explaining that the 8,100 items included in the estimated cost of equipment included in the contract indicates that the agreed prices for distribution, installation, piloting and inspection period of three years, one street light is 7,500,000/-.

"In reviewing the contractor's payment I found that street lights were paid at higher prices than the agreed price in the contract at 588,449,414/-," he said, recommending that Mtwara Municipal Council to ensure that the contractor reimburses the amount paid in excess of the contract agreement 588,449,414/-.

Before being tabled in parliament on Tuesday this week and made public, the CAG report was presented to President Samia Suluhu Hassan at State House Chamwino on March 30, this year



Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki (L) inspects Chibe livestock farm in Shinyanga municipality during a visit on Thursday after people began illegally conducting agricultural activities and putting up houses there. Next to him is the farm's manager, Lin Mwala. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Empower school girls to be better future leaders, activists urge residents of Pemba Island

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

THE public in Kojani Island, Wete District, Pemba North Region have been challenged to allow girls at their tender age to participate in competing for various leadership positions to as a way of preparing them to be the best future leaders in the country.

Women rights activists in Pemba Island made the call here at community mobilizers' meeting, which is part of the Strengthen Women-In-Leadership (SWIL) project imple-

mentation to encourage women to demand their rights and participate in issues of leadership. Implemented by Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) and Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) and Pemba Environment, Gender, and Advocacy Organisation (PEGAO), the project is being supported by the Norwegian embassy.

They stated that it was good for the community, especially mothers, to encourage their daughters to compete for various leadership positions even while they were still in

school.

Community mobilizers 'chairperson in Wete District, Husna Ali Said explained that women in Zanzibar have long been lagging behind in leadership positions due to a lack of proper foundations that prepare them to become leaders early and thus lead to many of their issues being decided by men.

Husna urged the women in the island to create a mechanism to encourage their children to be leaders from an early age so that they can grow up confident and not discour-

aged.

The chairperson noted that the issue of leadership does not necessarily require much education, but requires one to identify oneself and exercise one's right to uphold the values of the community as well as to make an accurate analysis of what it represents to the community.

She added: "If you look at the various institutions and even communities that have been established in our communities even if the majority of the members will be women but you will find the only major position that

a woman gets to lead is just a cashier, which is not right at all."

Community Mobilizer, Maalim Mohammed Said explained that girls' empowerment by being prepared as leaders from an early age will help them build the confidence to stand up for their rights in all aspects and eradicate patriarchy.

Some of the women who attended the meeting said that the biggest challenge facing Kojani Island is that many women living there are illiterate and thus make it difficult for them to participate in leadership matters.

"We want leadership very much, but our obstacle is that most of us women here in Kojani do not know how to read or write now we are very confused because you cannot lead people if you yourself do not even know how to hold a pen," one of the women said.

Following the meeting, community mobilizers have pledged to address the challenges identified in order to address them and achieve the goal of achieving women's rights at various levels in the community.



Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye (R) installs Mtwara municipality's Chikongola Road signpost earlier this week when following up the implementation of the Residential Addresses operation. Left is Mtwara regional commissioner Brig Gen Marco Gaguti. Photo: Information ministry

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Diabetes Youth Alliance (TDYA) has designed a medical alert Bracelet aimed at helping children and youth living with Type 1 Diabetes in the country.

TDYA chairperson, George Kwayu said the bracelets are designed exclusively for Tanzanian children and youth living with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM).

The bracelets usually produce important information for anyone near the diabetic kid to offer help when a complication develops.

"TDYA is focusing on helping those children and youth who depend on multiple daily insulin injections in order to stay alive and so to avoid premature death due to short and

TDYA designs medical alert for diabetes patients

long term Type 1 Diabetes complications," said Kwayu.

Speaking on Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus, Dr Aniceth Muchunguzi said, it is a life-long, non-communicable disease (NCD) in which one's body fails to regulate blood sugar levels, since the pancreas has failed to produce insulin.

Dr Muchunguzi explained that, currently there are more than 4,000 children and youth living with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus in Tanzania with 38 diabetes clinics all over the country, but the number is rising annually.

"This problem is mostly diagnosed during

early childhood to adolescence. Therefore, these young people depend on life-long multiple daily insulin injections," said Dr Muchunguzi, who is also the Vice Chairperson of TDYA.

He said, the patient may usually manage to control their blood sugar levels by checking blood sugar regularly, but there may come a day when their levels are medically known as Hypoglycaemia and may cause difficulty in thinking and loss of consciousness.

"It may come at some point that there is no friend or family member who understands and the patient needs to call for medical

help immediately. This is where the bracelet comes into action, so that anyone around can read the important information and dial the free emergency number," said Dr Muchunguzi.

According to Kwayu, the purpose of the Medical Alert Bracelet is to provide emergency information about Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) and that will be an effective means of Identification, through which anyone can quickly recognize and offer immediate help by calling the free emergency call number inscribed on the bracelet.

"The bracelets will have the name of the

young person, information on Type 1 Diabetes and a free emergency call number.

This call will go directly to our call centre linked to key health care personnel, who will give immediate advice to the caller," said Kwayu.

He said the bracelets will significantly boost awareness and understanding within society on the existence of Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus in children and youth, hence eliminating ignorance, wrong beliefs and notions about the disease.

Giving more information the TDYA Chairperson said the bracelets are made of stainless steel and elastic silicone band, with silver colour engraved by black with red medical symbol.

CAG initiates special audit financial system

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

POLICE in Coast Region are holding 176 people including 45 illegal immigrants for allegedly being involved in various criminal activities.

Regional Police Commander Pius Lutumo said that the suspects were arrested during an operation which the police carried out in the region on different occasions.

The RPC said during the operation, various equipments were seized including Television screens, mobile phones, construction materials, illegal liquor and many others.

He said the suspects have been taken to the court where they are expected to answer various charges including conspiring to commit crimes and illegal entry and stay in the country.

In his statement, RPC Lutumo called upon parents to be careful with children and youth whom they handover their vehicles to control road accidents.

"Ahead of the Ester celebrations most parents like to celebrate with the family but there are children who decide to do otherwise by involving themselves in criminal activities," he said.

The RPC cautioned owners of halls and leisure places to take all security precautions to ensure the safety of children in case there is disco.

He added that the police was ready to contain all security threats especially during this festive saying it has intensified patrols and surveillance across the country.



Paschal Chengula (R), an avocado farmer at Igoda village in Mufindi District, pictured yesterday taking beneficiaries of a project known as Youth Agency Mufindi through the basics of transplanting quality avocado seedlings. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

FAO urges Africa to stand tall despite complex challenges

By Oluchi Chibuzor

THE United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) director-general Qu Dongyu has urged Africa to stand tall in facing the many challenges in the continent amid worsening hunger crisis.

He maintained that meeting Africa's overlapping challenges and realizing its enormous potential requires extraordinary efforts and new ways of working together.

Dongyu said this yesterday as he opened the 32nd session of the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC32) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

The regional conference held in Equatorial Guinea's capital of Malabo and online, places the spotlight on the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its efforts to transform agrifood systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable through the Four Betters: Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life for all, leaving no one behind.

According to the UN body, the ministerial meeting is taking place as the continent's aim of ending hunger by 2025, as well as FAO's efforts to support members achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, face an un-

precedented confluence of obstacles. According to the statement, aside the climate crisis, long-standing regional conflicts and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, now in its third year, a severe drought is tightening its grip on East Africa.

It noted that most recently, the war in Ukraine is severely limiting the supply of wheat to Egypt and nearby countries, pushing up bread prices in the north of the continent.

It also noted that the number of people going hungry in Sub-Saharan Africa is on the rise again after years of decline.

According to the latest numbers available, 282 million people on the continent, or over one-fifth of the population, don't have enough food, representing a rise of 46 million from 2019.

Qu told delegates in his opening statement that, "Like the tall ceiba tree on the flag of Equatorial Guinea, we too must stand tall in facing Africa's many complex challenges."

This year's regional conference is hosted by the Government of Equatorial Guinea and brought together agriculture ministers and other government officials from more than 50 African countries, along with civil society groups, the private sector, development partners and observer member countries.

Africa witnesses longest-running decline in COVID-19 cases

By Special Correspondent, Brazzaville

AFRICA is experiencing its longest-running decline in COVID-19 infections since the onset of the pandemic. Recorded weekly cases have fallen for the past 16 weeks, while deaths have dropped for the last eight.

Infections—largely due to the Omicron-driven fourth pandemic wave—have tanked from a peak of over 308 000 cases weekly at the start of the year to less than 20

000 in the week ending on 10 April 2022. Over the past week, around 18 000 cases and 239 deaths were recorded, a decline of 29 per cent and 37 per cent respectively compared with the week before. This low level of infection has not been seen since April 2020 in the early stages of the pandemic in Africa.

Africa's previous longest decline in COVID-19 infections was between 1 August and 10 October 2021. Currently, no country is witnessing COVID-19 resurgence. World Health

Organisation (WHO) considers that a country is in resurgence when it records a 20 per cent increase in cases in at least two consecutive weeks and that the recorded week-on-week rise is 30 per cent or higher than the highest weekly infection peak previously reached.

"Despite the decreasing infections, it is crucial that countries remain vigilant and maintain surveillance measures, including genomic surveillance to swiftly detect circulating COVID-19 variants, enhance

testing and scale up vaccination," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "With the virus still circulating, the risk of new and potentially more deadly variants emerging remains, and the pandemic control measures are pivotal to effective response to a surge in infections."

With the cold season approaching in the southern hemisphere in June through August, there is a high risk of another wave of new infections. Africa's previous pandemic

waves have often coincided with lower temperatures when people mostly stay indoors and often in poorly ventilated spaces.

In addition, new variants can impact the evolution of the pandemic. In Botswana and South Africa, researchers are conducting further analysis into new sub-lineages of the Omicron variant recently detected there to determine whether they are more infectious or virulent. The BA.4 and BA.5 identified in the

two southern African countries have also been confirmed in Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Currently there is no significant epidemiological difference observed between the new sub-lineages and known sub-lineages of the Omicron variant, which include BA.1, BA.2 and BA.3 sub-lineages.

With the receding infections, several African countries are easing key COVID-19 measures such as surveillance and quarantine as well

as public health measures including mask-wearing and band on mass gatherings.

Based on current WHO technical guidelines, the Organization urges countries to weigh the risks and benefits as they relax COVID-19 measures, taking into account the capacity of their health systems, population immunity to COVID-19 and national socioeconomic priorities. Systems should be in place to quickly reinstate the measures if the epidemiological situation worsens.



Help comes the way of Castle Hill School at Goba-Tegeta in Dar es Salaam earlier this week after strong winds blew off the roof of the building pictured. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

IUCN launches programme to support Tanga-Pemba seascape entrepreneurs

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has launched a programme aimed at supporting entrepreneurs in developing and piloting ventures within the Tanga-Pemba Seascape.

Coastal and Ocean Resilience (COR) programme manager, Elinas Monga said the initiative was meant to demonstrate the social, environmental and economic impacts of setting up and supporting local blue entrepreneurs in the Tanga-Pemba seascape area.

The project is co-implemented by Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and Ocean Hub Africa.

The one year pilot project funded by Embassy of Ireland - Dar es Salaam through (Irish Aid) is geared towards unlocking and supporting the development of a blue economy while contributing to long-term effective, equitable and inclusive conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity and ecosystem.

"We're saying the objective is to improve livelihoods and socio-economic status in the Tanga-Pemba Seascape," he said, stating that the programme intends to address low scale productivity caused by inadequate knowledge and skills - business skills, poor infrastructures and equipment as well as financial constraints.

The programme will conduct capacity building trainings to transform

mindset and actions from doing for subsistence into entrepreneurship mindset and actions.

It will also provide seed fund of up to 31,500,000/- per group to scale up and accelerate their ocean actions.

Program Manager for the environment and climate at the Embassy of Ireland Fazal Issa said the programme is designed to support local entrepreneurs, through the four selected community groups, to develop and pilot ocean-ventures within Tanga and Pemba. Ireland has a deep understanding of the importance of ocean and coastal resources to communities and ecosystems.

They provide food security, offer livelihood opportunities, and sustain economic growth.

However, coastal communities are faced with a number of key challenges including over-fishing, destructive fishing practices, habitat destruction, pollution, ocean acidification and global warming.

Initiatives such as the blue economy incubator are therefore critical in improving sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities, while also ensuring that coastal and ocean ecosystems are protected and conserved.

"This is why Ireland is supporting IUCN to implement the project entitled, Towards a blue future in the Tanga-Pemba seascape, of which the Blue Economy Incubation program is a key component," he stressed.

637,720 in Kagera Region to be vaccinated against polio

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbagast, Bukoba

A TOTAL of 637,720 children under the age of five in Kagera Region will be vaccinated against polio in a campaign scheduled to start from April 24 to 25, this year.

This is part of the national campaign where more than nine million under-five children will be reached with the vaccination in 31 regions of the country, a few months after the disease outbreak in Malawi.

Zabron Segeju, regional immunizations and vaccine officer, said this at a meeting on Thursday here which was organized by Kagera Re-

gional Commissioner, Major General Charles Mbugu in collaboration with Regional Health Department and other stakeholders to discuss the best way to handle the important immunisation exercise.

He said the campaign is critical for Tanzania and the rest of Africa to maintain its polio free status that was granted two years ago after the continent registered no polio case for several years.

He urged parents and caregivers to ensure that they prepare their children for the immunization so as to protect them from the disease.

"I urge stakeholders, health workers, religious leaders, local government leaders, journalists and others to be aware of this national campaign so as to ensure that we meet the goal of immunizing every under-five child," Segeju said adding; "The community should understand the importance of this exercise, the immunization is safe and will be given in phases and it is given by mouth drops not by shots."

He said the poliovirus enters the body through the mouth, usually from hands contaminated with the stool of an infected person, that poor hygiene is a root cause of the

polio virus.

Kagera Region Education Officer, Khalifa Shemahonge, representing Regional Commissioner insisted on an awareness campaign to reach the grassroots so that the excellent turnout for immunization is reached.

Kagera Regional Medical Officer, Isesanda Kaniki said the training to regional experts has already started including mapping to reach all stations in remote areas, that the vaccines will be given in hospitals, health centres and dispensaries and that even newborn babies will also receive the drops.

Statistics show that Tanzania reported the

last case of polio in 1996, but there have been recurrent outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus in Afghanistan and Pakistani and recently neighbouring Malawi registered the polio case.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), has put Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia on high alert following the outbreak in Malawi.

Theonestina Jasson (58), a resident of Kikukwe village in Misenyi District also called on the parents and caretakers of the children to show up in health centres for their children to get so that children are immunized.

Mentorship programme on school girls essential in getting better future leaders

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN rights stakeholders have underscored the need for the government to review current policies, laws and guidelines governing the country's general elections so as to increase women participation in various leadership positions.

They also recommend a national mentorship programme focusing on girls in schools so as to prepare them for future leadership roles.

Women in Law and Development Africa (WILDAF) national coordinator Ana Kulaya said improving the laws and policies will create a more attractive environment for women to vie in positions and participate in decision making.

She noted women representation in various sectors was still low, something which needs more efforts to address the gap. Tanzania still needs more women in top leadership posi-

tions for the country to make strides in its various development initiatives.

She noted that various studies have proved that having more women in top leadership positions speeds up the pace of development, so investing in them should be reemphasized.

"Leadership is not gendered, so everyone has the right to be a leader as long as he/she meets the criteria set, so we have to increase efforts to ensure that we bring more women in leadership positions," Kulaya said in an interview with this newspaper.

She also urged women in top leadership positions to invest their efforts at empowering and pulling up girl-children in schools on how to become good leaders in the future.

"We need to invest in our girls, those in secondary school should be reached with special programmes to build their capacity and competence enabling them to be more confident to participate in democratic leader-

ship positions," she added.

Kulaya said for over 20 years, WILDAF has been working closely with the government and various development stakeholders to improve the environment and increase women participation in various fields such as of the economy, political, and social.

She said WILDAF has reviewed and analyzed various policies, laws and guidelines governing general and local government elections to identify advantages, limitations and opportunities in gender equality.

She says based on these analyses, the institution and other stakeholders have developed recommendations on how best to improve the safe structural and institutional environment that will stimulate women's participation in leadership and decision-making.

Kulaya explained that WILDAF and the Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP) have recently made efforts to meet with various stake-

holders including MPs, registrar of political parties, ministries and various government institutions with the aim of presenting constructive proposals and adding arguments for review and amendments of various policies, laws and election guidelines.

Khadija Shabani (Keysha), Special Seats MP said despite various challenges, women participation in the election and various leadership positions has increased compared to previous years.

She said many women have now woken up and recognized their value and capacity, something which should be commended and supported by all.

"As we now have a good number of women in top leadership positions doing well, many women in the field are also waking up and putting efforts to achieve their dreams, they are working hard to bring positive changes in their families and communities," she added.

Tawhida Callos Nyimbo, MP from West Region in Zanzibar said women participation in leadership positions is a commendable thing and should be supported to ensure that the rate increases.

She said women can do a lot of big things in families and the community if trusted and given top positions in leadership.

"Women face a lot of challenges whenever they try to grow, some of them are seen as unable to deliver which is not true, we need to increase awareness among both men and women on the importance of supporting this group to achieve dreams," she asserted.

She said many women have now changed and are doing a lot of big things in the society just because they see their role model at the top, President Samia Suluhu Hassan leading the nation and its people.

Ester Bulaya, Chadema Special

Seats MP, acknowledged that a lot of efforts has been done by the government and stakeholders to attract and support women to handle various top leadership positions and participate in decision making.

"As days go on, women have continued to improve, their mind-sets have positively changed with many of them engaging in activities that improve their incomes, we now have a good number of top leaders in the public and private sector who are doing wonders in their positions," she said.

She urged girl children to focus on their studies and once graduated, vie for various leadership positions.

"Girl children should see going to school as an opportunity for male children but as a nation, we have made a huge step to ensure that women go to school and get top leadership opportunities in various offices," she said.

South Africa's flood awakens narration on climate change

DURBAN

THE death rate from the overwhelming floods in and around South Africa's port city of Durban keeps rising. As of April 14, over 300 bodies had been counted by emergency service workers... Fear the numbers may increase as the days go by.

Nonala Ndlovu, spokesperson for the provincial disaster management department, said the death toll was "one of the darkest moments in the history" of KZN.

South Africa's President Ramaphosa has described the situation as "a catastrophe of enormous proportions". According to the reports, the storm is the deadliest on the record in South Africa's history. On his visit to the affected communities on Wednesday, Ramaphosa said disastrous flooding in the Durban area has a direct connection with the climate emergency.

"This disaster is part of climate change... It is here, and our disaster management capability needs to be at a higher level," he said.

According to a World Bank report, floods and droughts have affected 3 billion people, over the last two decades.

The Durban situation coupled with droughts witnessed in other parts of the region this year alone has paved way for a deeper conversation into the impact of climate change on Africa and perhaps a retrospect on the 2021 Glasgow Climate Change Conference, which sought to

make climate change a thing of the past.

One of the first objectives of COP26 was to ensure that the 1.5°C objective remains "alive" and that all commitments converge towards a carbon-free world by the middle of the century.

Whiles world leaders manage to mitigate the situation, there is a school of thought, which says the crisis cannot be solved. A climate communications research fellow-university of Queensland in the article "there is nothing we can do anyway" samples various arguments on the climate crisis. The article raises the issue of how an attempt to solve climate change will affect a country's economy, arguing that the world must choose between a healthy economy and a healthy environment.

However, Juergen Voegelé, Vice President for Sustainable Development, World Bank believes adopting the EPIC response framework will help governments, organizations, and practitioners working on climate resilience and disaster risk management address climate-related challenges.

Whiles this may come across as a lasting solution to the crisis, the United Nations Environment Programme predicts extreme flooding will continue to be concentrated in regions where humans have built on floodplains or low-lying coastal regions. With this, other African countries may have to take a cue from the current Durban disaster.



The car and the motorcycle pictured were involved in a collision along the Akiba stretch of Dar es Salaam's Bibi Titi Mohamed Street on Thursday, leaving the motorcycle rider injured. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

African countries commit to raise ambitions on SDGs

By Special Correspondent, Malabo

AFRICAN countries have committed to raise their ambitions and accelerate their actions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including ending poverty and hunger, at the conclusion of the 32nd Session of the FAO regional conference for Africa.

Sixty-two ministers from 54 African countries participated in the conference - country representation was one of the largest ever thanks to the hybrid mode, with more than half the ministers attending in person in Malabo, and the remainder joining online.

"I'm happy to see the conference has been a success. It has been a success because of our collective engagement and determination to contribute and compromise," said FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu in his closing remarks.

Qu urged countries to adopt enabling policies, innovation and science, and proper investment for agrifood systems transformation in Africa. "We have a lot more work to do, and we must continue to work together, efficiently, effectively and coherently," he said.

The Director-General also thanked the Government of Equatorial Guinea

for hosting the conference, and the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and Environment H.E. Francisca Eneme Efula for her strong leadership as conference chairperson.

In the ministerial declaration shared today, ministers welcomed the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 which shapes the organization's work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals under Four Betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.

"We call on our partners to support our efforts through enhancing investments as we step up our efforts to-

wards the transformation of agrifood systems through the implementation of the Four Betters," Deputy Minister for Agriculture of Tanzania, Anthony Peter Mavunde said, reading the declaration on behalf of the ministers.

The Ministers also affirmed the centrality of women and young people in Africa's transformation of agrifood systems, and called on FAO to accelerate concrete actions to tackle the impacts of the climate crisis - calling it a "major threat to the African region."

The conference was held during a particularly difficult time for Africa, with the Russia/Ukraine war causing instability to the continent's food se-

curity, and a devastating drought in the Horn of Africa.

Close to 800 delegates participated in the four-day event, plus those following the discussions through the livestream. Participants included representatives from 34 inter-governmental organisations such as the African Union and ECOWAS, more than 30 civil society and academic organizations, and 28 private sector representatives.

Earlier in the day, the director-general launched a set of Investment Guidelines for Youth in Agrifood Systems in Africa, together with the African Union. "These guidelines should

be incorporated into your policies. Youth are the future of Africa," he said.

The director-general also held a series of bilateral meetings with many of the country representatives on the sidelines of the conference.

"As the son of a farming family, I always say I have rural people in my heart. I want to see agricultural and rural transformation in Africa address the multi-dimensional inequalities, between city and rural areas, between men and women, and between rich and poor. It's a long journey. We need a life-long commitment and consistent action," he said.



Dar es Salaam City Mayor Omary Kumbilamoto (3rd-L) hands over a cargo three-wheeler motorcycle to Elizabeth Mwita, a driver with suburban Dar es Salaam's Kipunguni Information and Knowledge Centre. It was donated by AMREF to help in carrying raw materials for use in making alternative charcoal at the centre's factory. Those witnessing include the centre's director Selemani Bishagazi (L) and marketing officer Tausi Msangi (2nd-L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Endangered pangolins get fresh chance in South African clinic

By Special Correspondent, Johannesburg

THE hospital room is air-cooled to feel like a pangolin's burrow. The patient, Lumbi, is syringe-fed with a protein-packed smoothie, given a daily dose of medicine and has his vital signs checked.

Lumbi is being treated for a blood parasite after he was rescued from traffickers during a police sting in South Africa's northern Limpopo province late last year.

He and several other pangolins in the room are patients of Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, founded in 2016 to treat and rehabilitate indigenous wildlife.

They were confiscated from poachers in South Africa and neighbouring countries, including Namibia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Many pangolins are in a horrendous state when they are rescued and need of medical care, after being kept in sacks and car boots for weeks with no food or water.

"It's like an intensive care unit (ICU)

for pangolins," said Nicci Wright, the wildlife rehabilitation specialist attending to Lumbi.

The pangolins are kept at a secret site during treatment, which takes anything from weeks to months, before they can be released back into the wild.

Although pangolins have existed for around 80 million years, medically little is known about them.

"They are so different to other animals. They really are," said Wright, who has been working with pangolins since 2008. Sometimes vets have to fiddle with various treatment regimes to provide the appropriate medication. "The actual veterinary medicine and rehabilitation process hasn't been well documented and very little is actually known about the African species," said Wright.

Vets administer standard treatments used on other mammals such as cats and dogs. Often they work.

"Sometimes to you just have to take a chance, and so far we have taken chances and we have been very suc-

cessful and they have responded very well," said vet Kelsey Skinner.

"It's just a leap of faith every time you try something," said Skinner, 30, after giving Lumbi his daily dose of meds. Having cared for sick pangolins for several years, Skinner discovered that, like people, they have different personalities.

The scaly-skinned, insect-eating mammals are solitary, nocturnal animals.

"They are like people. They have just the most unique little personalities. "Some of them are shy. They don't want to be touched. Others are very out there and play a lot in the mud. They are comedians," she said.

"The level of personalities is like dealing with a whole lot of different people. Everyone is just so unique."

Pangolins are believed to be the most trafficked mammals on earth. They're prized for their scales -- made of keratin, like human nails -- which are used in Asia for their supposed medicinal properties.

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Uber departure sending mixed signals on business environment

UBER Technologies, a US car hire firm using a mobile phone application, has issued notice of closing down its operations in the country, citing regulatory constraints for taking the dash. As the firm operates in more than 80 countries around the world, it may not feel that its decision is especially constraining, but business analysts realize that all market portions matter, so the decision isn't without an impact on the company's prospects. Some commentators were wondering whether rival car hire firms using similar applications like Bolt or Omega shall fill the vacuum, but it appears it will not be a smooth ride there.

Uber and kindred organizations have faced various sorts of regulatory problems in their operations around the world, where there are distinctive variations as to the challenges involved.

For the past year or so those who follow such issues would be aware that Uber was facing regulatory disputes in some developed countries and even some emerging markets, that its drivers be contracted rather than merely signed on.

It means they be treated as its staff instead of having its stamp to conduct taxi services via that application, whereas the business model is precisely that aspect, not signing up and employing thousands of drivers.

This is however not the issue in the current dispute but raising prices of its services in view of fuel price hikes, which the regulator, the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) feels is unjustified, as other service providers are working within the same price range.

For Uber to refuse to be confined to

the current 'broadband' of taxi service charges is not just a contention between itself and the regulator but firstly a competition issue, if other service providers will be able to work within that range. If so, they can then pick up the now discarded or stranded regular Uber callers, laugh all the way to the bank so to speak.

Still, for that to take place it would be necessary that Uber sought to raise prices for a cosmetic reason, that is, it is used to a certain margin of profit and it can't come down, which may technically have to do with its quasi-monopoly advantage as it was the first on the scene, having stocked up plenty of goodwill from customers. If the price range is usable for that kind of service provision and even for such firms (as all these service providers are US companies - Uber, Omega and Bolt) in which case the price range may be said to suffice even for a US firm.

The proviso is vital because of share prices and expected dividends on shares, with more localized firms demanding less from the market, while a US firm can reject such prices.

In other words, if the problem is strictly with Uber seeking higher profit margins, then other firms will take up its space, but the issue is applicable to US firms generally, then the service shall wobble if the other service providers feel the same. Then we could see newcomers seeking less stringent margins than US operators entering the scene, both local operators and from other countries, as mobile phone applications aren't difficult to hatch up. It isn't a disruptive impediment but transport fares are always a sensitive issue.



Poverty eradication is the solution to insecurity

By Chris Odey

BY poverty eradication, I mean real poverty eradication targeted at the real poor, not the cosmetics that has been put up as poverty eradication since 1999.

Both Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and APC have been guilty of channeling money to men and women in power without ever reaching the vulnerable poor.

The mounting and galloping poverty escalation is clear evidence that the ruling elite have never really developed any real policies to grow the income and productivity of the poor. Indeed, the excruciating poverty in the country has called to question the claim by political leaders that they have been providing dividends of democracy for Nigerians since 1999.

Such claims by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for 16 years and the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the past seven years are not backed by the reality on the ground. As many Nigerians on the streets or anyone who goes to the normal Nigerian markets and pays out of pocket would tell you, basic foodstuffs and other essentials are beyond the reach of most Nigerians.

Most Nigerians are sleeping with empty stomachs at night, while poverty like its 'twin brother' corruption are working on four legs and fueling insecurity all over the country. Here I am not going to be labor you with stories of insecurity that abound in our newspapers both online and offline as well as the social media.

I don't want to talk about the bandits' attacks on Kaduna-Abuja train, or the razing of local government headquarters in Imo and Anambra states in South East Nigeria. I don't want to lament about the insecurity enveloping the country.

I prefer to talk about solutions. What the country needs most now are solutions to insecurity! First of all, I want to state unequivocally that there is no justification for the predilection to violence that appears to have become a norm in our country. The opinion expressed hereunder does not in any way condone or justify insecurity under whatever guise. That said, we cannot extricate the present insecurity in the country from the endemic poor governance in Nigeria.

Poor governance of the country alongside widespread corruption in high places have put the resources of the country in the hands of a privileged few at the expense of the vast majority. The wealth of the country is therefore concentrated in the hands of less than one per cent of the population, while the rest are barely surviving.

The solution to this is the institution of good governance. If we have good governance that ensures that the wealth of the country reaches everyone through the provision of electricity, good roads, functional hospitals, access to education to all children irrespective of the circumstance of their birth, the security of the country can be guaranteed.

One is not saying that crime will be eradicated because even in the best of countries that have provided some of these facilities, we still get those doing drugs and other criminalities. However, no one can deny that if the amenities that the British, Americans and Chinese take for granted are made available in Nigeria, insecurity will not be this widespread. No one can dispute the nexus between poverty, illiter-



During the past decade, Tanzania recorded sustained economic growth and a persistent decline in poverty, according to a new World Bank poverty analysis report.

acy and insecurity. Northern Nigeria has the highest illiteracy rate as well as the highest number of out of school children in the country. It is not surprising that it has the highest rate of poverty and therefore the highest insecurity.

The South is not immune to illiteracy and poverty that is why insecurity is also a big challenge in the region, even though the scale is not to the level of Northern Nigeria.

The solution is to eradicate poverty by first educating the children and ensuring that they leave school with lifelong skills that ensure their productivity and assure their earning capacity. Educating all children and equipping them with skills can make their future more reassuring and secure, thus eliminating or reducing antisocial behaviour.

The opportunistic elite who are sitting atop the wealth pyramid of the country share in the blame for the insecurity in the country. They have the wealth but they don't share it.

That reminds me of the incident that happened recently where a driver drove his boss to Makurdi along with the boss' girlfriend. After the trip the boss gave his girlfriend newly minted two hundred and fifty thousand naira.

The driver asked the boss to assist him with money to pay his

children's school fees and the boss got upset. He retorted, "don't you receive salary?"

These are the kinds of attitude by the wealthy in the country that builds up resentment. A hungry man is an angry man and an angry man is a violent man.

The criminals have become merciless when dealing with the people because criminals see themselves as victims of an unjust system while seeing the elites as the perpetrators of the unjust system. The wealthy must learn to support and build the poor and to create a beneficial Nigeria for everyone.

The neglect of the citizens' welfare which created the almajiri, area boys, cultists, and militants need to be addressed. The welfare of the ordinary Nigerian should be prioritized.

The constitution of the country states that the welfare and security of the people shall be the essence of government.

This is observed in breach by successive administrations since the 1999 constitution became the law of the land. To stem the insecurity tide, government at all levels should give more attention to the welfare of the people and less on government officials. We have to reduce the amount allocated in our budgets to service the greed of corrupt government officials and

contractors to have more money to provide the dividends of democracy that could be accessible to all. It cannot be said enough. It therefore needs repeating that there is a need to decentralize the security architecture by bringing the police closer to the people in the form of state police.

The successes that the local vigilantes have had in containing criminality in their localities are pointer to the success that awaits the emergence of state police to confront local security challenges. Finally, the country is not only at war with insurgents that want to turn the country to another Somalia where warlords have carved out territories for themselves, but also on ideological war with them. This means that the country needed a rejuvenated and reinvigorated National Orientation Agency (NOA) to counter their narrative that promotes violence and killings. The NOA should do more in enlightening the youths on patriotism and steer them away from actions that promote insecurity. Security of the country is everyone's business. Security of the country calls for our collective efforts. Let us stop too much lamentation over insecurity and do something about it. If you see something, say something!

Aluta Continua!

World Haemophilia Day is meant to remember those who suffer - silently

HAEMOPHILIA is a condition which not everyone would remember each passing day the way we are regularly aware that we are exposed to malaria or tuberculosis.

It is a body disorder which is usually inherited, where the blood does not clot properly, causing nearly endless bleeding with an internal disruption or external wound.

This kind of spontaneous bleeding and excessive bleeding following injury or surgery can threaten survival if remedial conditions aren't sufficient, thus poor families with children in that condition find themselves in gross difficulties. Thinking of them can uplift public will to assist.

For that reason, every year on April 17 activists mark the World Haemophilia Day, recognised worldwide as a moment to increase awareness of haemophilia as a widespread ailment and intense condition of suffering.

It is part of a set of afflictions like the von Willebrand disease, as an instance of inherited bleeding disorder.

Marking the day is a critical effort for raising awareness, as often it requires an intense diagnosis effort to identify the situation, meanwhile as discovering that a child or older person has that affliction doesn't guarantee that treatment will follow, for it isn't an easy disease to control and tame.

In that case millions of sufferers remain without treatment, when their blood condition lacks some proteins called clotting factors, responsible for stopping bleeding when it occurs, as the situation ignites the proteins to action by nervous impulse.

When the proteins are few or weak there is nothing the body

can do to assist, so it is a debilitating situation if any sort of injury occurs, and without access to public health facilities equipped enough to deal with the situation, the suffering can be intense.

That is what activists hope policymakers will take a moment to reflect upon, in allocating health sector resources.

Chroniclers say that the theme for this year event is ensuring access for all, where it is partnership and policy progress that is being cultivated.

'Engaging your government, integrating inherited bleeding disorders into national policy' is the activists motto, on the basis of a keen awareness that on average, policymakers aren't thinking of this problem on a day to day basis.

Thus by raising awareness and bringing haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders to greater attention of policymakers, the global activist fraternity hopes to move towards sustainable and equitable access to care and treatment.

The chronicle says that World Haemophilia Day was started in 1989 by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH), choosing April 17 as the day to bring the community of sufferers and activists together in honour of WFH founder Frank Schnabel's birthday.

One scaring finding out of population surveys and evaluation of hospital cases is that over 75 per cent of all those who live with haemophilia worldwide are yet to be identified and diagnosed.

Even in developed countries the problem can't be said to have been sufficiently controlled, throwing into vast doubt what we are likely to have achieved here.

A case for Tanzania to make marital rape a criminal offence

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week we briefly saw that although spouses may live together happily and may even be blessed with a few children and have a matrimonial house and assets, when they give in to trying times such as marriage turbulence, they risk ending up in separation or divorce.

According to Section 99 of the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 (as amended 2019), any spouse may petition the court for a decree of separation or divorce [after the expiry of two years from the date of the marriage, Section 100(1)] if their marriage has broken down, but the court shall grant it only when the breakdown is irreparable.

We also briefly saw that the law recognises separate assets each spouse had before marriage or which each has acquired during marriage. In case of separation or divorce, family assets jointly acquired during marriage are subject to equal division so that each spouse gets an equal share.

Today, I invite you to look at marital (spousal) rape, which according to Black's Law Dictionary (Eighth Edition, 2004), is "a husband's forcible sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent".

Where marital rape is not criminalised, the husband enjoys marital exemption (immunity) to the crime of rape, which in my opinion is an injustice to his wife or wives. Marriage, by virtue of Section 9(1) of the Law of Marriage Act, is the voluntary union of a man and a woman and is intended to last for their joint lives.

You might have heard of horrible stories of marital misconduct and of husbands who force their wives to have sex even if their wives don't consent to it due to various reasons. Sex in marriage is meant to be freely enjoyed by both spouses for it to have its real meaning. When spouses enjoy their sex, it becomes an expression of their intimate love.

But if it is a result of force or threat, it turns into a form of exploitation, resentment, annoyance and abuse as the wife is turned into a mere object of pleasure for lack of her consent. So, why turn your wife into an object of pleasure if she is not in the mood or doesn't consent to make love with you at the time perhaps due to illness, distress or any other reason?

Take an example of a husband who returns home late at night and as he arrives and even before he bathes he throws her wife on the bed and demands that they make love. But the wife may say she is not in the mood because she feels ill, but all the same the husband undresses her by force and imposes himself on her against her will. What a terrible experience!

Theresa Fus in her article "Criminalising Marital Rape: A Comparison of Judicial and Legislative Approaches"



published in Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law (Vol 39 Issue 2 in 2006) argues that marital exemption was justified under three 'persuasive' theories: the implied consent theory, the unity of person theory and the property theory.

She suggests that the most preferable theory in this regard was the implied consent theory structured around contract law and its leading proponent was Sir Matthew Hale, an influential English barrister, judge and jurist (1609-1676).

In his law book "The History of the Pleas of the Crown" published in 1736 Fus says Sir Hale argues "the husband cannot be guilty of a rape committed by himself upon his lawful wife, for by their mutual matrimonial consent and the contract the wife hath given up herself in this kind unto her husband, which she cannot retract."

However, he was of the view that "a wife [could] revoke her implied sexual consent only in times when 'ordinary relations' in the marriage are suspended" like during separation.

Fus says the unity of person theory "does not even recognise the wife as a separate being capable of being raped". The

theory evolves from a belief that when two persons marry, they become one flesh as the being of woman is incorporated into that of the husband so much so that "the existence of the woman is effectively suspended during marriage". This theory suggests that "a husband is not capable of raping himself".

According to the property theory, Fus argues, during marriage a woman becomes "the property or chattel of her husband". The goal of this theory, she says, is to create and further marital harmony. In light of this, "sexual intercourse cannot be rape because the husband is merely making appropriate use of his property".

The author adds that there are many secondary reasons for marital exemption, the first being difficult to substantiate. She says for married persons regularly engaging in sexual intercourse, it becomes difficult to substantiate that "one particular instance out of many was without consent."

Another reason she cites is a vengeful wife who may use rape to blackmail her innocent husband and divorce him. A third argument holds that criminalising marital rape would be detrimental

to marriage and reconciliation. Another one holds that it would allow state interference in the privacy of marriage, which shouldn't be the case.

Fus further argues that there could be other reasons, but it suffices to say that it is these theories that have made some jurisdictions resort to marital exemption. According to her, by late the mid-20th century, there was no country that considered marital rape as a crime.

Fus further suggests that England's elimination of marital exemption serves as a judicial approach model, while Canada's elimination of marital exemption serves as a legislative approach model. In R v R [1990] Justice Owen said: "I cannot believe that it is a part of the common law of this country [England] that when there has been a withdrawal of either party from cohabitation, accompanied by a clear indication that consent to sexual intercourse has been terminated, [it] does not amount to a revocation of that implicit consent."

He said he found it hard to believe that it ever was common law that a husband was in effect entitled to beat his wife into submission to sexual intercourse. The case was appealed, but before the decision was reached the Law Commission affirmed that although common law still granted marital immunity, it proposed that "the present marital immunity be abolished in all cases."

It was Justice Rougier in R v J who declared that "there is no marital exemption to the law of rape." In the US, the case of People v Liberta [1984] is a model for the elimination of marital immunity.

The laws of Tanzania too are silent on marital rape, except when it is committed between separated or divorced spouses [Section 130(2)(a) of the Penal Code (Chapter 16)].

Nevertheless, in most jurisdictions today marital rape has been criminalised. Reports show that as of November 2020, the majority of countries globally had criminalised marital rape and only 36 them had not.

In a recent article entitled "The dark shadow of marital rape: Need to change the narrative" published in Journal of

Psychosexual Health on March 8, 2022, the authors, Debanjan Banerjee and T. S. Sathyanarayana Rao, suggest that "rape is rape, irrespective of the victim-perpetrator relationship/intimacy as well as circumstances of the assault" and call for legislative amendments to criminalise it in those countries in which it is not yet criminalised.

As you might be aware, the Penal Code criminalises rape in Section 130. It is an offence for a man to rape a girl or a woman [Subsection (1)].

According to the Penal Code, rape is the offence committed by force, threats or intimidation and by threatening to kill or hurt a girl or woman in unlawful detention [Subsection (2)(b)] or it may be committed against a girl or woman who is mentally unsound or intoxicated by drugs or alcohol.

The law also provides for other circumstances in which rape may be committed [Subsection (2)(c)-(d)]. It is also regarded as rape when committed against a girl aged below 18 years with or without her consent unless she is a wife aged at least 15 years and is not separated from the man [Subsection (2)(e)].

Forcible sexual intercourse is a common phenomenon in many marriages and although the majority of jurisdictions have abolished marital exemption should inform our criminal justice system so that we too may criminalise it because, as ugly as it is, rape cannot be illegal outside marriage and marital rape committed in a similar manner be legal just because it is within a marriage relationship.

This contradicts Article 13(1) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 (as amended 2015), which states: "All persons are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to protection and equality before the law."

Today's proverb: "What is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

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'China sincerely promotes international connectivity and shares its development opportunities with others'

KIGALI

THE showroom at Moshions fashion house is impeccably organized. With an array of designer outfits in different colors hanging below shelves, it's the sort of scene which offers a good reference point for fashion trends.

Located in downtown Kigali, Rwanda's capital, Moshions, founded in 2015, is championing premium quality, 100 percent Made-in-Africa fashion.

Because of the protracted COVID-19 pandemic, Onunaiju hasn't visited China for over two years, but his attention to China has never been reduced. He has participated for many times in the discussions and seminars held by the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee online. His office table is full of books about modern China, among which "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" and "Up and Out of Poverty", both written by Chinese President Xi Jinping, are particularly eye-catching.

These books, Onunaiju believes, embody the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. "The governance philosophy in these books is the fundamental reason why the CPC has always maintained strong vitality and self-innovation capacity and provided inspirational governance experience for other countries and political parties," he said.

Between 1999 and 2019, Onunaiju visited China for nearly 20 times, and traveled extensively to Chinese cities and villages. Each of those visits to China brought him different surprises, according to Onunaiju.

Infrastructure construction advanced fast across China and brought about enormous changes, Onunaiju noted. "I witnessed how buildings and roads developed in the countryside of east China's Anhui province. From local people's warm welcome, hearty laughter and the confidence in their faces, I could see that they are not only quite well-off, but enjoy more spiritual wealth," he recalled.

According to Onunaiju, his trip to southwest China's Tibet autonomous region in 2014 impressed him deeply. "We went to a place named Niangxin. It's about 12 hours' drive from Lhasa, capital city of Tibet. I was amazed that the Chinese government managed to build roads in such cold regions with harsh conditions. While I was watching the scenery outside the window along the journey, I suddenly realized that it was not just the roads that became smooth; it was also the connection between the government



Charles Onunaiju, director of the Center for China Studies in Nigeria, gives a speech at a promotional activity for his book "A Century of the Communist Party of China: Why Africa Should Engage Its Experience", Oct. 21, 2021. File photo

and the Tibetan people," he said.

On a street in Niangxin, Onunaiju saw local people singing and dancing happily. A hospitable Tibetan resident invited him to join them in the dance.

"I'm not quite a dancer, and yet I was so touched by the happy atmosphere that I started to dance, though clumsily, along with the beats," Onunaiju said, adding that the resident told him that they are better off and often dance in their leisure time.

When Onunaiju visited a local family, the host said he never imagined that he could watch TV at his home and that his kids could go to school one day.

"He told me that all of these were made possible by the CPC. I still remember the happy look on his face when he said it," Onunaiju said. "Xi, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, once stressed that 'We regard as our goal the people's aspirations to live a better life.' What I saw and felt in Niangxin is a perfect testament to the promise."

Onunaiju has been to Beijing twice for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, which gave him a chance to see personally how Xi communicate with government officials from various countries and representatives from international organizations.

"Xi's remarks are inspirational, and his demeanor demonstrates

that he is a calm, strong-willed and decisive leader of a major country. He always takes into consideration the realities, and strives for the happiness of the people through unremitting efforts," he pointed out.

Through the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and other activities, Onunaiju has gained a deeper understanding of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The BRI was proposed by China and meant to help the world share China's development opportunities and fruits, which fully shows that China sincerely promotes international connectivity and shares its development opportunities with others, Onunaiju noted.

In Nigeria, fruits of cooperation under the BRI have vitalized the local economy and brought tangible benefits to the Nigerian people, he said. The Chinese-built Lagos-Ibadan Railway in Nigeria has greatly improved the efficiency of passenger and cargo transportation and that the Lekki and Ogun Guangdong free trade zones built under the framework of the BRI have been constantly upgraded and improved in recent years, Onunaiju added.

The proposals and concepts initiated by China, including the BRI and the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind, are never empty talk, Onunaiju stressed.

"When I saw many Chinese friends in Nigeria work with local employees on the construction sites of railways, roads and bridges in the scorching heat, I saw the brotherhood between the Chinese and Nigerian people.

It's the same case with other countries in the world. I firmly believe that China's development concept is the result of deep reflection on the actual situation and development trends of mankind, and has charted the right route for the international community," Onunaiju said. one to be dynamic, meeting people and making connections. The most common feedback we get is positive, customers are appreciative of what we do," she said.

Why KZN was flooded and why it's likely to happen again

By Ethan van Diemen

THE devastating floods in KwaZulu-Natal have brought into sharp focus the material threat posed by extreme weather and climate change. Weather forecasters and climate scientists have told Our Burning Planet that these sorts of events are likely to happen again - and potentially sooner than you might expect.

"A catastrophe".

That's how President Cyril Ramaphosa described the flooding in KwaZulu-Natal and the resultant destruction of lives and property. With a death toll that has reached at least 306 and an economic cost yet to be tallied, it followed that the flooding and landslides was declared a provincial disaster and gazetted as such by Dr Mmaphaka Tau, head of the National Disaster Centre.

The events of the past week in KwaZulu-Natal have brought into sharp focus the material threat posed by extreme weather and climate change. Forecasters from the South African Weather Service (SAWS) have noted that much of the rainfall was "record-breaking", even going as far as to acknowledge in a statement on Tuesday that "the exceptionally heavy rainfall overnight and this morning exceeded even the expectations of the southern African meteorological community at large".

Weather forecasters and climate scientists - who focus on meteorological conditions across different timescales - answered some of Our Burning Planet's questions. The consensus seemed to be that these sorts of events are likely to happen again - and potentially sooner than one might expect.

So what caused the heavy rains that led to the floods and landslides?

Kumsa Masizana, a forecaster at the South African Weather Service (SAWS) told Our Burning Planet that last Friday South Africa had a weather system which referred to as a "cutoff low system" - a very intense low-pressure system that develops in the upper air and extends all the way down to the surface.

"This system is well-known for bringing some significant rainfall across the country and it results in a drop in temperatures. So it's a very slow-moving system that started on Friday, that started affecting the central and eastern parts of South Africa.

As the system started moving eastward, moving over the country, it went over to KwaZulu-Natal where it exited the country and then formed a low-pressure system... a subtropical depression".

Masizana said that "the low-pressure system was situated just off the coast of KwaZulu-Natal which is still feeding in a lot of moisture along the coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal into the adjacent interior also spreading into the Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape which is a result of all of that flooding.

It persisted for about two to three days and some areas got some significant rainfall, areas such as Virginia - got over 300 millimetres of rain [over 24 hours]. That system only died down on Tuesday".

Asked if we should expect more heavy rain over the weekend, Masizana said: "Yes, there is another cutoff low system that is currently developing.

It's going to start bringing in some rainfall tomorrow, which is Friday, where the rainfall will be concentrated once again over the central and the eastern parts of the country but the most significant day will be on Saturday when we are expecting 80% which is widespread showers across Gauteng, the North West, east-



Shacks washed away at the informal settlement between M19 and Quarry road on April 12, 2022 in Durban, South Africa.

ern Free State as well as KwaZulu-Natal once again."

In reference to the rains that caused such havoc in KwaZulu-Natal, she said "the grounds are still very much saturated so anything above 10 to 15 millimetres is enough to cause some flooding once again over KwaZulu-Natal. So for this type of system we are expecting 30 to 40 millimetres of rain which can lead to localised flooding in those areas so we will monitor that area, possibly even sending out a warning closer to the date to those areas of KZN."

Asked whether claims on social media that the rains were the result of a cyclone, Masizana stressed that this was not a tropical cyclone and had nothing to do with Cyclone Issa, the ninth cyclone of the southwest Indian Ocean cyclone season. "This is its own system."

Professor Mark New, director at UCT's African Climate & Development Initiative (ACDI) also responded to questions from Our Burning Planet.

His research focuses on climate change

detection, processes, scenarios, impacts and adaptation. He confirmed much of what Masizana said, saying among others that a quick look at the weather charts provided by SAWS shows there is a coastal low-pressure system sitting adjacent to the KZN coast, which acts to draw in moist ocean air into the interior".

He explained, however, that rainfall alone doesn't explain the totality of the disaster.

"The flooding itself is often exacerbated in urban areas, where hard surfaces [such as] roads, roofs, driveways, etc. prevent the rain from soaking into the ground, and it is channelled into storm water drains, which are then overwhelmed, burst, overflow, or channel all the water into rivers which themselves then overflow. Quite a bit of damage shown in pictures in the news seems to be from collapsed and washed away stormwater infrastructure."

New added, "The damage to land in some lower-income areas and informal settlements is at least partly due to these settlements being established in flood-prone areas or on hillslopes that are steep - because

these more dangerous settings are all that is available... so, the impacts of any flooding event will very often be greater here; people are more exposed, and their homes, roads, and other facilities are not as robust".

Our Burning Planet also reached out to Professor Gina Ziervogel, a lead author in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th assessment report.

Ziervogel's research focuses on climate change adaptation and development at household and municipal levels.

Ziervogel concurred with New's assessment saying that "this event does highlight how high levels of poverty in our country undermine the ability to withstand climate shocks. For example, housing is poorly built and so easily destroyed. Parents have to work and leave children unattended who are then more vulnerable to these shocks.

"Adapting to climate does require improving early warning systems and infrastructure to withstand extreme events. But it also requires addressing inequality and capacity more broadly to deal better with multiple

shocks."

Asked about what role climate change played in the flooding, if at all,

New explained that "heavy rainfall events have occurred many times in the past and will do so in the future. But global warming due to human influence on the climate makes the weather more energetic: on average it increases the amount of moisture in the atmosphere when rain-producing weather systems are present, and the warmer atmosphere also increases the energy of the convective systems [thunderstorms] producing rainfall.

So more frequent and more intense rainfall is totally consistent with what we expect as global warming progresses."

OBP/DM

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUUVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Rukwa RC wants CEFM project to be handled with home-grown strategies

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

RUKWA Regional Commissioner Joseph Mkirikiti has challenged government officials to accelerate accountability on addressing teenage pregnancy and ending child early forced marriages (CEFM) using home-grown strategies as opposed to the current move whereby they are left in the hands of to development partners.

RC Mkirikiti threw the challenge when speaking to journalists on that teenage pregnancy, child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM) in his office on Wednesday this week.

"Development partners come and go, to end child early and forced marriages we as the government need continue working closely with our supporters, and most important own the entire process," the RC said.

He noted that teenage pregnancy, child, early, and forced marriage are prevalent in all the three districts of Rukwa Region, something that he is very unhappy with and vowed to drive the accountability needed to stamp out the harmful practice that violates girls' rights, depriving girls, families and the region from reaping from girls' potentials.

CEFM will not go away unless adequate measures are taken to address all its causal factors, including the less tangible and contentious ones, and most important improving data collection, so that data can inform the regions' plans, investment and decision making, according to RC Mkirikiti.

Data from the Tanzania Demographic Health and Malaria Indicator Survey (TDHMS, 2016) show that 37 percent of Tanzanian girl children are married before age 18. Rukwa is among the regions with high rates of child marriage standing at 40 percent, which is above the national rate 37 percent.

The regional commissioner acknowledged efforts by development partners in addressing CEFM challenge in the region, and appealed to their continued support in addressing factors leading to teenage pregnancy and CEFM.

"Great contribution by Girls Get Equal Project," Mkirikiti said, adding that Girls Get Equal project is one of the best examples of complementing Rukwa Region strategy to end teenage pregnancy and early marriages 2020-2025. Huge progress has been made in project wards by Girls Get Equal project as a result of collaboration between government officials and project implementers.

Girls Get Equal Integrated Approach to Ending Child Early and Forced Marriage is a Norwegian International Development Agency (NORAD) funded project 2020-2024, that complements Tanzania government efforts in ending child marriage by 2030 as well Rukwa regional strategy for ending teenage pregnancies and early marriages.

Child marriage is more common in western zone (42 percent), Southern (42) and Lake Zone 39 percent, women in poorer households (46 percent) are three times as likely as those in richer households (16 percent) to be married as a child, according to Tanzania Demographics and Health Survey 2015/16.

According to Mkirikiti, the root causes of CEFM have to be considered as interconnected forces that help the prac-



Rukwa regional commissioner Joseph Mkirikiti addresses journalists in his office on Wednesday. He appealed for concerted efforts to end teenage pregnancies and forced marriages in the region.

tice to prevail. Marriage is often considered by poor families as a way out of further poverty, and girls are a source of this emancipation. Addressing multidimensional poverty beyond income poverty is crucial, but data is needed to inform planning, investment and decisions making.

"I've noted gaps in data collection, I therefore intend to convene a meeting bringing together all development partners focusing on child rights (survival, protection and development) in the region to seat with their counterparts government officials and deliberate on how we can better collect data, share data and use those data to address teenage pregnancy and child early and forced marriages in the region," Mkirikiti said.

A retired teacher Michael Simchimba said that huge strides have been achieved in working towards improving the health and well being of young people, as a result of implementing the project.

Notable achievement according to Simchimba are, installing volunteer peer educators in all project wards, training health-care providers in adolescents and youth friendly sexual reproductive health service provision, training teachers in sexual re-

productive health and rights and Life Skills, through intergenerational dialogue demystifying the long time held tradition of viewing talking about sexuality as a taboo, forming a coalition of religious leaders for advocating for adolescents and youth sexual reproductive health and rights, to mention but a few.

Get Equal Project manager Kiasu Sikalwanda stated that in Rukwa Region gender inequality and discrimination, represent a key underlying factor of violation of and gaps in the realization of sexual reproductive health and rights girls, the gender roles and norms and stereo type that prevail in Rukwa region, generate gender specific vulnerability to sexual reproductive health problems and hence resulting in adverse SRH outcomes among adolescents and young girls in the region.

According to Kiasu, to expand opportunities for girls and reduce their vulnerability the project is building girls assets like, social (group/club formation and membership, mentorship, safe spaces, and social support networks), human assets (SRH and Life Skills education, literacy, financial education, rights education, vocational training, business skills, and employability train-

ing), financial assets (savings, credit, and other financial services).

"All these help girls make a healthy transition into adulthood," Kiasu said, adding that by the end of the project we will see huge changes all the five project outcomes.

Early pregnancies and CEFM occur because of a combination of social norms, traditions and economic constraints. At the same time, there continues to be resistance to sexuality education.

Policy-makers must give strong and visible support for efforts to prevent early pregnancy and child marriage. Specifically, they must ensure that sexuality education programmes are in place not only in project schools but all schools and communities, to embrace the SDGs leave no one behind philosophy, according to Kiasu.

As a project, Kiasu said, they are investing time, energy and resources in ending teenage pregnancy and CEFM because, the practice of CEFM undeniably perpetuates patriarchy and gender inequality that further marginalized girls.

It exacerbates poverty and the vulnerability of girls living in poverty. It has economic consequences, including limiting girls' control over and access to social, economic as-

sets and productive resources.

"If you look at World Bank Tanzania Economic Updates January 2019 and Economic Impact of Child Marriage Global Synthesis Report, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and the World Bank 2017, each year of early marriage raises the risk of not completing secondary education by 6percent point, each year of secondary school education reduces the risk of early childbearing by 9 percent point, and each year of secondary education reduces the risk of marrying as a child by up to 17 percent point," pointed Kiasu.

He added that the economic benefits of ending child marriage in Tanzania in terms of welfare gains from lower population growth is large, by 2030 it could reach \$5billion in purchasing power parity.

Across the communities, the link between poverty and child marriage manifested itself very clearly and often parents and relatives cited marriage as a means of livelihood and survival strategy.

In the recent media visit noted that poverty influences life choices for families and girls in Nkasi, Kalambo and Sumbawanga district councils, often leaving marriage as the main option to support an entire family. Poverty was raised almost unanimously by parents and teachers over and over again, is deemed one of the reasons why children can't go to school, girls become pregnant or why parents choose to marry their daughters off.

In this matter poverty is linked to girls' engaging in transactional sex with boys and men in return for gifts, money or other basic items-school notebooks, sanitary pads or sandals they need. It is also revealed that parents, and especially mothers, may push their girls to get married, because they will be given gifts and support from their future sons in law. Thus, marriage is used as a livelihood strategy.

The Norad funded Girls Get Equal Integrated Approach to Ending Child Early and Forced Marriage Project in Rukwa 2020-2024, is implemented in partnership between Plan International, Rukwa Sustainable Development Organization (RUSUDEO), People's Development Forum (PDF), Chala VET, Rafiki SDO and Youth Education Through Sports Tanzania (YES TZ) and Rukwa regional government.

Africa's rice-farming villages more prone to malaria - study

By Special Correspondent

MALARIA has become more common in African villages with irrigated rice fields in the last 20 years, highlighting the need for improved cultivation methods to keep mosquito numbers low, a study suggests.

The study, published in the March edition of The Lancet Planetary Health, shows that since 2003, the number of mosquitoes found in rice farming villages were six- to eight times higher in non-rice farming villages, with malaria cases almost twice as high in rice farming villages.

This is a change from what was seen in the 1990s when, in settings where malaria transmission was relatively intense, studies found no tendency for malaria incidence to be higher in villages with irrigated rice fields than in those without.

Malaria prevalence among villagers in rice-growing areas was similar to, or lower than, those in non-rice-growing areas. This became known as the "paddies paradox", explains Kallista Chan, study co-author and a doctoral candidate at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

"Rice fields are ideal breeding sites for African malaria mosquitoes," says Chan. "Their growing conditions are exactly those preferred by the malaria mosquitoes *Anopheles gambiae*: fresh sunlit water of two to ten centimetres in depth, still or very slow flowing and relatively clean."

The results were based on 53 studies conducted between 1971 and 2016 in 14 African countries including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Tanzania.

Chan says that the study's focus was specifically on the role of agriculture in influencing malaria, and how practises can be adapted to curb malaria rather than fuel it.

She believes that antimalarial interventions such as insecticide-treated nets may be part of a short-term solution but are not sustainable.

"Malaria is a major public health problem in Africa," says Chan. "This region harbours over 90 per cent of all global malaria deaths and whereas in the last two decades there has been unprecedented success in reducing malaria transmission, rice-growing areas can remain as malaria hotspots, which can be a barrier to elimination."

She adds that rice-growing areas, especially those that are irrigated, are rapidly increasing in Africa because of population growth and changing consumer behaviour. Governments have been pushing for more rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa for the past decade.

Jo Lines, a co-author of the study and professor of malaria control and vector biology at LSHTM, says that the agricultural sector should lead efforts in identifying malaria-free rice cultivation practices, with technical input such as mosquito surveillance when the practices are being identified from health experts.

The findings of the study also need to be flagged at country and continental-level to align efforts for rice farming-based malaria control, she says.

Donald Apat, programme manager of Global Fund Malaria Project at Amref Health Africa, says that the study could have important implications amid the growth of urban populations.

These findings, according to Apat, show that with rapid unplanned urbanisation, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, leading to more demand for food and other services, there is a risk of introducing crop production practices that increase the transmission of vector-borne diseases and indeed, malaria.

Proper management of the rice



fields and development of a holistic malaria control strategy based on local data should be put in place to stem the menace in rice-growing areas, says Apat.

"Adoption of malaria vector control practices at scale in these set-

tings would include personal protection using insecticide-treated bed nets, improved housing designs and screening of windows, doors and eaves, among others," he tells SciDev.Net.

Environmental management is

also crucial for the elimination of malaria and should be part of national strategic plans geared towards malaria control and subsequent elimination, according to Apat.

"This calls for multisectoral collaboration integrating health ac-

tions with sectors responsible for agriculture," Apat explains, adding that communities should be empowered to participate in initiatives that would contribute to sustainable rice food production while also helping to control malaria.

War in Ukraine and rise in arms spending undermine development aid to the world's poor

UNITED NATIONS

THE unprecedented flow of arms to Ukraine, and the rising military spending by European nations to strengthen their defenses, are threatening to undermine development aid to the world's poorer nations.

Yoke Ling, Executive Director of Third World Network told IPS the escalating military spending will definitely have a direct impact on a range of spending that the North has committed to developing countries – from official development assistance (ODA) to climate finance, “that is a legal obligation under the climate treaties”.

Even before the Russian-Ukraine war, she pointed out, the North has been reducing development financing. “So, we expect the regression to worsen,” she added.

A UN report, titled 2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report: Bridging the Finance Divide released April 12, says record growth of Official Development Assistance, increased to its highest level ever in 2020, rising to \$161.2 billion.

“Yet, 13 countries cut ODA, and the sum remains insufficient for the vast needs of developing countries”.

The UN also fears “the fallout from the crisis in Ukraine, with increased spending on refugees in Europe, may mean cuts to the aid provided to the poorest countries”.

In the face of a global crisis, near-time actions and additional international support are needed to prevent debt crises and address the high cost

of borrowing, the report warns.

“However, the vast majority of developing countries will need active and urgent support to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs).

The report estimates that in the poorest countries a 20 per cent increase in spending will be required for key sectors.

A New York Times report on March 29, said across Europe and Britain, Russia's invasion of Ukraine is reshaping spending priorities and forcing governments to prepare for threats thought to have been long buried – from a flood of European refugees to the possible use of chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons by a Russian leader who may feel backed into a corner.

“The result is a sudden reshuffling of budgets as military spending, essentials like agriculture and energy, and humanitarian assistance are shoved to the front of the line, with other pressing needs like education and social services likely to be downgraded,” said the Times.

Frederic Mousseau, Policy Director at the Oakland Institute, told IPS “whereas combination of droughts and conflicts result in massive human suffering and hunger in a number of countries, UN humanitarian appeals for these acute crises are chronically underfunded.”

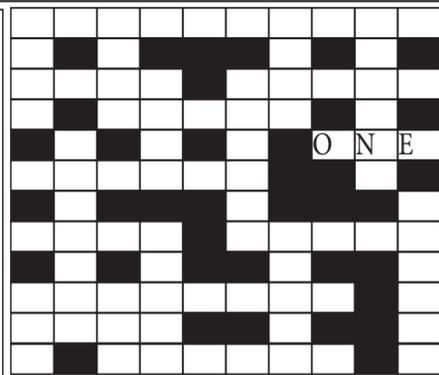
Last year, he pointed out, only 45% of the UN appeal for Yemen and the Horn of Africa was funded, only 29% for Syria. With such shortfalls amidst the war on Ukraine, it is critical that all



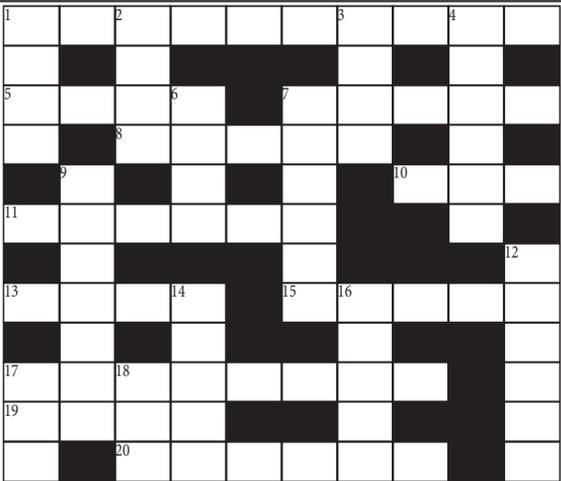
Workers at Dar es Salaam harbour load bags of wheat onto a truck in Tanzania. Global food prices have reached “a new all-time high,” the head of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Qu Dongyu has said, “hitting the poorest the hardest.” 8 April 2022. Credit: FAO/Giuseppe Bizzarri

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 264 00--

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



- 3 LETTERS: CRY, LNB, ONE
- 4 LETTERS: EAST, SAVE, GIVE, REAL, DARE, EASE RANK (7 WORDS)
- 5 LETTERS: EASEL, EDITS, DRIVE, DAILY EVOKE (5 WORDS)
- 6 LETTERS: ASSIGN, BETTER, ONLINE, DEARIE PASTOR (5 WORDS)
- 7 LETTERS: BARAKOA
- 8 LETTERS: COLOMBIA
- 10 LETTERS: ENGINE ROOM



- CLUES: Across**
- 1 maize with high sugar content
 - 5 in control of
 - 7 a grass-like plant with triangular stems, growing in wet ground
 - 8 Identities of People
 - 10 an act that harms someone
 - 11 calm, peaceful
 - 13 a person who uses something
 - 15 a set of moral principles
 - 17 overly restrained or unemotional way
 - 19 very old
 - 20 a native of Ossetia
- Down:**
- 1 a small mark
 - 2 flat, level
 - 3 kind of rocks which metals are found
 - 4 a person's head
 - 6 fierce anger that continues with great force
 - 7 strict in judgment
 - 9 annoying
 - 12 to shout
 - 14 grasses growing in water
 - 16 indicating that a voice or instrument is silent
 - 17 United Arab Emirates
 - 18 Latin word for “deity”

WORD-FIT

S I T U A T I O N S
A T I G E
L O M E P A N E L
T E N D E D
R U S S I A
N L S
S N A R S T A R K
E O I L
F L A M I N G O
I S L E
G L O O S E R S

CROSSWORD

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

donor countries ensure their solidarity and support is focused on all victims.

Increase in military budgets in Europe will automatically result in more sales for the major Western arm exporters, i.e. USA, France and Germany.

The industrial military complex yields increased economic returns for these countries, and fuels conflicts across the world. In 2021, the second largest humanitarian aid requirement was for Yemen, whereas Saudi Arabia, waging war on this country, is the first importer of weapons from Western countries.

It is to be seen, he said, how actual aid budgets will be affected by the war in Ukraine.

“But regardless of what happens in Europe, a major issue that undermines our ability to promote peace and stability in the world – and reduce the need for international assistance, is the US military budget that continues to increase under the Biden administration to reach an all-time record of \$813 billion this year”.

This is more spending than the next eleven countries combined, Mousseau pointed out.

“The USA is not just the highest military budget in the world, it is also the largest arm exporter and coincidentally the largest aid donor. US international aid, however, represents just 4% of the US military spending. Priorities have to change drastically to meet the humanitarian and environmental challenges of the world”, he declared.

Vitalice Meja, Executive Director, Reality of Aid Africa, told IPS: “We support the humanitarian efforts going towards the Ukrainian people and remain in solidarity with them. We, however, believe that donors must still meet their other obligations on other global wars of poverty, and climate crisis on humanity.”

It is important especially for Africa that ODA remains focused on catalyzing development and tackle the ravaging climate change crisis and the rising inequalities, she said.

“Donors must allocate additional resources towards Ukraine and not simply by militarizing aid or shifting budget items and priorities from other global development challenges in response the War in Ukraine”.

It is key that donors, at the same time without shifting resources, should focus on building and strengthening Africa's resilience in these times of harsh climate change and mass crop failure.

“They must secure sustainable climate finance and development resources to address the rising cases of inequality, extreme hunger and poverty in this part of the world”.

This is our war and it remains important and relevant. It must be aggressively be fought and won as well, Meja declared.

Jennifer del Rosario-Malonzo, Executive Director, IBON International, told IPS: “We stand in solidarity with the peoples of Ukraine who are bearing the losses from the war. People's rights and needs – in Ukraine, in Asia, and the rest of the global South – should be a priority over military spending”.

If some developed countries are lavish with their arms spending and military budgets today, while their “humanitarian” response involves cutting from other aid programs, are they saying that security interests come before long-term, public needs? She asked.

Outside the Ukraine war, developed countries have already broken their promise of providing USD100 billion of climate finance by 2020.

Sacrificing development aid budgets and climate finance will deepen poverty, inequalities, adverse climate impacts, and exclusion felt in the global South. Lack of ambition here risks reinforcing the economic and political grievances at the root of armed conflicts in Asia and elsewhere.

Solidarity and justice today call for ambition. We challenge developed countries to fulfill their existing aid commitments (minimum of 0.7% of GNI as ODA), together with providing new funding for people's needs in Ukraine. We call for new and additional grants-based climate finance to indemnify the most affected peoples and communities suffering from losses and damages due to climate change.

Meanwhile, the UN report on Financing for Sustainable Development also points out that while rich countries were able to support their pandemic recovery with record sums borrowed at ultra-low interest rates, the poorest countries spent billions servicing debt, preventing them from investing in sustainable development. **IPS**

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM BRAND TALK 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:03 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DJ SHOW 20:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DANIELI 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANAYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DJ SHOW 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS CHAGUI LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANAYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DJ SHOW 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS CHAGUI LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANAYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DJ SHOW 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS CHAGUI LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANAYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DJ SHOW 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS CHAGUI LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANAYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DJ SHOW 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS CHAGUI LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANAYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DJ SHOW 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS CHAGUI LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANAYIKO)

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

BUSINESS

CAG Kichere faults online business licensing system

By Francis Kajubi

WEAKNESSES have been noted among the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) staff in undertaking online business registration thus affecting the goal of re-engineering of businesses operations.

Performance Audit Report on the Business Registration and Licensing by the Controller and Auditor General for the fiscal year 2020/21 released on Tuesday states that during the audit there were several shortcomings which were associated with inefficiency of the procured registration system.

Specifically, the audit assessed weaknesses in the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Online Registration System and human resources at BRELA; Efficiency of the processes deployed by BRELA when registering and licensing businesses.

The other aspect is whether the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade and BRELA effectively monitor implementation of registration and licensing activities.

"For instance, a review of the ICT System report shows that the system was not functioning well. This resulted in an additional cost amounting to 328.9million/- that could have been used to serve other Agency's activities," reads the report in part.

It states that minutes of the meeting held in November 2018 had found that BRELA did not have enough and competent ICT and other staff to handle different activities during business registration and licensing processes.

Due to this, the system was mostly run by Vendors. Despite the fact that the Online Registration System (ORS) contract required BRELA's IT officials to be trained immediately before system commissioning, there wasn't such an initiative.

For instance, it was noted that the system was developed in Europe while BRELA's project manager was



CAG Charles Kichere

in Dar es Salaam and therefore in case of any enquiry he was supposed to communicate with the Vendor via Skype meeting and Redmine Application.

However, it was noted that, the installed Redmine being a web based application and an open source Software might cause two major risks which are infringement risk (where Open Source Users receive no protection) and license restriction risks.

As the result, the report states, the Vendor developed the system with inefficiencies in its functioning.

"The analysis made based on data extracted from the ORS indicated that as at 3rd October, 2021, BRELA had

received a total of 281,000 applications for registration and licensing of various services;

It was noted that 86,000 applications, equivalent to 32 percent, were not yet attended by BRELA during a three years period, from 2018/19 to 2020/21. This implies that the system and staff lack capacity to handle the increased applications," reads the report.

On the other hand, reviewed ORS indicated that there were a number of applications that were made but the applied services were not completed despite being paid for.

As a result, the report states, the agency collected

revenues of 1.570billion/- from the customers for services that were never provided to all respective customers.

Amount of revenues collected for services not provided increased from 368million/- in 2018/19 to 1.570billion in 2020/21.

Further indicates that most activities related to custom and standard search had many applications in every year that were paid for but applied services were not provided to the customers.

For instance, in 2018/19 there were 11,967 applications for custom search and 7,107 for standard search that were not attended. In 2019/20 the unattended ap-

plications were 17,650 and 10,534 for standard and custom searches respectively.

Also, in 2020/21, there were 26,035 for standard and 9,614 for custom searches not attended. The total number of unattended applications that were paid for was 84,960.

A total of 328.931million/- which were additional costs during and after the introduction of the online registration system. This amount was equivalent to 7 percent of the total budget for installation and operationalization of the ORS system.

CAG states that the additional cost on ORS development was 257million/- on top of the originally agreed budget.

In his recommendation to these findings, CAG Charles Kichere says that value for money is questionable on the funds used to procure the system.

"Because the System was developed at an initial cost of 2.84billion/- and an additional cost of 329million/- was incurred during and after its development stages. Nonetheless, the system still had major issues that de-escalated functionalities" recommends Kichere.

Among others, he recommends that BRELA should ensure ICT Management is capacitated with required skills on ICT project management, vendor relationship management and governance.

Another weakness of the system is that it sends notification to the applicant via emails only and that BRELA's systems operate only in primary sites and has no Hot Recovery Site.



Kenya Airways 'travellers' have lost billions in expired tickets

NAIROBI

KENYA Airways' customers lost Ksh4.48 billion last year after they failed to show up for their flights, leaving them with expired tickets.

The values of the expired tickets have been disclosed in the airline's latest annual report.

KQ, as the carrier, is known by its international code, books revenue from ticket sales whether customers fly or leave the tickets to expire.

Clients who cancel their flights can get credit - representing a discount on the cost of the ticket- which they can use within one year.

Myriad lockdowns and travel restrictions have been a major reason many people have missed or snubbed their flights since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020.

The expired tickets represent the biggest losses suffered by consumers in buying goods and services from one company. Telecommunications operators like Safaricom also have billions of shillings of unutilised loyalty points but they do not expire.

Safaricom previously sold airtime with expiry dates but later changed its billing system to allow customers to choose between expiring and non-expiring purchases, with those opting for the former also likely to utilise the resources within the set timeframe.

Losses for KQ customers would have been higher had the airline not made a decision to prolong the period during which customers can utilise their tickets.

"Due to the suspension of operations [at the height of the pandemic],

the airline issued tariff notices extending the ticket validity beyond the normal 13 months up to 31st December 2021 to allow passengers more time to travel as travel restrictions eases," the firm writes in the report.

"At the expiry of the tariff notice, the group performed breakage on the tickets that remained unutilised in any form from the date of prime sale as per the 13 months estimation."

Passenger ticket sales are accounted for as current liabilities and later recognised as revenue when customers fly or the tickets expire.

KQ's aircraft were grounded between April and July 2020 as the Kenyan government banned domestic and international travel to curb the spread of coronavirus.

The airline also cancelled numerous flights as various governments around the world announced bans on flights from other countries, including Kenya.

The struggling carrier, like its peers across the world, last year asked customers to accept vouchers that allow them to travel in the future, while conserving the much-needed cash to remain afloat, instead of making refunds.

"The timing of revenue recognition for expired unused tickets requires judgment due to the timeframe over which revenue documents can be utilised," the company's external auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), wrote in the report for the financial year ended December 2021.

"The management determines the value of unused tickets revenue using a combination of terms and conditions of the underlying documents and historical expiry trends."

Absa recovers from losses, earns 9.4bn/- annual net profit in 2021

By Guardian Reporter

ABSA Tanzania recovered from has losses recorded in 2020 by posting a net profit of 9.4bn/- last year.

The bank audited financial statement for 2021 shows the improvement was a result of cutting other operating expenses, increase in net interest income, reduction of net interest expenses and reduction of impairment of losses on loans and advances.

According to the statements, the banks managed to increase its operating income three times to 12bn/- from 4bn/- recorded in 2020.

Net interest income slightly went up to 56.7bn/- from 55.5bn/- while impairment losses on loans and advanced were sent down to 8bn/- from 11.4bn/- respectively.

Non-performing loans and advanced also went down to 38.9bn/- last year from 41.47bn/- recorded in 2020, which translated into NPLs rate slowdown to 7.1 percent last year from 8.7 percent recorded during the previ-



Absa Tanzania managing director Abdi Mohammed

ous year.

The statement shows the bank's non-interest income slowed to 39.2bn/- last year from 40.2bn/- in 2020, while non-interest expenses went down to 75.4bn/- from 80.3bn

respectively.

Basic earnings per share also jumped to 9.6/- last year from a loss of 0.4/- with number of employees shrunk to 457 from 472 and number of branches remained flat at 15.

According to the statement, the bank total assets also increased to 974.5bn/ last year from 901.9bn/- in 2020, due to improvement in balance with Bank of Tanzania (BOT), investment in other securities, cash and lending to customers, despite decreased balance with other banks and financial institutions, cheques and items for clearing and customers liabilities.

Cash increased to 33.08bn/- from 22.8bn/-, balance with Bank of Tanzania (BOT) went up to 87.7bn/- from 64bn/ while loans, advances and overdraft (net of allowances for profitable losses) amounted 523.7b/ from 446.5bn/ respectively.

However, balance with other banks and financial institutions slowed to 39.7bn/- last year from 70.3bn/- in 2020.

Deposits from other banks and financial institutions went up to 77.5b/- last year from 27bn/- in 2020 while customer deposits slightly increased to 654.3b/- from 652.3bn/ respectively.

Absa Bank Tanzania is part of Absa Group Limited, an African financial services group that aims to be the pride of the continent.

Absa Group Limited is listed on the JSE in South Africa and is one of Africa's largest diversified financial services groups with a presence in 12 countries across the continent and around 42,000 employees.

Ten oil CEOs face jail and fines in fuel crisis probe

NAIROBI

TEN CEOs of oil marketers risk two years in jail or fines of up to ksh2 million for the firms' role in the current diesel and petrol shortage crisis.

Their firms have been blamed for breaching a regulation that demands they keep a minimum level of diesel and petrol stocks, causing the country-wide fuel shortage.

Oil marketers are under the law re-

quired to maintain minimum stocks of petrol and diesel to last 20 days and 25 days respectively to cushion the country from supply disruptions.

Government officials blame the shortage on oil marketing companies, accusing them of breaching the rules on minimum stocks and hoarding supplies ahead of Thursday's monthly price review, which saw pump prices increase by Ksh9.90 per litre from midnight.

The State has termed their actions

economic sabotage, which is a capital offence that carries life imprisonment.

The fines and jail term linked to stocks are contained in the Energy (Minimum Operational Stock) Regulations, 2008 and underline the government's resolve to end the fuel shortage that has persisted for three weeks.

The executives of the 10 firms, including top marketers Vivo Energy, Total Energies, Ola Energy, and Gapco Hass Petroleum, are this morning expected

to report to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) over the economic sabotage claim.

Other managers on the radar of the DCI are Petro Oil, Galana Oil and Lake Oil Petroleum.

This came amid conflicting reports over the deportation of Rubis Energy Kenya CEO, Jean-Christian Bergeron, due to the fuel crisis.

Rubis in a statement last evening appeared to contradict the State on claims

of having deported Mr Bergeron to France, saying the CEO travelled to Paris to brief the head office over Kenya's fuel crisis.

Rubis Energy Kenya is owned by Rubis Energie, a subsidiary of the Rubis Group which is listed on the Paris Stock Exchange.

Energy Cabinet Secretary Monica Juma earlier in the day told a media briefing that Mr Bergeron had left the country on Wednesday night but de-

clined to give further details.

"These (artificial shortages) are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. We cannot hold the nation at ransom. We will go the whole hog to bring all persons and companies who are in breach of their licensing and operating guidelines to book," Dr Juma said on Thursday. Dr Juma added that the oil marketers committed economic sabotage and threatened the nation's security by hoarding the fuel.

Kigoma to host second Lake Tanganyika business summit in May



The Democratic Republic of Congo uses Dar es Salaam port via Kigoma port for transacting its imports and exports goods, while Burundi also depends on the region as its main source of investments, goods and services. PHOTO/FILE

By Correspondent Adela Madyane

KIGOMA is expected to host the second Tanganyika Business summit next month, targeting to strengthen cross border trade and investments among Great Lakes region countries.

The summit scheduled to start from May 9 to May 11 will be attended by business communities across the region, mainly Rwanda, Congo DRC, Burundi and Zambia.

The summit is organized by Kigoma municipal in collaboration with Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), Tanzania National Business Council (TNB), Tanzania Investments Center (TIC), TANTRADE, Alliance for Green Revolution (AGRA), Kigoma Joint Program (KJP), International Trade Centre (ITC) and Afro Premier the guest of honor being the president of Tanzania Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The objective of the Summit was bringing together stakeholder from Tanzania and neighboring countries across Lake Tanganyika to deliberate and come up with the joint agreements that will spell out commitment of each Country to resolve issues impending cross border trade.

Speaking to journalist on the preparation of the event, the Kigoma Regional Commissioner Thobias Andengeny said being the center of cross border business via Lake Tanganyika; the region will strengthen its ability of speedy loading and offloading cargos at the port, hence revisiting all trade barriers.

He said apart from the summit, there will be a business exhibition from all countries, calling for Tanzanians to exploit this opportunities in exploring regional markets and investment opportunities as well as to build business connections.

"The summit will attract 500 business people from all over the participating countries and entrepreneurs will be guided on how promote their businesses" said Andengeny.

On the side of regional trade officer Deogratius Sangu said the summit will strengthen industrial economy and promote investments within the region, considering nearly all participating countries use Tanzania ports as the gateway for their imports and exports trade.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) also uses Dar es Salaam port via Kigoma port for transacting its imports and exports goods, while Burundi also depends on the region

as main source of investments, goods and services.

Quoting the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) report, TCCIA chairperson Abdul Mwilima said in 2018, the regional trade volumes via Kigoma amounted 750bn/-, higher than 600bn/- generated from the northern borders with Kenya.

"One border of Kigoma region edged four borders in North Tanzania and it's our hope that, through this business summit we increase revenue by up to 40 percent to one trillion if the border trades will be well managed" said Mwilima.

He added that they have communicated with other business chambers in Rubumbashi, Kileleshwa, Bukavu and Goma where there are more than 30 million people doing businesses.

Among of the 24 summit resolutions that aimed to improve the business environment and networks between these countries are the elimination of visas between Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the presence of transparency in the transportation activities and the introduction of a joint program to deal with cross border trade as well as presence of informal controls of non-formal levies at the border areas.

CAG queries TIB loans extended to agricultural projects

By Francis Kajubi

LOANS amounting to 3bn/- for agriculture projects were awarded to borrowers by Tanzania Investment Bank Ltd (TIB) during 2020/21, while having other multiple loans from different lenders.

According to the 2020/21 Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report, review of 50 sampled clients files with the largest outstanding loans classified as losses noted that eight out of 50 borrowers, equivalent to 16 percent, were given loans amounting to 3.42bn/- while having multiple loans from other banks and financial institutions.

TIB was required by clause 4.1 (a) by the agreement with the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) to conduct a

detailed credit analysis of the agricultural projects before approval.

Highlighting several scenarios of customers with multiple loans and later borrowed from TIB, the CAG notes that there were loans issued despite the customer having other loans from SELF Microfinance and NMB Bank Plc.

The CAG report asserts that at the time of the credit analysis report, Kaseme Mabamba Saccos had an outstanding loan balance of 69mn/- from NMB Bank Plc and 300mn/- from SELF Microfinance.

However, TIB approved and disbursed loans worth 270.28mn/-. As of 30th August, 2021, about 287.58mn/- was not repaid, and the Saccos

is no longer operating, and there was no loan security.

"At CRDB Bank Plc, Udzungwa Saccos had an outstanding loan of 1.59bn/-, but, TIB granted another loan amounting 596mn/- on 6th December, 2013.

A total of 803.78mn/- had not been repaid for the past due date as of 30th August 2021 (about 8.7 years)," reads the report.

In another scenario, a loan was approved to Mwanza Saccos by TIB despite having multiple loans with CRDB, OIKOCredit and SELF Microfinance.

According to the CAG report, Mwanza Saccos had previously received three loans from CRDB that were 30mn/-, 75mn/-, and 150mn/- in different years.

Same Saccos had a loan of 350mn/- from OIKOCredit and a loan of 50mn/- from SELF Microfinance at the time of the credit analysis. But, TIB also approved the loan to Mwanza Saccos.

In 2019, the account was charged off because the Saccos was no longer operational, and there was insufficient security to recover the loan. Saccos had a total exposure of 568.97/- as of September 2021.

One of the TIB officials, pointed out that the Agricultural Window Lending Framework does not prohibit the provision of loans to customers despite having many loans, what the bank does is to carry out analysis to assess whether the clients have the capacity to repay the loan, regardless of whether

they have many loans or not.

"The factors for issuing loans to customers with multiple loans relying on the customer loan performance records. For instance, KIWABU Farm Co. Ltd was established on February 24, 2012 and on March 26, 2012, it applied for the loan of 429mn/- from TIB" said the official who preferred anonymity.

A reviewed credit analysis indicated that KIWABU had a banking relationship with CRDB Bank and has a strong account performance record.

In addition, the company received a 170mn/- credit from CRDB to help finance the expansion of the cattle fattening business.

According to the analysis, loan repayment went well. Based on this, on 1st January,

2014, TIB approved and disbursed 489mn/- but as of 30 August 2021, 252mn/- had not been repaid with past due days.

Another scenario is from the loan which was issued to SOP's Food and Grains Investment Ltd which was established in June 2013. According to the analysis report, the company had a loan with Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA) with an outstanding balance of 200mn/-.

The report further showed that the company's past performance was good in the agriculture window because in 2012, the company had a profit of 3.6bn/- and a net profit of 221mn/-, which then increased to 5.34bn/- and 398mn/- in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Information centre equips women farming, tailoring skills

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

The Kipunguni Skills and Information Centre is using mobile phone technology to equip women and girls with skills on modern agriculture and tailoring.

The centre secretary Sada Shifta said this when training women groups' leaders from Mzingwa ward on how to exploit various economic opportunities within their communities.

"We are continuing to expand this programme to different groups and we have started with equipping leaders on how to use smart phones," she said. "As you know that mobile phones have become one of the important tools in life and it enables people to buy or sell goods and services."

She said they consider development of technology as an important tool to promote economic growth; so equipping girls and women different opportunities available online will enable them to think how to exploit those opportunities.

"This is an important opportunity for women and girls to do or promote their businesses through online because it is the current global commercial trend," she said. "With the use of mobile phones, user can take a photo of a product or services and post it into social media to attract more customers, which will result into business growth."

The centre chairperson Fatma Talib said they have purchased a generator, office equipment, radio, tents and chairs which are leased to organisers of functions which generate revenues to them.



Barrick reports quarterly decrease in gold production

TORONTO

CANADA-headquartered Barrick Gold produced one-million ounces of gold and 101-million pounds of copper in the first quarter of the year, in line with its previously announced guidance, but below its performance in the fourth quarter of 2021.

The miner stated on Thursday that gold production, which was down 17% on the 1.2-million ounces produced in the preceding quarter,

would increase through the year, while copper production would be higher in the second half of the year.

Barrick explained that its first-quarter output had been hit by lower quarterly production at Carlin and Cortez, in Nevada, following the depletion of stockpiled higher grade underground ore processed in the fourth quarter of 2021 after the mechanical mill failure at the Goldstrike roaster in the second quarter.

Its Kibali mine, in the Democratic Republic

of Congo, and Turquoise Ridge, in Nevada, also reported lower output owing to planned maintenance, while at Tongon, in Côte d'Ivoire, production was lower as a result of mine sequencing.

Nevertheless, Barrick affirmed that it remained on track to achieve its full year gold and copper guidance.

The miner reported preliminary first-quarter sales of one-million ounces of gold and 113-million pounds of copper, at an average gold mar-

ket price of \$1 877/oz and an average copper price of \$4.53/lb.

First-quarter gold ounces sold are 20 percent lower than the previous quarter, as such, cost of sales per ounce is expected to be 10 percent to 12 percent higher, total cash costs per ounce are expected to be 15 percent to 17 percent higher and all-in sustaining costs per ounce are expected to be 19 percent to 21 percent higher than in the fourth quarter.



We are continuing to expand this programme to different groups and we have started with equipping leaders on how to use smart phones."

WORLD

IMF to slash forecast for 143 economies amid Ukraine conflict

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund chief said Thursday that the organization will revise down its global growth forecast amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the impact of which will contribute to downgrades for 143 economies this year.

"To put it simply, we are facing a crisis on top of a crisis," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said in a curtain raiser speech ahead of the 2022 spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank scheduled next week.

"In the past seven weeks, the world has experienced a second major crisis - a war on top of a pandemic. This risks eroding much of the progress we have made over the past two years, climbing back from COVID," said Georgieva.

In an update to its World Economic Outlook report released in January, the IMF already cut 2022 global growth forecast by 0.5 percentage point to 4.4 percent amid Omicron surge, as economies grapple with supply disruptions, higher inflation, record debt and persistent uncertainty.

"Since then, the outlook has deteriorated substantially," largely because of the war and its repercussions," Georgieva noted.

The IMF chief noted that the economic consequences from the Russia-Ukraine conflict spread "fast and far," "hitting hardest the world's most vulnerable people."

It has pushed up energy and food prices and exacerbated inflation, hurting hundreds of millions of families who were already struggling with lower incomes and higher prices, and threatening to further increase inequality, she said.

"As a result, we will be projecting a further downgrade in global growth for both 2022 and 2023," Georgieva said, noting that the impact of the war will contribute to forecast downgrades for 143 economies this year - accounting for 86 percent of global GDP. The IMF will release its World Economic Outlook next Tuesday, April 19.

Georgieva noted that prospects vary greatly across countries: from catastrophic economic losses in Ukraine, to a severe contraction in Russia, to countries



International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva

facing spillovers from the war through commodity, trade, and financial channels

The double crises and the world's ability to deal with them are further complicated by another growing risk: "fragmentation of the world economy into geopolitical blocs - with different trade and technology standards, payment systems, and reserve currencies," she said.

The immediate priorities, according to the IMF chief, are to end the war in Ukraine, confront the pandemic, and tackle inflation and debt. She also highlighted efforts to fight climate change, while urging policymakers to embrace digital revolution.

In the face of surging inflation, central banks

should act decisively, keeping their finger on the pulse of the economy and adjusting policy appropriately, Georgieva said, adding that they should also communicate clearly.

She warned that emerging and developing economies face the added risk of "potential spillovers" from monetary tightening in advanced economies - not only higher borrowing costs but also the risk of capital outflows.

To address these challenges, countries should be prepared to use the full set of tools available, which ranges from extending debt maturities and using exchange rate flexibility to foreign exchange interventions and capital flow management measures, she added.

UN envoy: Yemeni Houthi leaders 'reaffirm' commitment to truce

SANA'A

THE UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg said on Wednesday the Houthi leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to the country's current ceasefire that started at the beginning of Ramadan.

Grundberg made the remarks at a news conference held at the Sanaa International Airport, concluding his three-day visit to the Houthi-controlled capital of Yemen.

The UN envoy said he and Houthi political leaders held discussions on "progress on the implementation of the truce and all its elements, as well as ways to build on the truce as a step towards a comprehensive political solution to the conflict."

"I have received reaffirmed



The UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg (center) speaks during a news conference at the Sanaa International Airport in Sanaa, Yemen, on April 13, 2022. XINHUA

commitment to all aspects of implementing the truce," Grundberg said.

He also pointed out the im-

portance of allowing fuel ships to enter the strategic port of Hodeidah, which is a lifeline for the importation of essential

commodities in the Houthi-controlled areas. "Intense work and preparations are ongoing for the opening of Sanaa airport for the first commercial flight in six years," Grundberg added.

The country's warring sides agreed to implement from April 2 an UN-brokered cease-fire that was meant to last two months.

The truce includes the halt of all ground, aerial and naval military offensive operations across Yemen and its borders.

It also entailed facilitating the entry of 18 fuel ships into the port of Hodeidah and allowing two commercial flights a week to and from the Sanaa International Airport.

The envoy also voiced his concerns over the reported violations of the ceasefire in some regions, adding that "we need to

be mindful of the challenges."

Meanwhile, the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV reported that Mahdi al-Mashat, a senior political leader of the Houthi movement, said on Tuesday that the group is committed to peace, but stressed that it can only be reached if the Saudi-led coalition stops imposing the blockade on the Houthi-controlled areas.

Yemen has been mired in a civil war since late 2014 when the Iran-backed Houthi militia seized control of several northern provinces and forced the Saudi-backed government of Hadi out of Sanaa.

The war has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced 4 million, and pushed the country to the brink of starvation, according to the UN.

South Korea to lift most virus curbs from next week

SEOUL / YANGON

SOUTH Korea said yesterday it will drop most COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions next week, including a midnight curfew on eateries, as the Omicron surge in cases shows signs of waning, although people will still have to wear masks.

From April 18, the midnight curfew on restaurants and other businesses will be scrapped, along with the cap on private gatherings which was set at 10, Prime Minister Kim Boo-kyum told a coronavirus response meeting.

"Wearing masks is still a very important means to protect ourselves," Kim said. "It is inevitable to maintain the indoor mask mandate for a considerable period of time."

On wearing masks outdoors, Kim said the government will review whether to

lift the existing restriction in two weeks, depending on the virus situation.

The number of coronavirus cases in the country appears to have passed its peak after hovering over 620,000 a day in mid-March, with the daily infections falling to below 150,000 on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the government announced its plan to expand the rollout of the second COVID-19 booster shot for people over 60.

Israel

A fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech provided significant added protection against severe disease, hospitalization and death for at least a month in older individuals, according to a study from Israel conducted when the Omicron variant was dominant.

The estimated effectiveness of the

fourth dose during days 7 to 30 after it was administered compared with a third dose given at least four months earlier was 45 percent against infection, 55 percent for symptomatic disease, 68 percent for hospitalization, 62 percent for severe disease and 74 percent for death, the research team reported on Wednesday in The New England Journal of Medicine.

The study compared 182,122 individuals aged 60 and older who received a fourth dose and 182,122 very similar people who had received a third dose but not a fourth.

"The results of our real-world study suggest that a fourth vaccine dose is, at least initially, effective against the Omicron variant," the researchers said. "Additional follow-up will allow further assessment of the protection provided by the fourth dose over time."

Myanmar

Myanmar's Ministry of Health on Thursday issued an order lifting restrictions on public gatherings from Sunday, the Myanmar New Year Day.

The ministry's decision came when the country saw a notable decline in its COVID-19 infections and positivity and fatality rates in the past months.

The Southeast Asian country raised the maximum number of public gatherings from 200 people to 400 on March 16.

According to the ministry, Myanmar reported 20 new cases with a daily positivity rate of 0.34 percent on Thursday.

As of Thursday, the country has recorded 612,480 confirmed cases with 19,434 deaths. The number of recovered patients has increased to 591,192.

Agencies

Xi talks with Saudi Arabian crown prince over phone

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday morning held a phone conversation with Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud.

Xi asked Mohammed to convey his greetings to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, saying that at present, the international and regional situations are undergoing profound and complex changes, further highlighting the strategic and overarching significance of China-Saudi Arabia relations.

He said that over the past year, China and Saudi Arabia have joined their efforts and moved forward together, facilitating new development in bilateral ties.

The Chinese side gives priority to developing relations with Saudi Arabia and stands ready to work with the country to deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership and to bring more benefits to the two countries and their people.

The Chinese side supports Saudi Arabia in safeguarding national sovereignty, security and stability, and in independently exploring a development path suited to its own national conditions, Xi stressed.

China will continue to synergize the Belt and Road Initiative with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and forge a high-level cooperation pattern between the two sides in such fields as energy, economy and trade as well as high technology, Xi said.

The Chinese side supports Saudi Arabia's Green Middle East initiative and welcomes Saudi Arabia's participation in the Global Development Initiative, Xi added.

China and Saudi Arabia should strengthen solidarity, practice true multilateralism, safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core, the international order based on international law, the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and uphold international fairness and justice as well as the common interests of developing countries, said Xi.

China is ready to work with Saudi Arabia to promote peace and stability in the Middle East, push for an early conclusion of the China-Gulf Cooperation Council free trade area agreement and jointly build a China-Arab community with a shared future for the new era, said Xi.

Mohammed conveyed King Salman's greetings to Xi, and once again congratulated China on the success of the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

Calling China an important comprehensive strategic partner of Saudi Arabia, the crown prince said that in recent years, Saudi Arabia-China ties have seen great progress in various fields and China has provided a model of economic development and political stability for countries worldwide.

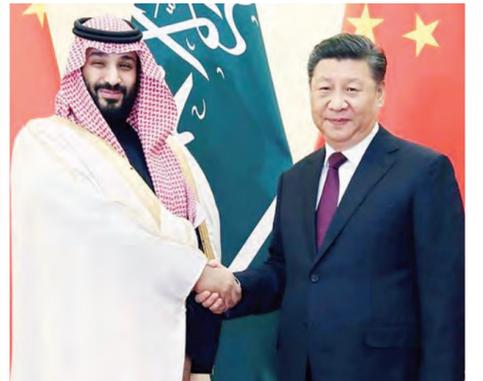
Saudi Arabia attaches great importance to China's status and to the development of its relations with China, and firmly adheres to the one-China principle, Mohammed said.

He added that his country will continue to staunchly support China's legitimate position on such issues concerning core interests as Xinjiang, resolutely oppose any interference in China's internal affairs and firmly safeguard the rights of all countries to choose their own political and human rights paths independently.

The crown prince said that Saudi Arabia is willing to work with China to strengthen high-level exchanges, sign agreements to synergize the Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 with the Belt and Road Initiative, and deepen cooperation in such fields as economy, trade, transportation, infrastructure and energy.

Saudi Arabia stands ready to boost communication and coordination with China in international and regional affairs, supports China's just position on major international and regional issues, and backs the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council to enhance cooperation with China, he added.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the situation in Ukraine.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) meets with Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's crown prince, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Feb 22, 2019. File photo

US is trampling on international order by stoking bloc confrontation

FACTS have proven time and again that the erroneous remarks and acts of the U.S. constitute the worst harm to international order.

Since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the U.S., instead of promoting peace talks, has taken the conflict as an opportunity to heighten an atmosphere of the friend-enemy binary narrative.

Some politicians in the U.S. have deliberately stressed "the West", claimed that "the West is now stronger and more united than it has ever been", and praised the U.S. as a defender of rules-based international order, while unscrupulously coercing other countries into taking sides,

attempting to make other countries irrevocably committed to its own ideology.

Behind such actions of simply dividing the world in different blocs and stoking division and confrontation in the international community is America's logic of bloc confrontation featuring Cold War mentality, which runs counter to the prevailing trend of the times that all countries share a common future.

American foreign policy since World War II has been based on a simple idea: "Either you are with us or against us. America should lead, allies should follow, and woe be to countries that oppose its primacy," as pointed out by Jeffrey D. Sachs, a professor with Columbia Univer-

sity. The true colors of the U.S., a bully that does not care about international order, have become more evident since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In order to form an anti-Russia alliance, the U.S. has imposed pressure on other countries by making appeal, publishing statements, among other means, forcing them to make a choice for "how they want to appear in books on the Ukraine crisis."

After all these measures failed, the U.S. brazenly threatened other countries with sanctions and even spread disinformation to smear and intimidate them. Centered on the principle of America First

and U.S. supremacy, America's foreign policy is aimed at maintaining hegemony and bullying others, and has never had anything to do with equality and mutual respect.

Dialogue and negotiations are the only correct way of Russia-Ukraine conflict settlement, while coercing other countries into taking sides would only disturb efforts made to resolve the crisis.

Many countries have expressed explicitly their refusal to follow the U.S. in taking hostile position or actions against Russia. They believe that unilateral sanctions not only couldn't solve any problem, but can trigger humanitarian crisis of a larger scale and add to the suffering of ordinary

people.

There is disagreement over responding to the Ukraine crisis between most of the developing countries and Western countries including the U.S. The attitudes of these developing countries reflect their vigilance of acts that may escalate geopolitical confrontation, pointed out The Diplomat magazine.

Hegemonic acts of the U.S. have aroused repulsion among many countries, especially developing countries, and incurred widespread criticism.

The lawful rights and interests of a great number of developing countries have been violated, and they have been forced to choose sides or even give up their dip-

lomatic autonomy, said Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra, stressing that this situation should not continue.

Many Internet users in developing countries pointed out that by bragging that more than 40 countries have joined it in imposing sanctions against Russia, the U.S. has revealed the fact that over 140 countries which constitute the overwhelming majority of the members of the United Nations (UN) haven't.

Some netizens have shown the world through maps that the so-called "international community" referred to by the U.S. was in fact absolutely "the minority of the members" of the international community.

People's Daily

Russia-Ukraine conflict wreaks havoc on African economies, says expert

ADDIS ABABA

THE Russia-Ukraine conflict has rocked several countries in Africa, particularly net importers of commodities, a senior economist has said.

Tewodros Mekonnen, an economist at the International Growth Center, told Xinhua that as the conflict drags on, African countries with trade ties with Russia and Ukraine face wheat and fertilizer supply shortages.

"Many African countries use nitrogen-based fertilizer for their food production, and they import about 70 percent of the product from Ukraine and Russia," said Mekonnen.

"So with the supply side being affected, they are facing increased import bills." If some compromise by reducing fertilizer imports, food production would shrink and food prices would rise higher, the economist warned.

Data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization showed that the Food Price Index averaged 159.3 points in March, up 12.6 percent from February, when it had already reached its highest level since its inception in 1990.

According to Mekonnen, countries like Ghana, Ethiopia and Kenya are hard hit by soaring energy and food prices.

The situation has severely affected their external imbalances and exacerbated inflation at home. Another example is Egypt, which relies on Russia for its wheat.

After the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out, the African nation has to tackle hikes in bread prices, Mekonnen said, noting that Russia and Ukraine together account for around 30 percent of global wheat exports.

The expert added that the conflict comes at a critical time when many African countries are still struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and global inflationary pressures.

Ethiopia, with annual wheat imports worth 400 million U.S. dollars and fuel imports valued at 3 billion U.S. dollars, found its food and fuel prices both surging because Russia, as one of the world's largest exporters of crude oil, is beleaguered by sanctions, disruptions to energy exports and a potential embargo, said Mekonnen.

Though some fuel exporters, such as Nigeria, Angola and Sudan, and mineral-exporting countries might see growing revenues for the moment, Mekonnen suggests that most net commodity importers should work on substituting imports, revamping local production and attracting the foreign direct investment as a way out of the crisis and similar shocks in the future.

World Bank forecasts Sub-Saharan Africa's economy to grow at 3.6 pct in 2022

NAIROBI

THE World Bank on Wednesday projected the economy in Sub-Saharan Africa to slow down to 3.6 percent in 2022 from 4 percent in 2021.

The World Bank said the region's economy is struggling to pick up momentum amid a slowdown in global economic activity, continued supply constraints, outbreaks of new COVID-19 variants, high inflation and rising financial risks due to high and increasingly vulnerable debt levels.

"Economic growth in the region is expected to decelerate in 2022 amid a global environment with multiple shocks, high volatility and uncertainty," the lender said in its latest Africa's Pulse, a biannual analysis of the near-term regional macroeconomic outlook.

According to the World Bank, adding to the region's growth challenges are rising global commodity prices, which are increasing at a faster pace since the onset of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

It noted that the recovery in 2021 was supported by the revitalization of global trade, high commodity prices and the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions that had been imposed to contain the spread of the different waves of the pandemic.

"Private consumption and, to a lesser extent, gross fixed investment contributed to the recovery from the expenditure side, while net exports held back the recovery," said the report.

The report said that the economic upturn was also buoyed by the service sector, while weather conditions favored agriculture from the production side.

The findings indicated that the Russia-Ukraine conflict has affected Sub-Saharan African economies through higher commodity prices and disruptions in international trade thus aggravating existing supply chain problems.

The report observed that a sharp compression of imports from Russia and Ukraine, along with global trade deceleration and rising commodity prices, have affected countries in the region that are net commodity importers -- either through direct linkages with the countries in conflict or through soaring global commodity prices.

"As African countries face continued uncertainty, supply disruptions and soaring food and fertilizer prices, trade policy can potentially play a key role by ensuring the free flow of food across borders throughout the region," said Albert Zeufack, World Bank chief economist for Africa.

Zeufack suggested that amid limited fiscal space, sub-Saharan African policymakers should look to innovative solutions such as reducing or waiving import duties on staple foods temporarily to provide relief to their citizens.

Xinhua

Putin eyes south, east as Russian energy supplies to west wane

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin underscored the importance of diversifying energy exports as supplies in the western direction will be reduced in the foreseeable future.

"Therefore, it is important to consolidate the trend of recent years: step by step, reorient our exports to the fast-growing markets of the south and east," Putin said at a government meeting via video link on the current situation in Russia's oil and gas sector.

"To do this, in the near future it is necessary to identify key infrastructure facilities and begin their construction," he said.

Meanwhile, Putin ordered to increase supplies of energy to Russian consumers, adding that price reductions are possible in order to stimulate domestic demand.

He also instructed the government to boost the development of deep processing of oil and gas as quickly as possible.

Russia has demanded "unfriendly countries" buy its natural gas with rubles, but many of them have expressed opposition.

At the government meeting, Putin noted there are failures in the payments for Russian



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting on the situation in the oil and gas sector at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow, on Friday. AFP

energy, and that banks from the "most unfriendly countries" are delaying the transfer of payments.

Russia cruiser Moskva sinks

Russia on Thursday said the flagship of its Black Sea Fleet, the Moskva missile cruiser, sank in stormy seas when it was being tugged to a port after having been damaged in a blast.

Due to the damage to the hull caused by explosions of ammunition onboard, Moskva lost stability, the Russian Defense Ministry said, adding that its crew members had been evacuated to other ships.

Moskva was "seriously damaged" by the detonation of ammunition onboard as a result of a fire, but it remained afloat after there were no open flames, the ministry said earlier in the day.

Maksim Marchenko, the governor of Ukraine's Odessa region, said on Telegram on Wednesday that Ukraine's border guards on Snake Island used Neptune anti-ship cruise missiles to deliver "very serious damage" to cruiser Moskva.

China's BeiDou system provides global users with high-precision positioning, timing services



An unmanned transplanter equipped with the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) works in the fields of a new cooperative farm in Yumin village, Shizong township, Tongzhou district, Nantong city, east China's Jiangsu province, July 2021. File photo

THE high-precision positioning and timing services of China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), a global navigation system independently designed and developed by China as well as one of the four major global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), had been used over 100 billion times per month as of March 2022.

The number of monthly requests for the system's acceleration auxiliary positioning service has exceeded 60 billion, and that for its real-time high-precision positioning services with centimeter level accuracy and sub-meter level accuracy has surpassed 48 billion.

The BeiDou system has provided services for a total of more than 1.1 billion people for over two trillion times, with its high-precision positioning and timing services benefiting more than 200 countries and regions around the world.

Based on the BDS, China has independently built an intelligent satellite-earth integration infrastructure for positioning and timing services that covers the entire world, providing all kinds of high-precision positioning and timing services for global users through satellite and Internet broadcasting platforms.

Based on the characteristics of the BDS smart positioning and timing services, including wide coverage, a large number of users and high requirement of real-time response, China has independently developed a high-performance distributed application framework, which can achieve high coverage and high availability, and is able to handle high-concurrency scenarios, thus providing smarter positioning services for users.

The construction of BDS began in 1994 and was finished on July 31, 2020. So far, China has 45 BeiDou satellites in orbit, which enable the system to provide basic services of positioning, navigation and timing as well as the featured service of short message communication.

Both the space and ground infrastructure of the system have formed relatively complete service capabilities. An industrial system centered round the BDS system has been established, and relevant industrial applications have taken shape.

The BDS has achieved in-depth application and large-scale development in many industries, including transportation, disaster relief and mitigation, agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery, as well as in electric power, communications infrastructure and other fields.

As of the end of 2021, more than 7.9 million vehicles had been equipped with the BDS; nearly 8,000 sets of BeiDou terminals of various types had been used in the railway sector; over 100,000 agricultural machines had been equipped with self-driving system based on the BDS; and the output value of downstream operation and service links, including health care, epidemic prevention and sterilization, remote monitoring and online services, reached nearly 200 billion yuan (\$31.4 billion).

Meanwhile, comprehensive breakthroughs have been made in the BDS's application in scenarios more closely related to people's life.

The BDS is employed to provide precise positioning and timing information for all kinds of intelligent machines to help them perceive the surrounding environment and make decisions properly. Its high-precision positioning and timing services are used in equipment and devices ranging from mobile phones, automobiles, drones, shared bikes and buses, to road infrastructure facilities including smart traffic cones, warning triangles and cameras, and to monitoring equipment that can identify deformation of dilapidated houses, bridges and mines.

At present, the BDS's acceleration auxiliary positioning service has been embedded in almost each one of China's home-made smartphones.

The shipment of domestic smartphones equipped with BDS services reached 324 million units in 2021, accounting for 94.5 percent of the country's total domestic smartphone shipment, according to data released by the National Development and Reform Commission of China.

Besides, BDS basic products have been exported to over 120 countries and regions. The system has been successfully applied in such fields as the confirmation of land-use rights, precision agriculture, digital construction and smart ports in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asia, Eastern Europe, West Asia, Africa and other regions, providing high-quality services for local economic and social development.

People's Daily

Kenya blames single country efforts for upsurge in malaria cases in East Africa

NAIROBI

SINGLE country efforts in the management of malaria are to blame for the upsurge in cases of the disease in the East African Community (EAC) economic bloc, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Health Mutahi Kagwe said on Thursday.

Kagwe said during the launch of the cross-border malaria control and prevention interventions at the Kenya-Uganda border in Busia, in western Kenya, that it is high time the EAC member states embark on a joint cross-border effort to reduce and finally eliminate malaria in the region.

Kagwe said that joint efforts of countries can provide a unique opportunity in the region since malaria does not recognize administrative borders, stressing the need to harmonize and synchronize the implementation of various malaria control interventions such as indoor residual spraying among member states.

The official recommended harmonized distribution cycles and timelines to avoid the loss of mosquito nets from critical target areas to areas where distribution is not happening, noting that the Great Lakes Malaria Initiative (GLMI) strategy envisions a malaria-free Africa Great Lakes Region that can be achieved by establishing and sustaining regional coordination, partnership and accountability mechanisms.

He said that as an economic block and free market, EAC members should support local industries to manufacture malaria commodities

and provide a market for them from a combined population of more than 260 million people. According to Kagwe, the EAC countries -- Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania -- contribute a significant proportion of the malaria burden worldwide.

Kagwe believed that malaria is spread across borders by the movement of both mosquitoes and persons infected with the parasite incessantly crossing the busy border post in both directions.

And regional countries share other transmission risk factors such as climate change, water bodies, malaria vector species, insecticide resistance, population growth rate and limited resources.

The EAC region in 2017 contributed 24.7 percent of all reported malaria cases worldwide and 10.2 percent of deaths due to malaria in the world, according to Kagwe.

Speakers at the meeting, including Ugandan Minister of Health Jane Ocker, and Tharcisse Mpunga, minister of State in charge of Primary Healthcare in Rwanda, said they look forward to continuous engagement with the EAC Secretariat and the malaria experts' technical working group in steering the execution of the GLMI strategy and the operational plan.

According to the 2020 world malaria report, despite the progress that has been made in the fight against malaria in the EAC, the region is still in a precarious position fighting malaria.

And the disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic led to 12 percent of deaths because of malaria.



Kenya's Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Health Mutahi Kagwe

Yanga now sees success in membership registration

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA has for the most part turned out to be successful in the exercise of registration of its fans through branches, given it has so far collected 170.2m/- from 36 branches.

The money comes from the registration and verification of the club's members which is in progress in all regions of the country and

Should the exercise comes to completion, the club could set a record of reaping millions of shillings.

Every member of the club is required to register digitally to be recognized by the club leadership and to have the opportunity to fully participate in Yanga general election.

Yanga leadership has publicly announced the names of 36 branches that have met the criteria by having 100 members and onwards while urging other branches to do so to be recognized officially.

Despite the 36 branches being made public after meeting the criteria, the number of members can still increase within the branches and thus further fund the club.

Several other branches are still struggling to digitally register to meet the number of members from 100 and continue to increase the outfit's income.

Each digitally registered member contributes 31,000/- to complete his or her registration with a form factor of 2,000/- and 29,000/- registration form.

Of the 36 branches recognized by the club so far, the Dodoma headquarters branch leads in registration after 367 members digitally registered and contributed 11.3m/- to the registration followed by the Geita Gold branch which registered 304 members and contributed 9.4m/- at a time.

Mwanza ranks third with 289 members and contributes 8.9m/-.

Other branches that met the criteria are Kariakoo with 272 members (8.4m/-), Morogoro has 209 members (6.4m/-), Whatsapp Headquarters has 199 members (6.1m/-), Bukoba has registered 193 members (5.9m/-) while Viva Young Branch International has so far registered 192 members and contributed 5.9m/- to the club.

Buguruni Branch has 178 members and pays a registration fee of 5.5m/-, Whatsapp Group Admins has registered 171 members equivalent to 5.3m/-, Airport Dodoma (163 members-5m/-), Kivule (153 members -4.7m/-).

Other branches, Yanga Facebook Fans (146 members- 4.5m/-), Pamoja Mbezi Tanzania (138 members- 4.2m/-), as is the case with Mwaloni Kirumba Branch with 138 members, Tunduma Momba (members 131 -4m/-) as is the case with Iringa Municipality Branch with 131 members as well.

Other branches are Yanga Empire Tabora which registered 129 members and contributed 3.9m/-, Wabishi Lindi (127 members-3.9m/-), Iwawa (123 members - 3.8m/-), Yanga Elite Fans (121 members- 3.7m/-), Yanga Kwanza Tabora (120 members - (3.7m/-), Yanga Group Admins (118 members-3.6m/-).

Bunju Mweni Yanga Family (115 members-3.6m/-), Sumbawanga (111 members-3.4m/-), Mission Sengerema (members 108-3.3m/-) equivalent to Arusha Bus Terminal with 108 members as well, are in the list.

Binge Branch has registered 107 members and contributed 3.3m/- as is the case of the Mafia and Mlandizi branches with 108 members apiece.

Ilala Branch (106 members-3.2m/-), Uhuru Kariakoo (105 members-3.2m/-), NHIF (103 members-3.1m/-), CCM Region Branch (101 members-3.1/-) equivalent to Bunju A Branch with 101 members while The Warriors branch has registered 100 members and contributed 3.1m/-.

Yanga's Director of Finance and Administration, Haji Mfikirwa, disclosed the digital structure for members is good because it helps to know how many members they have in contrast to the current situation.

"Even in the past the club had members but this system is going to benefit us by knowing how many members we have at any given time. In our transformation there is an element of good relations with members," Mfikirwa stated.



Yanga's Chief Executive Officer Senzo Mazingiza

"In the past, we had a partnership with La Liga (Spanish Premier League) and Sevilla club, we were asked how many members we had but we did not have a complete answer. Everyone had their answer, now the only thing we do is have a memory of the members who will put all details in the form."

Mfikirwa added the benefit that members will get is to buy their products directly from Yanga because their records will be available.

"If they register and be known it is easy for them to get real items with the club logo and they will have a discounted price when ordering their products through the outfit's branches," he noted.

"Members will no longer receive fake jerseys because they will be placing an early order on Yanga original jerseys directly and this will help the outfit earn money," he pointed out.

In the past, it was customary for a Yanga member to opt out of paying for his card until the general election period, but through the change, the issue has been sorted out.

Mfikirwa noted the new constitution says an active member is the one who pays for either his or her card through the branches, the approach is the one that will help determine the activeness of the members.

"We want these branches to be alive all the time. We would like to see a member's life and if you do not pay the fee for six months your reputation will be gone. The member's form to fill out the cost is 2,000/- and the money remains in the branch to help on the spot," Mfikirwa said.

"Members who are in the branches will have a discounted price to buy real items from Yanga because they will be getting directly from the club. This will be easier through the branches because we will be communicating."

Yanga's Chief Executive Officer Senzo Mazingiza said the tendency by the side to keep members' records is part of the side's effort to get money because even if it heads to donors stating the number of members, the outfit will get more support and the real value of the club will be known.

Mazingiza pointed out that after the completion of the registration of members they will turn to get the real value of the club so that investors can get a complete picture of Yanga before investing their money.

The official noted: "We will set the real value of Yanga and we will call people who will come to help us in putting it right. In this process automatically there will be a major shift in leadership."

Mazingiza revealed there will be neither chairman nor vice-president, instead, there will be a club president and there will be no such position without free elections within the club.

"Through the branches, we will have branch leaders who will come out to go to this election and this should be done within six months from now. The thing to be thankful for is that the changes are going well and the goal is to get the team to another level," Mazingiza noted.

The official said: "You cannot be a member of a team if you are not on the branch. If you are abroad you need to make sure you sign up for the branch and while you are there you will receive a text message informing you, this is due to investing in the digital side."

Another opportunity for Simba to prove its worth in continental tournaments

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MOST Tanzania football fans remember the nicknames given to football clubs in the country in the past.

Yanga was popularly known as 'Umoja wa Mataifa' whilst Simba SC was nicknamed 'Taifa Kubwa'.

Milambo SC was nicknamed 'Taifa Jipya', there was also a squad popularly known as 'Taifa Teule', and so on.

The 'Taifa Kubwa' nickname carried the realism of Simba as it has distinguished itself from other teams in the country.

Simba SC is a successful squad when it comes to participation in international matches. It is always excelling in the assignments.

No matter how dimly the squad fares in the domestic league, participation in continental assignments is paramount, especially when it is playing at home.

It is rare to find Simba SC is beaten when honouring continental tournament fixture at home. It rarely loses carelessly in those matches.

I know some people will question why Simba SC was beaten 5-0 in a row in 2019 by AS Vita of DR Congo and Al Ahly of Egypt.

Some will say why it conceded a 4-0 defeat to Recreativo do Libolo of Angola in home and away clashes in 2013.

Simba SC moreover went down 4-0 Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa last year and why were the former beaten 4-0 at home by Mfulira Wanderers of Zambia?

Let me be understood early on, Simba is not carelessly beaten internationally. In 1979 despite a Zambian defeat at home it went to command a 5-0 win away.

Why did Simba SC ever turn the table so drastically? It is true it was beaten 5-0 by AS Vita and lost by a similar margin to Al Ahly.

When the visitors came to Dar es Salaam they both conceded loss to Simba, the latter then booked a place in the quarterfinals.

The move was a record for them and the Tanzanian teams, as since the Champions League was officially changed in 1997, none of the country's other clubs has ever reached the showpiece's quarterfinals.

Yanga was the first outfit to book place in the premier continental tournament's group stage in 1998.

The club was beaten by Manning Rangers, Raja Casablanca, and ASEC Mimosas and finished bottom with just two points.

Simba SC advanced to the showdown's group stage in 2003 and finished third behind Enyimba and Ismaily, leaving ASEC Mimosas to languish at the bottom.

In 2019 Simba SC set a new record in the quarterfinals and got eliminated by TP



Tanzania's Simba SC attacker Chris Mugalu celebrates after netting against Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale of Niger when the clubs met in this season's CAF Confederation Cup tie that took place in Dar es Salaam recently.

Mazembe of DR Congo after a goalless draw at home and a 4-1 away defeat.

Last year it once again booked a place at that stage after finishing top of Group A, as a record, leaving Al Ahly to take the second spot.

However, Simba SC lost 4-0 away to Kaizer Chiefs and won 3-0 at home in the last eight.

Simba SC has continued to impress in the international arena, despite being knocked out of the Champions League by the away goal advantage that boosted Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy in the sides' second preliminary round assignments.

The Msimbazi Street squad competed in this season's CAF Confederation Cup and excelled in the group stage.

Its success in the group stage was not surprising, as Yanga had already set a record for Tanzanian teams in the tournament before the showpiece was replaced by the current system in 2004.

The feat was achieved in 2016 and was again repeated in 2018. Namungo FC sought to flex its muscles but ended

up embarrassed by playing six matches without either winning or scoring goals.

Simba will honour the first leg of the CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal against Orlando Pirates of South Africa tomorrow.

The Msimbazi Street side already set another impressive record of qualifying for the CAF tournaments quarterfinals three times in a row within four seasons. No Tanzanian team has ever done that.

The squad deserves kudos, it proved that it was successful by beating USGN 4-0 in the previous round.

It has already begun to intimidate Orlando, seeking to have the visitors taste what the side experienced in the tie against Kaizer Chiefs in 2020/21.

Despite some stakeholders' criticism of Simba, the fact is that it deserves congratulations, as it did not only honour Tanzania but also helped to propel the country to success in the international arena.

Some countries used to

view Tanzania as weak in soccer, but now their minds have changed, knowing they exhibit respect once they are playing Simba.

Although this is the first time they have met, the South African side will still be intimidated by Simba SC's success.

It is time for Simba to use the opportunity as an advantage by convincingly defeating Orlando in the home match to have the upper hand ahead of the reverse fixture.

Orlando records prove it is clear that Simba knows it is going to face a giant in continental tournaments, but the latter's biggest weapon is to make sure they get a huge win in their backyard.

The move will see to it the Tanzania club will be buoyed by the convincing home victory, even if it loses in the away duel, and consequently write another history, namely reaching the semi-finals of the second tier of CAF tournaments.

Simba had previously done so, making it to the semi-finals of the African Clubs Champion in 1974 and repeating what they did in 1993 qualifying for the CAF Cup final and losing 2-0 to Stella Abidjan of Ivory Coast.

Bongo Flava singer Maunda Zorro laid to rest today

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

POPULAR Tanzania's new genre music 'Bongo Flava' artist, Maunda Zorro, who died in a car accident in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam two days ago, is expected to be buried at Tuangoma cemetery in the city today.

The deceased's brother, Banana Zorro, revealed that people went to pay condolences to his family at the home of their father, Zahir Ally Zorro, at Maweni in Kigamboni.

Zorro disclosed that the deceased is survived by three children.

"My sister Maunda's funeral will be held at Tuangoma cemetery on Saturday, at the moment all the mourning activities are taking place at the home of our father, Zorro, at Maweni in Kigamboni," Zorro revealed.

Maunda had, during her life, performed several new generation music songs, some of which were well-



Maunda Zorro

known.

The songs include 'Nataka Niwe Wako', 'Mapenzi ya Wawili', and many others that made her famous in the music industry.

However, she later remained silent for a long time without releasing new songs until she passed on.

The accident happened when she was returning from the burial ceremony of a long-time friend of her family.

According to Zorro, the car Maunda was driving in had collided with a sand truck and resulted in the death of the artist.

Maunda gained popularity in the new generation music scene as is the case with his brother, Banana, who have both inherited their father's talent.

Maunda's father, Zorro, is one of the oldest and most prominent musicians in the country.

Zorro has performed various famous songs including 'Cleopatra', 'Haifai Kabwe', 'Arua', and 'Tikisa'.

The veteran artist had previously served in a variety of dance music bands, including Polisi Jazz, and Mass Media, which used the famous 'Changanya Wangu Baiskeli' style.

Mass Media Band won plenty of fame with such style in the early 1990s and the troupe later fell apart.

Judo players to compete in Uganda

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will send 10 judo players to the coming Africa Zone Five Championship which is slated for the end of this month in Kampala, Uganda.

Judo Association of Tanzania (JATA) secretary-general, Innocent Mallya, said the judokas are expected to leave for Uganda next week.

He said the Zone Five Champion-

ship will be used as trials to select two performers who will represent the country at the coming Commonwealth Games in Brigham, England.

Mallya stated the 10 Judaks are Vicent Joseph, Thomas Mwenda, Philemon Kaberege, Raphael Daudi, Bakari Ngapa, Nyasha Emannuel, Hagai Mwandambo, Gervas Chilipweli, Adam Mwakisoma, Andrew Mlungu, and Jeremia Makeme.

The official disclosed: "We will send 10 judokas to Africa Zone Five Championship which will be held from April 21-25 in Uganda."

"JATA will use the championships to select players who will represent the country at the coming Commonwealth Games," he said.

Zaidi Hamisi and Omar Mgowo are the national judo team's coaches.

Mallya disclosed the two select-

ed judokas will enter camp soon to start preparations for the Commonwealth Games.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XXII Commonwealth Games and commonly known as Birmingham 2022, will see 5 054 athletes from 72 Commonwealth nations participate in 283 events from 20 sports codes under the theme Games for All in Birmingham.

Barca fury as 20k Frankfurt fans flood Camp Nou

BARCELONA

BARCELONA coach Xavi Hernandez says his players want to know how at least 20,000 Eintracht Frankfurt fans gained access to the home end at Camp Nou on Thursday as his side were knocked out of the Europa League.

Frankfurt won 3-2 on the night as they stunned favourites Barca 4-3 on aggregate to progress to the semifinals, where they will take on Premier League side West Ham United.

The German side were officially given 5,000 tickets for the game at Camp Nou, but one source told ESPN there were closer to 30,000 inside the stadium to watch the game, with white shirts everywhere you looked among the 79,468 crowd.

"The atmosphere did not help at all, that's clear," Xavi said in a news conference after his side's elimination. "It affected us and we didn't play well, but that should not serve as an excuse, we also have to congratulate Frankfurt. They were better across the tie."

"It was like a final, with the stadium split. It was disappointing. Even our players commented on it. The dressing room wants to know what has happened. We will seek an explanation."

"This cannot happen when you are playing at home. It hasn't helped, that's clear. It's an error in planning and calculations. The club is going to find out what happened."

Ahead of the game, Xavi had called on Barca supporters to create a hostile atmosphere like the one they faced in Germany in the first leg last week.

But Barca's players were jeered and whistled by the away supporters when they came out to warm up, setting the tone for the night. Barca's ultras -- the supporters who occupy the stand behind one of the goals -- boycotted the first 10 minutes of the second half in protest at so many Frankfurt fans gaining access to the home end.

"Xavi is right, this was a serious mistake," president Joan Laporta said. "What happened in the stands is a disgrace that cannot be repeated."

"We have to review the information we have and take measures. It's lamentable. We must be stricter and not allow certain things. I feel ashamed as a Barcelona fan. I apologise. We're processing the information we have and will give explanations."

A brace from Filip Kostic and a long-range strike from Rafael Santos Borré helped Frankfurt into a 3-0 lead on the night as they shocked Camp Nou in front of their vociferous support. (Agencies)

Real Madrid look to send Sevilla into scrap for La Liga top four

MADRID

REAL Madrid against Sevilla on Sunday could have been a key game in La Liga's title race but instead it will decide the extent of Madrid's lead and how worried Sevilla should be about finishing in the top four.

A Real Madrid win at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan would send them 15 points clear of Sevilla, who at the end of January were only five points behind the leaders, with a game in hand.

But a disappointing run of three wins from 11 league games has seen Sevilla fade away from the fight for the title and drift into the scrap for the Champions League places as local rivals Real Betis and Atletico Madrid look to take advantage.

A 4-2 victory over struggling Granada last weekend was much-needed for Julen Lopetegui's side, even if it required two dramatic late goals in injury-time, Rafa Mir and Papu Gomez leaving it late to snatch the win.

Sevilla will be hoping to build on that result but they have a difficult run-in, with the game against Real Madrid coming before visits to Villarreal and Atletico Madrid ahead of a final game at home to Athletic Bilbao.

Real Madrid will be flying high on the back of their sensational victory over Chelsea in the Champions League quarter-finals, although being taken to extra time at the Santiago Bernabeu may also take its toll.

Ferland Mendy and Marcelo are both struggling with injuries while Carlo Ancelotti could rest the likes of Luka Modric and Karim Benzema, who played the whole 120 minutes on Tuesday.

Madrid's progress in the Champions League, combined with their considerable advantage in La Liga, means Ancelotti has the option to rotate in domestic games until the end of the season, which could give Sevilla a boost. "We're in good form," said Ancelotti last weekend. "We have an advantage in La Liga and we have to keep going."

Atletico Madrid and Barcelona are also coming off the back of strenuous outings in Europe after Atletico were knocked out by Manchester City in the Champions League before Barca suffered a surprise defeat in the Europa League at home to Eintracht Frankfurt.

Atletico are at home to Espanyol on Saturday, looking to bounce back from their 1-0 loss at Mallorca last weekend, a result that has dragged Diego Simeone's side back into the race for fourth.

Real Betis, a point behind in fifth, visit Real Sociedad on Friday. La Real will jump above their opponents with a win.

Barcelona's place in the top four has appeared more secure due to their form under Xavi Hernandez and their game in hand to be played against Rayo Vallecano.

But the defeat by Frankfurt at Camp Nou could check their rhythm, especially after Pedri was forced off injured at half-time. Barca play at home to Cadiz on Monday.

AFP

Liverpool, Man City face defining moment in FA Cup clash

LONDON

LIVERPOOL will put their unprecedented quadruple bid on the line against treble-chasing Manchester City today in an FA Cup semi-final that will make or break one club's dream of football immortality.

Jürgen Klopp's men are in contention to become the first English team to win all four major trophies in one season.

They lifted the League Cup in February and advanced to the last four of the Champions League after surviving a late scare in their quarter-final second leg against Benfica on Wednesday.

With Liverpool expected to see off Spanish side Villarreal in the semi-finals of Europe's elite club competition, it is Premier League

leaders City who will provide the major obstacle to their ambitions.

City are just one point ahead of their title rivals in the Premier League with seven games left after last weekend's 2-2 draw.

Pep Guardiola's team are also in the hunt for the Champions League crown and could face Liverpool in the final if they beat Real Madrid in the semis.

City have a rare feat of their own to aim for as they seek to become only the second English side to win the prized treble of the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

The grand goals of both City and Liverpool mean the stakes could not be higher when they clash for the second time within a week, this time at Wembley for a place in the FA Cup final.

One team will leave the



Jürgen Klopp

Pep Guardiola

national stadium on a high, the other having to quickly refocus.

Having closed the gap to City from a 14-point margin in January, Liverpool are living up to Klopp's desire to be as "annoying as possible" to the Premier League champions.

Their two league meetings this season both ended in 2-2 draws and it could take extra-time and penalties to separate them this

weekend.

"City were really strong last week, we were not at our best," said Klopp. "I would like to see a game where we are at our best as well."

He added: "The boys did a lot of good stuff in the game, but I really think in a couple of positions we are really able to perform on a completely different level." - "Many difficult games" - As Klopp concedes, Liv-

erpool were slightly fortunate to escape the Etihad Stadium unscathed last Sunday but they could have a significant advantage for the rematch.

Klopp was able to start with Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mané and Virgil van Dijk on the bench for Wednesday's 3-3 draw against Benfica, keeping his three key players fresh for the latest City showdown.

In contrast, City were left battered and bruised after an ill-tempered 0-0 draw against Atletico Madrid in their Champions League quarter-final second leg.

Although City progressed to the last four, Guardiola said they are in "big trouble" after Kevin De Bruyne and Kyle Walker limped off injured and Phil Foden finished the game with a bandaged head.

City were planning to travel straight to London from Madrid to prepare for

the Liverpool match but their Spanish midfielder Rodri admitted the hectic schedule was taking its toll.

"The calendar is crazy. We've had these two games against Atletico, the other day against Liverpool. You have to work 100 percent and now we have Liverpool again, too many difficult games at the same time but it is what it is," he said.

"We have to refresh our minds, recover and give the best shape in the next game."

In Sunday's semi-final, Chelsea face Crystal Palace looking to show they have recovered from their painful Champions League exit against Real Madrid.

Chelsea overturned a 3-1 first leg deficit to lead 4-3 on aggregate in the Bernabeu on Tuesday, only for Real to grab a late equaliser and dump the holders out with an extra-time winner.

AFP

How Man United selected Ten Hag as the man to bring glory back to Old Trafford

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC



Erik ten Hag

MANCHESTER United considered the credentials of eight different managers before choosing Ajax coach Erik ten Hag to become the fifth permanent appointment since Sir Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013.

Sources have told ESPN that Mauricio Pochettino, Luis Enrique and Julen Lopetegui were alongside Ten Hag on the final four-man shortlist compiled by United's football director John Murtough, but the prospects of hiring Bayern Munich's Julian Nagelsmann, Chelsea's Thomas Tuchel, Leicester City's Brendan Rodgers and former Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane were all considered following the firing of Ole Gunnar Solskjær last November. In the cases of Nagelsmann and Tuchel in particular, it became clear almost instantly that neither would be a realistic target.

Ten Hag, whose Ajax team face PSV Eindhoven in the KNVB Beker final on Sunday, is likely to be confirmed as United's manager before the end of the month, with ESPN reporting on April 6 that the 52-year-old had emerged as United's No. 1 choice to succeed Solskjær, who has been replaced by Ralf Rangnick on an interim basis until the end of the season.

While United's owners, the Glazer family, will hope that their long search for a manager capable of restoring the club to dominance in England and Europe is finally over -- some would argue the search dates back to Ferguson's retirement and the decision to replace him with David Moyes -- the process that has ended with Ten Hag being on the brink of moving to Old Trafford has appeared anything but smooth. It has involved two chief executives, the failed stop-gap appointment of Rangnick and early front-runners seeing their prospects damaged, or ended in the case of Rodgers, by the poor results of the clubs where they are currently in charge.

But sources unconnected to United have told ESPN that, away from the negativity surrounding the team's results and the upheaval caused by Ed Wood-

ward's departure in January and the installation of Richard Arnold as his successor as chief executive, the process to hire a new manager has been impressive, strategic and well-constructed by Murtough, who settled on Ten Hag after a detailed search for the best candidate available.

"It's important to consider the available options," a source told ESPN. "Pep Guardiola and Jürgen Klopp aren't available and United were never going to get Nagelsmann out of Bayern. Tuchel is a real asset to Chelsea too, so he wasn't a credible option either. So you look at the market, who is capable and gettable, and United have considered them all. They haven't overlooked anybody they should have spoken to."

When Solskjær was dismissed on Nov. 21 following a run of seven defeats in 13 games, the initial favourites to land the United job were Paris Saint-Germain's Pochettino and former Liverpool manager Rodgers. Antonio Conte, available after leaving Inter Milan last summer, was not considered because, a United source told ESPN, his demanding and detailed approach would not work with the Old Trafford squad.

United were keen to assess the best domestic option and, at the time, that was Rodgers, whose success in making Liverpool title contenders in 2014 before winning multiple trophies in Scotland with Celtic, followed by FA Cup success last season at Leicester, had earned him admirers within the United hierarchy. Pochettino, meanwhile, was well regarded by Woodward, who

Gaal, Mourinho and Solskjær -- the change of leadership brought a new sense of purpose and accelerated the final process.

Arnold wanted a new manager confirmed before the end of the season, and he tasked Murtough with finalising a shortlist. Nagelsmann was discounted as impossible to get, while Rodgers had faded from the race long before Arnold had assumed the role of chief executive. Zidane, meanwhile, was seriously considered until it became clear to United that the only club role the former France midfielder was likely to return to management for was PSG. Tuchel, meanwhile, only emerged as a possible contender in the wake of Roman Abramovich's decision to sell Chelsea after being sanctioned by the UK government due to his links to Russian president Vladimir Putin. It was a brief process to assess Tuchel's likely availability, with sources saying that United were given no encouragement that he would leave Stamford Bridge. That left the final four: Ten Hag, Pochettino, Enrique and Lopetegui -- and it quickly became a final two due to Luis Enrique and Lopetegui being ruled out.

In Luis Enrique's case, sources have said that United believed he had all the necessary credentials as a multiple trophy winner with Barcelona, but that "the World Cup killed them" because the Spain coach had no intention of leaving his post before the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, which starts in November. Sevilla coach Lopetegui was always an outsider, but considered

because of his tactical and technical abilities. Sources have said that a concern within Old Trafford was that United risked hiring "another Unai Emery" by appointing a coach with a successful track record at smaller clubs, but one unproven at the very highest level. While Emery has won four Europa Leagues with Sevilla and Villarreal -- he has also guided Villarreal to this season's Champions League semifinals -- his inability to succeed at PSG or Arsenal indirectly impacted Lopetegui's candidacy with United and the 55-year-old, perhaps sensing he was not a serious option, withdrew from the race to replace Solskjær over a month ago.

So that left United to decide between Ten Hag and Pochettino and both men were regarded as impressive enough to be appointed. Both had their negative aspects, however. Ten Hag's inexperience at the highest level, in terms of managing a club of United's size in a league as high-profile as the Premier League, may yet prove an insurmountable problem in the months and years ahead. Murtough has known the 52-year-old since his time as Utrecht coach between 2015-17, however, and sources say that there are no real concerns over his temperament and ability to step up to a job as big as United.

With Pochettino, the issue was twofold. Intelligence within the game continues to suggest that Real Madrid will make a move for the Argentine this summer, despite Carlo Ancelotti still being on course to win LaLiga and reaching the Champions

League semifinals, and United were wary of being out-manoeuvred by Real at the eleventh hour. There was also the threat of PSG demanding a huge compensation package for their coach, who many expect to leave in the summer regardless, or the French club effectively putting Pochettino on gardening leave for the remaining year of his contract if he attempted to force a move to United.

In terms of coaching credentials and top-level experience, Pochettino was regarded as a safe bet by United, but ultimately, the attraction of Ten Hag was that he is deemed as a rising star and one not yet tainted by failure. He has delivered repeated success at Ajax, built a young and exciting team and shown an ability to exceed expectations in the Champions League. There is a freshness to Ten Hag that appealed to United and, despite reports that he was holding out for assurances over his control of the football side at Old Trafford, sources have said that the reality has been a much more straightforward negotiation with the Dutchman and Ajax.

Time will tell if United have got the right man or if they will, sooner or later, be accused of hiring the cheapest, easiest option. With a €2 million release clause at Ajax and a readiness to develop young players, he may turn out to be a less expensive option than Pochettino, but the appointment will only be judged by what happens on the pitch. If he wins, Ten Hag will be regarded as priceless to a club that has made far too many expensive mistakes.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Liverpool, Man City
face defining moment
in FA Cup clash

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Dar athlete set to battle it out in World Athletics Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

GABRIEL Geay is the only athlete who will represent Tanzania at the coming World Athletics Championships which are slated for July 15-24 in Eugene, United States of America.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) Technical Director Micheal Mwashia said although three locals qualified for the World Championships, AT, following government advice, resorted that it is wise to send one athlete.

He mentioned the other two who are eligible to compete at the World Championships as Felix Simbu and Failuna Matanga.

The leader said: "We have three athletes who are qualified for this year's World Athletics Championships, but only Geay will represent the country at the championships."

"The government advised us that the two should concentrate on the Commonwealth Games as the country aims to win medals at the Brigham Commonwealth Games."

"Geay should concentrate on the World Championships and other events as he is not part of the athletes who will represent the country at the coming commonwealth games," he said.

He said as one way of preparing for the World Championships, Geay is on Monday expected to compete at the Boston Marathon in the USA.

The World Athletics Championships will be held in Eugene and USA for the first time

The championships were originally scheduled for August 6-15, 2021.

On April 8, 2020, World Athletics announced that the event would be postponed by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting postponement of the 2020 Summer Olympics.

Eugene was selected without a traditional bidding process, though Eugene did put in a bid for the 2019 World Championships, losing to Qatar.

Runner's World magazine reported that Eugene's selection by World Athletics, then known as the International Association of Athletics Federations, was an "unusual move".

They report the Association "bypassed the usual bidding process," and that the choice of Eugene will make the 2021 event "the first held in the United States."

The event will be the second held in North America, after Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in 2001.

The Guardian reported that the lack of bidding triggered concern in European cities that had bid to host the event.

They quoted Lamine Diack, IAAF president, who justified the lack of bidding with the claim the selection of Eugene to host the event, "enables us to take advantage of a unique opportunity to host a financially successful tournament that may never arise again."

Despite this, the lack of bidding for the 2021 event was not unprecedented, the 2007 World Championships were awarded to Osaka, Japan, without bidding.

Simba SC injury-free ahead of CAF Confederation Cup tie with Pirates



Simba SC footballers warm-up ahead of a recent CAF Confederation Cup clash that was held in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Simba SC has confirmed that it has no injuries, as it prepares to host South Africa's Orlando Pirates in this season's CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal first leg at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Pablo Martin, Simba SC head coach, could have a fully fit squad at his disposal, with Joash Onyango and Sadio Kanoute the only unavailable for selection.

Simba SC will be without Onyango and Kanoute as they serve a one-game suspension for accumulating three yellow cards back in the group stage.

Midfielder Clatous Chama continues to be ineligible for the remainder of their CAF Confederation Cup campaign.

Chama played for former side RS Berkane of Morocco in their preliminary round meeting with

Rwanda's APR.

The CAF Confederation Cup regulations states during the same year a player is in principle only eligible to play for one club in the CAF inter-club competitions.

Captain John Bocco has shaken off his recent injury and joined the rest of the team in the training sessions.

Bocco missed out on the last Group Stage match against Nigerian outfit Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale (USGN).

Speaking at his side's pre-match press conference ahead of the continental tie, Simba's Communication and Media manager, Ahmed Ally, provided fans with the squad update ahead of the crucial quarterfinal tie.

"Our preparations are divided into three areas and all are progressing well. The technical bench which is led by coach Pablo Franco Martin and his assistant Selemani Matola are continuing with the preparation. They are drilling the players to execute a winning strategy in the game."

"In that regard, we believe we are doing well because so far we have no injuries in our squad."

"Our captain John Bocco who was injured and missed the previous game against Gendarmerie has recovered and is back in training. We will miss Sadio Kanoute and Joash Onyango who picked three yellow cards.

"Following regulations, they miss the Orlando Pirates game here at home but we will have them available for selection in the return leg in Soweto next week."

Simba thumped USGN 4-0 to progress second from Group D behind RS Berkane to set up this meeting with Orlando Pirates who went unbeaten in their group to steer themselves through to the quarterfinals of the competition.

This will be their first quarterfinal appearance in the Confederation Cup though the Msimbazi Reds have been in the quarterfinals of the more prestigious CAF Champions League twice in the last four years, losing 4-3 on aggregate to another South African outfit, Kaizer Chiefs, last year.

Mbeya Kwanza FC takes NBC Premier League relegation fight to Polisi Tz FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe



Mbeya Kwanza FC players feature in training at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MBEYA KWANZA FC

RELEGATION-threatened Mbeya Kwanza FC travels to Polisi Tanzania's Ushirika Stadium in Moshi in a must-win game if it hopes to climb its way out of this season's NBC Premier League relegation zone. The kick-off is at 4 pm.

Mbeya Kwanza FC seems pretty much primed to make a return to the Championship. They are placed bottom in the table with just 11 games remaining and need a surplus of six points to get atop the relegation cut-off.

The newly-promoted side lost 1-0 on the last match-day, against Biashara United.

They are on a two-fixture losing streak and are also on a nine-game winless run.

They have registered a total of just two wins and are the only side yet to taste victory at home this year.

The team led by coach Mbwana Makata has huge problems with the lack of attacking power.

They have scored only two goals in the last six league games. Attacker Habib Kyombo is expected to lead the hunt for goals.

Kyombo was signed during the mid-season transfer window and has found the back of the net four times in nine appearances.

The match against Polisi Tanzania does offer Mbeya Kwanza FC an opportunity for a third away victory.

Mbeya Kwanza FC has managed to win twice on the road, drawing three matches and losing five times away from home in the league this season.

On the other side, eighth-placed Polisi Tanzania is, despite all of their issues, eight points safe from the direct relegation spot.

The Kilimanjaro side has been one of the worst teams in the league recently.

Luckily for their fans, the law enforcers were great in the early part of the campaign and accumulated enough points to maintain mid-table status despite going eight games without a victory before they pulled an upset against Azam FC in February.

Polisi Tanzania is high on confidence after holding defending champions Simba to a 0-0 draw on the last match-day at home on Sunday and

It will relish the chance of collecting its first home win having gone six games without victory in its backyard.

In the 10 league games the outfit played at home this season, Polisi Tanzania registered three, drew five, and lost two against Yanga and Coastal Union.

In head-to-head stats, this will be the second top-flight meeting between them.

The two sides shared spoils in a 2-2 draw when they locked horns in the first half of the season at Sokoine Stadium in November last year.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

