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## DEVELOPMENT



IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED JUSTICE CENTRE ON COURSE PG 4

## POLITICS



MINISTER ADVOCATES MORE WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN DIPLOMACY PG 5

## JUSTICE



AFRICAN COURT FOR SENSITISATION MISSION IN THE COMOROS PG 6

## AGRICULTURE



GOVERNING COUNCIL CALLS FOR MORE PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCING PG 7

**BUSINESS** Safaricom dividend pay pulls NSE to one-year low

Stanbic loses bid to challenge stamp duty

Equity gets nod to auction Fourways homes in loan row

Hopes aired for gains from China-EU talks

Page 13

# Kinana: I'll steer democracy in CCM

## Zanzibar president cautions on food prices, with fasting

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has appealed to traders to refrain from taking advantage of the on-going Ukraine-Russia conflict to increase prices of what flour and other needs during the fasting month of Ramadan.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday in his end of month address to the nation, declaring that stringent measures will be taken against traders violating government directives.

Foodstuffs whose demand rises during the fasting were imported into the country before the Russia-Ukraine conflict started, he asserted, assuring Zanzibaris that the government is monitoring global price trends and the cost of doing business to control the prices of goods.

Leaders at the level of local governments need to closely monitor prices of various goods in their localities, and take appropriate measures against traders hiking prices, he stated.

As Muslims start the fasting, the world economic situation is still unstable following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic late 2019, he said, noting that despite progress in economic recovery, major economic and social challenges now arise from the Russia-Ukraine war.

The Union and Zanzibar governments are monitoring the situation and taking measures to reduce negative impacts that could impinge on the economy, he emphasised.

The pandemic causes a recession globally, with the government making consultations within the government and the wider public sphere to keep afloat of business developments in the Isles.

These consultations enabled the government to issue appropriate instructions to ensure it controls food prices and other consumer goods, with special focus on petroleum products

The government has cut levies on goods that are in higher demand during the fasting, to make sure all families access foodstuffs at stipulated prices.

"Traders should be importing more goods, adhering to set regulations including payment of specified taxes," he added.



One-time CCM Secretary General Abdulrahman Kinana addresses the extraordinary meeting of the ruling party's General Congress in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after being unanimously elected national Vice Chairman. Left is CCM national Chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Photo: State House

By Henry Mwangonde

CCM Vice Chairman (Mainland) Abdulrahman Kinana yesterday vowed to restore power to party members in a list of priorities he outlined soon after he was endorsed in Dodoma.

The former secretary general was unanimously endorsed by the CCM national congress, and moved to pledge that his work would focus on restoring democracy, uphold justice and cultivate trust among members.

He explained that this includes the right to elect and to be elected, to listen to party members with different views, as restoring justice in CCM will promote justice in the country, he said.

He described CCM as a party for members, thus accommodating different views was part and parcel of what makes a strong political party. He expressed gratitude at the trust shown in him, vowing to work to realise expectations of party leader President Samia Suluhu Hassan. "I will not let you down," he declared.

Pledged to strengthen CCM so that it becomes a strong party that is acceptable to all Tanzanians, the new head of the secretariat appealed to the delegates to take a position for justice so as to make CCM a democratic party, free from hypocrisy, favouritism, corruption or undue populism.

People should be free to express their points of view as no one has the party intellectual property, he declared, insisting that the ruling party must promote democracy and it must stand with democracy.

Kinana obtained 100 percent of votes cast to succeed Philip Mangula who served in the post for 10 years. Kinana obtained all 875 votes casted, without abstentions, spoiled votes or no votes, which observers took as a strong show of unity around the party chairperson, President Samia.

Taking his seat at the high table, he joined retired

**He expressed gratitude at the trust shown in him, vowing to work to realise expectations of party leader President Samia Suluhu Hassan. "I will not let you down,"**

top leaders and current top leadership, a change of air since tendering his resignation as secretary general on May 28, 2018.

His bouncing back is another illustration of changes going on in leadership and policy orientation, as the president builds bridges with all dimensions of the ruling party tradition, its orientations and loyalties.

A campaign to verify the party's properties that was conducted by a team appointed by fifth phase president and party chairman, Dr John Magufuli put on a back foot Kinana and his predecessor Yusuf Makamba, who yesterday appealed to the new head of the party secretariat to let bygones be bygones.

# CCM revisits key 2017 constitutional changes



**BIG DAY FOR THE GUARDIAN:** Angel Navuri (L), The Guardian Limited's supplements and advertising manager, represents the company in receiving the SuperBrand East Africa Choice Award for the year 2022-2023 bestowed on The Guardian newspaper. It was at a colour ceremony held in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on Thursday night. Presenting the award is Chandaria Industries CEO Darshan Chandaria. This is the seventh time running The Guardian has qualified for the honour. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBERS of the General Congress of the ruling CCM yesterday endorsed changes to the party's constitution, repealing number of amendments made in 2017, and making new additions.

Secretary General Daniel Chongolo told the nearly 2000 delegates that the changes are meant to strengthen democracy within the party and meet present and future demands.

"We have amended Section (3), (1) of the constitution which speaks on the party flag. We want to categorically state that CCM uniforms will be a mixture of black, green and yellow, to avoid a trend where some party members have been mixing up colours," he explained.

Another notable amendment was on Section 50(4) to give powers to

TURN TO Page2

# Involve us, lawyers urge EACOP, LNG managers

By Getrude Mbago

LAWYERS from across the country met in Dar es Salaam yesterday and appealed for an opportunity to serve multinational companies implementing the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The law practitioners also agreed to work as a team and make sure that they also seize opportunities to provide qual-

**There is a need to revisit and amend our local content laws to the advantage of local investors. And we must have a fiscal regime that is practical and fair. There has to be a change of the curriculum of**

ity services in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project.

Bernard Oundo, president of the East Africa Law Society (EALS) told an opening session on high-level engagement on oil and gas, asserting that there are plenty of opportunities in the EACOP and LNG projects that Tanzania lawyers aren't assured of adequate access in the provision of legal services.

EALS convened the metin in collaboration with the As-

sociation of Tanzania Oil and Gas Service Providers (ATOGS) and the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS). ATOGS was created in the past year in view of the upcoming thousand kilometres pipeline project, and resuscitation of talks on an LNG plant at Kunyerezi in the city.

"As East African lawyers, we must

TURN TO Page2





# Motorists head to Tanzania as fuel shortage hits Kwale

NAIROBI

A shortage of fuel in Kwale County has forced motorists to troop to neighbouring Tanzania through the Lungalunga border crossing for the commodity.

Yesterday, most fuel stations in Kwale and Ukunda towns did not have diesel or petrol.

Fuel could only be found at major petrol stations in the border county, and those are few.

The journalists in Nairobi also observed long queues, especially in early mornings and late evenings, when motorists rush to fill their tanks.

"We have been told that from tomorrow, there may not be any fuel, that is why I want to make sure I fill my tank just to be safe," said Abdalla Kalama, a tuktuk driver in Ukunda.

The situation has also created a transport crisis in urban areas, such as Ukunda, where fares have risen by Sh10 to Sh20.

Motorists are collaborating, using the porous Lungalunga border to get fuel, which is sold cheaply in Tanzania.

"This is common in areas around Kanana heading to Lungalunga, where petrol stations do not have fuel," said a source.

He explained that motorists use Lorries to get fuel from Tanzania. Each driver gets several jerrycans, which are then loaded onto a lorry that's sent over the border. They contribute money to fuel the vehicle. A lorry can carry at least 50 jerrycans in one trip.

Once the jerrycans are filled they are brought back to Kenya, where some motorists reserve the fuel while others sell it. Because petrol stations are closed, traders are selling the fuel in jerrycans along the road to desperate motorists.

Fred Ochoka, a truck driver in Lungalunga, said Kenyans who do not use illegal routes ask at the border point to be allowed to cross.

"We only have to talk to the officials and inform them that we are going to refuel our vehicles and come back. This is done by boda boda riders, matatus and heavy vehicles," he said.

He said they spend at least Sh115 to refuel in neighbouring Tanzania.

Meanwhile, motorists in areas far from the border have had to withdraw their vehicles from the road due to the fuel shortage.

Abdala Kalama said he once asked passengers to alight and find an alternative means of transport when he ran out of fuel.

The Western and Rift Valley regions are the most affected by the shortage of fuel.

The situation was dire in Kwale and even government services had been affected, said Lungalunga Assistant County Commissioner Simel Konini.

"We are also finding it a challenge because we have not had fuel for the last three days. What is sold here is being sold in jerrycans and petrol stations remain closed," he said.

Yesterday, Independent Petroleum Distributors Association chairperson Joseph Karanja, in an interview with a local media outlet, said the shortage was expected to be felt across the country.

He explained that most urban areas still had fuel supply because that is where most fuel depots are found.

Reports had it that Kenya is staring at a fuel crisis due to delays in subsidy payouts by the government.

This has affected cash flow for some petroleum marketers, leaving them unable to buy new stocks.

An acute fuel shortage was reported in parts of the country this week, including the North Rift. The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra) acknowledged the shortage but blamed it on supply hitches without disclosing solutions.

"The shortage is occasioned by unprecedented logistical constraints. These challenges have caused independent petroleum dealers to run out of petroleum stocks," said Epra in a statement.

"There are enough fuel supplies in the country and there should be no cause to panic."

Sources who spoke to the Press linked the fuel shortage to delays in reimbursing more than Sh13 billion in subsidy cash to oil marketers. The state introduced the scheme last year, where it pays oil marketers for the high cuts on their margins to keep recommended pump prices.

The government partially applied the fuel subsidy this month, which saved consumers from paying Sh155.11 for a litre of petrol. Epra said consumers would have paid Sh143.16 for diesel and Sh130.44 for kerosene had the state not intervened, underlining the importance of the subsidy.

Delays in the subsidy payout mean that oil marketers either have to tap into their cash reserves or take loans to restock their fuel supplies.



Consolatha Komba (R), Alice Kaguo (2nd-R) and Suzan Kibwana, all teachers at Tumbe Primary School in Kibaha District, pictured at the school yesterday conducting screening kindergarten pupils to identify those with eyesight problems. The initiative enjoyed the support of Vision Care Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# CCM revisits key 2017 constitutional changes

FROM PAGE 1

ward, district and regional political committees to conduct inspection exercises and raise queries where relevant on the implementation of development projects.

The amendment takes place five years since the constitution was revised, with party insiders saying these amendments take the total

to 17 conducted since the party's constitution was promulgated in 1977.

In previous sweeping reforms, CCM reduced membership to the National Executive Committee (NEC) and the central committee from 388 to 154, and the latter from 34 to 24.

The party also halved the frequency of its annual internal meet-

ings from the grassroots to national levels, explaining that this is meant to increase efficiency, slimming down the number of inactive leaders in various positions.

The changes similarly centralized the party's operations; condensed the structure of the party at lower levels and reduced the frequency of party meetings. That would give time to leaders to serve

the people.

In his farewell address, outgoing vice chairman Philip Mangula said he would remain active despite stepping down from top leadership, including being a member of advisory committees grouping retired leaders in particular.

"I have the task of handing files to Kinana," he said, hinting at tracking party members showing

interest to vie for presidency in 2025.

While Mangula noted in his resignation letter that he was turning 81 on 31st March, President Samia hilariously told delegates that Mangula was first employed in 1963 when she was two years old. The outgoing chairman was a veteran party member who knows the party in and out, she added.



Former cabinet ministers Bernard Membe (R) and Andrew Change in a tête-à-tête on the sidelines of the extraordinary meeting of the CCM General Congress in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

# Involve us, lawyers urge EACOP, LNG managers

FROM PAGE 1

come together to harness opportunities available in the oil and gas sector," he said, underlining that lawyers and other law practitioners need to be at the forefront in advancing regional integration. One such sphere is utilising opportunities available in the EAC zone, to involve local stakeholders in enhancing the delivery of services where legal representation is relevant.

EALS endeavours to create a strong regional legal practice format and reinforce its

vision and mission, as it is guided by ethical probity in its day-to-day decision making and how its members conduct their duties. ATOGS chairman, Abdulsamad Abdulrahim noted that there are substantial professional demand in oil and gas contracting, like company registration, issuance of permits, approvals and licences for operations of companies involved in the mega projects.

Lawyers have to be conversant with the laws regulating upstream, midstream, and downstream petroleum activities, thus being able to

speed up the issuing of the required licenses, he stated. "There is a need to revisit and amend our local content laws to the advantage of local investors. And we must have a fiscal regime that is practical and fair. There has to be a change of the curriculum of our law training institutions to foster a pro-investment mindset especially in the Oil and Gas sector," he said. He further said governments have a role to play in capacity building for locals. This can be done through implementation of policies and staying up to date on what

is currently needed. The Tanzania liquefied natural gas (LNG) project has an estimated value of USD 30 billion. East Africa has vast reserves of diverse energy resources as well as mineral resources. Sadock Magai, managing partner at Immma Advocates, said most opportunities in the oil and gas sector are taken by law firms registered outside the EAC region.

Through the EALS, East African lawyers could position themselves for these opportunities, he said, highlighting DRC's entrance in the EAC, as

a dynamic factor in the lawyers' outreach action. Ambassador Mwanaidi Maajar, a founding member of EALS, urged lawyers to steer their firms to show what they do for their clients, to help them expand connections and trust. EALS is the biggest professional body in Africa with a pool of more than 25,000 individual members, the former envoy affirmed.

The East Africa Law Society is an umbrella regional bar association, pooling law societies of EAC member countries, officials noted.

# Govt assures nation on access to affordable essential medicines

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has declared that it will work to ensure that essential drugs and medical devices for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are always available at health facilities across the country.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Aifello Sicalwe said when

closing training on NCDs prevention and control provided to health care providers from eight regions in the country.

Dr Sicalwe said that the government through the Ministry of Health has taken various measures in the fight against NCDs including the implementation of the third integrated strategy for

prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases of 2021/2026.

This strategy addresses the need to ensure that providers are trained so that they can provide quality non-communicable diseases across the country at all levels of health care."

Dr Sicalwe urged the participants to train healthcare

providers in their respective regions once they go back so as to fulfil the government's mission and thus contribute to improving the nation's workforce that depends on healthy citizens.

"Any efforts to support the fight against non-communicable diseases should be supported by everyone and we are the ones to push the efforts forward," he

insisted.

He also urged the participants to ensure that they provide education to all citizens to enable them take precautions and prevent diseases.

He further urged Tanzanians to create a habit of undertaking regular body check-ups and avoid unhealthy lifestyles so as to fight the growing impacts of

NCDs.

The CMO appealed to other development partners to continue cooperating with the government in providing various training in the health sector so as to improve health services and thanked the Tanzania Diabetes Association (TDA) for facilitating such training in Kigoma, Lindi, Singida, Songwe, Arusha

Kilimanjaro, Dodoma and Mara Regions.

Acting director of curative services from the Ministry of Health, Dr Omary Ubuguyu reminded the healthcare providers to ensure that they take the patient's history when he or she arrives at the health facility in order to provide appropriate treatment.



# Govt, Switzerland, UNFPA to launch Safeguard Young People's programme

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government in collaboration with Switzerland and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is set to launch Safeguard Young People's (SYP) programme aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of adolescent and young people aged between 10 and 24 years.

The head of cooperation, embassy of Switzerland, Leo Nascher, made the remarks yesterday at a media orientation on SYP held in Dar es Salaam. The three years programme worth

over 14.3bn/- will be launched April 4, this year.

He said the programme comes as a complementary intervention to the existing programme targeting young people in health, governance and livelihoods spheres adding that it will be implemented in six regions within Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

The named regions as Simiyu, Shinyanga, Dodoma, Kigoma, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar, adding that future plans are to scale the programme to other regions depending on performance.

The envoy said the launch of a programme comes after it has proved successes in other countries in East and Southern Africa.

Nascher said in 2013, his country supported UNFPA's East and Southern Africa regional office to launch the SYP programme.

"Switzerland appreciates the path to sustainable development is never leaner, and it does not allow for quick-fix solutions. We believe long-term engagement is essential and thus the embassy is deeply committed to continue strengthening this bilateral co-

operation towards the achievement of important and ambitious national and global goals," he said.

He explained that seeing the positive impact and potential of the regional programme for the youth population in the region, last year, Switzerland together with UNFPA decided to expand this successful model to other East African countries.

"The Swiss embassy in Tanzania, Rwanda and Mozambique joined the programme," he said adding the program resulted in increased number of educated, healthy and empowered

working age population provides indeed a dynamic opportunity for attaining sustainable economic gains.

He urged all stakeholders to highlight the challenges and achievements of young people towards a healthier and more prosperous generation.

UNFPA Programme Analyst, Fatina Kiluvia said the launch of the programme comes after a baseline survey conducted by National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR).

She said the three years program (2021-2023) is aimed at advancing the vision and priorities of the country

building on national development needs and priorities as articulated in the United Nations Development Assistance Plan II (UNDAP II 2016/2017-2021/2022).

She said the programme output was to improve policy & legal framework from addressing young people's issues, strengthening policies and laws to ensure that the voices of youths are heard at national and regional levels as well as supporting young people to realise their potentials as today's or tomorrow.

She said through the program,



Fatina Kiluvia, an analyst with UNFPA-Tanzania's Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health programme, speaks at a seminar for journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The event was meant to introduce the Safeguard Young People Programme, which is co-funded by the Swiss government and UNFPA and is expected to be launched on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

# Architects, quantity surveyors encouraged to pay taxes timely

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works and Transport Richard Mkumbo has called on architects and quantity surveyors to ensure they pay taxes well and timely, considering that the construction sector is one of the catalysts of the country's economic growth.

He made the call in Dodoma yesterday when opening training to experts from the Architects and Quantity Surveyors Registration Board (AQRB).

He said that the government is investing heavily in engaging the private sector in its plans and projects so as to stimulate development.

Mkumbo said that among other things, the meeting focused on issues raised in the Tax Act, especially in the construction sector, electronic tax payments and filling out tax forms.

"In these two days of training, I am confident that we will come out with contributions and recommendations that will push the construction industry forward and the goal is to ensure that implementation of various projects significantly increase," he said.

Mkumbo added that in terms of attracting investment and regulating government taxes in the construction sector, the Government continues to ensure that it makes improvements, especially in the area of Value Added Tax (VAT) exemptions.

He also said that the government working on improvements in the areas of Value Added Tax (VAT) and exemptions so as to attract more investors and increase collections.

The deputy PS urged all experts to adhere and prioritize tax laws and regulations during the implementation of construction projects as the activities have continued to make a significant contribution to economic growth.

He added that, according to the 2020 Economic Growth Report, construction activities have continued to make a significant contribution of 27.5 percent in economic growth, followed by agriculture at 25.8 percent, transport and conservation 13.6 percent and industrial production activities 7.8 percent.

Earlier, presenting the board's report, Architect Edwin Nnunduma, said that since 2003 the Board has been organizing the Continuing Professional Development seminars (CPD) with the aim supporting experts registered with the Board to keep pace with the global development or changes of laws, principles, science and technology occurring in the World.

In addition, he added that the topics to be presented in the training are aimed at reminding the experts on the importance of adhering to ethics and good governance while paying taxes to the government.

He further said the board has improved the process of registering experts and projects through the Board's Online Registration System (ORS) which will help professionals who want to register or register projects to submit their documents through systems easily without travelling to the board's offices.

"The improvements made in this system are simple and modern, as it enables the expert to submit documents from anywhere where he/she can access online services," Nnunduma added.

In addition, he said that as of February, 2022, the board had registered a total of 1,377 experts and 486 professional companies. In addition a total of 132 professionals and 72 companies have been deregistered for going against the profession's ethics. The two-day brought together more than 300 construction experts to gain experience, discuss and find solutions to various challenges facing their profession.

# ZAA launches state-of-the-art flight control system in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Airports Authority (ZAA) has launched a state-of-the-art flight control system at the airport that will guide the pilots.

ZAA public relation officer, Mulhat Yussuf Said unveiled here yesterday when speaking soon after launching the system together with the passenger bridge quick and safe passage.

Mulhat said that the new system will also boost government's revenues.

She said that the airports continue to grow technologically where the equipment will help the pilots guide the aircraft instead of having an analog system, noting that the equipment would be used in the terminal building three at the airport.

"As ZAA our priorities is passengers' security and safety to the international standards," she said, adding that the government continues to improve services at the airports and authority officers continue to fulfill their responsibilities by providing quality services and focusing on security and safety.

Mulhat said more than 25 crew members had been trained, including engineers and pilots, on the



operation of passenger bridges and air traffic control systems.

"When the airline wants the service we provide it and airlines are welcome and it will grow among the sources of revenue" she said.

Some of the passengers who arrived at the airport commended the new government initiatives.

One of the passengers Jenifer Paul said that the safety of the passengers is good and they are happy with the

services provided.

"This is my first visit to Zanzibar and I am really impressed by the beautiful scenery of these islands," she said.

**As ZAA our priorities is passengers' security and safety to the international standards**



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**Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

**BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.**

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-22-03-01	Employees Transport (Bus) Tender	i. List of current or previous clients as reference and proof of holding the similar contract in the last 2 years ii. Located within the proximity of the mine iii. Meet the minimum requirement of seven buses of sixty sitters each. iv. Appropriate licences, including SUMATRA v. BRELA – certificate with detailed information indicating the shareholding structure vi. Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an **"Expression of Interest"** on your company's letterhead referencing the work package reference number should your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile,
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.

Kindly send your response by email to [bulyntender@barrick.com](mailto:bulyntender@barrick.com) by latest close of business on the **11<sup>th</sup> April 2022**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote reference number **"BUL-22-03-01 \_ Bus Services Tender"** in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an **"Expression of Interest"** shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

**For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**



## PAC happy with ongoing implementation of integrated justice centre in Morogoro Region

By Guardian Reporter

THE Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has expressed satisfaction with the on-going implementation of the integrated justice centre in Morogoro region.

Such court buildings are like one stop centre, meaning that one building will accommodate all judicial services from primary court level to the Court of Appeal.

Speaking on behalf of committee members, PAC vice chairman, Eng Isack Kamwele said that construction of the six justice centres including the one in Morogoro is commendable move towards enhancement of provision of justice in the country.

"We inspected the IJC building in Morogoro; we also inspected similar ones in Dar es Salaam's Temeke and Kinondoni districts. We are impressed with its progress implementation which shows the value for money. The buildings are constructed at international standards," said Eng Kamwele.

He added that the committee has been the eye of parliament in ensuring that funds provided by the government are directed to proper projects as well as ensuring quality of the implemented projects.

"We are satisfied with the good work done here; there is value for money," he said.

Eng Kamwele explained that the presence of IJC centers in the country has greatly helped to reduce the backlog of court cases as all services are available in one building thus facilitating the process of accessing justice services while reducing costs and saving time.

Chief Court Administrator, Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel, said the six Integrated Justice Centres have been constructed in the country and that the aim is to build nine to twelve new centres across the country.

Prof Ole Gabriel thanked the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan for facilitating the World Bank credit which funded the implementation of the projects.

He listed some of the advantages of IJCs as saving time and money. The chief court administrator pointed out that the Judiciary was planning to construct 12 more IJCs across the country to enhance public access to justice.

The Morogoro IJC is constructed at a cost of 9.13bn/-. Similar court buildings are constructed in Dar es Salaam (Temeke and Kinondoni), Morogoro, Dodoma and Mwanza.

Deputy Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Geoffrey Pinda was recently quoted saying that by 2025, the government intends to have district courts buildings in every district and primary court buildings in each division, to make judicial services more accessible and affordable to the citizens.



Dar es Salaam regional education officer Alhaj Abdul Maulid (R) exchanges views in the city earlier this week with Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation (KJF) executive officer Caren Rowland (3rd-R) and Read Tanzania co-directors Lusekelo Mwalughelo (4th-R) and Rebecca Taji (5th-R) moments after inaugurating Makumbusho Secondary School's library. The facility has just been refurbished by Read Tanzania under KJF sponsorship. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TEA has supported 3,314 education projects since inception in 2001, says director

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) has supported 3,314 education projects worth 212.6bn/- since its inception in 2001.

This was revealed yesterday by the authority director, Bahati Geuzye, when speaking at the opening of a one day seminar to journalists. The seminar was geared at broadening their understanding of TEA and its activities.

She elaborated that of total provided funds, 200bn/- were issued as

subsidy while 12bn/- were soft loans to nursery, primary and secondary schools, vocational education centres and universities.

Geuzye noted that the authority supported implementation of various projects including construction of 73 dormitories, 1,050 classrooms, 5,880 pit latrines, 560 teacher's houses as well as construction of 791 primary and secondary schools.

The Director added that TEA managed to renovate 17 old secondary schools, construction of infrastructures and purchased various schools

equipment to 71 primary and secondary schools providing education services to children with special needs.

She said TEA also supported special training to students for purposes of increasing academic performance. A total of 2,196 students benefitted with the training titled-Pre Entry Female Science Programme.

The authority assisted the Tanzania Institute of Education (TET) in curriculum development and purchased Standard Three and Six text books for primary schools, said Geuzye.

Other projects include construc-

tion and renovation of infrastructures and provision of learning facilities to universities. Universities that benefitted with the support are Mwalimu Nyerere Agriculture and Technology, (MJNUT), Zanzibar University (SUZA), Karume Institute of Science and Technology (KIST), Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

She said between the 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 financial years, TEA sponsored capacity building programs in Big Results Now-BRN whereas it provided training to 1,572 trainers and

36,876 primary teachers in Kiswahili, Mathematics and English.

She said they also conducted capacity building to 6,000 secondary teachers for Biology, Kiswahili, Mathematics and English subjects and facilitated National Accreditation Council Tanzania (NECTA) to conduct School Ranking Programme (SMS) portal.

"We also supported the government initiative when shifting to Dodoma and due to the public servants influx in the city, TEA renovated some primary and secondary schools to ensure all students are accommodated."

she said

TEA renovated and expanded infrastructures at Kizota, Medeli, Kisasa and Mlimwa 'C' primary schools.

She said through education fund in the 2021/2022 financial year a total of 8.6bn/- was endorsed to facilitate 160 projects to improve education infrastructures in 151 schools all around the country.

She added that the projects involved constructions of 210 classrooms in 70 schools, laboratories for schools with special needs and 2,040 latrines holes in 80 schools.



NO WAY THROUGH: A heavy-duty truck literally stuck yesterday shortly after a giant tree fell and blocked a road in Dar es Salaam's Shekilango suburb. It was not immediately clear whether the truck had any direct role in the incident. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## African Union committed to ending neglected tropical diseases by 2030

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Union (AU) and Uniting to Combat NTDs have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to end neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) across member states by 2030.

The agreement highlights the African Union's commitment to strengthen collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders to control and eliminate twenty NTDs, achieving the vision outlined by the "Agenda 2063 'The Africa We Want'" framework.

This MoU shows bold leadership and the highest level of commitment to NTDs by the African Union, prioritising them in line with other infectious diseases.

Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, AU Commission said: "The African Union Commission is committed to the attainment of Aspiration one, Goal three of Agenda 2063; of well-nourished and health citizens. We are committed to work in collaboration with partners in order to progress the elimination of NTDs on the African Continent. We are delighted to be signing this MOU with Uniting to Combat NTDs which will advance advocacy on NTDs."

She added: "As we have seen, the past two years have been dominated by COVID-19 and other diseases have suffered as a result. It's good that we are coming together at this time to make progress on these diseases that have not had the attention they deserve," she reiterated.

Thoko Elphick-Pooley, Executive Director, Uniting to Combat NTDs said that the delivery of essential health services has been impacted by COVID-19, the MOU have come at a more perfect time.

"The new MOU will advance the implementation of the Continental Framework on NTDs and the Common Africa Position, with a strong focus on increased country leadership and ownership of national NTD programmes, matched by increased allocation of domestic resources," emphasised Elphick-Pooley.

The Common Africa Position on NTDs will be adopted by the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control at the end of May, paving the way for it to be endorsed by Heads of State at the African Union Summit in 2023.

## 'Dar secondary school teachers, students trained on online crime'

By Felister Peter

FOLLOWING the rapidly growing internet access in the country, Alliance to Counter Crime Online (ACCO) is conducting a series of training to secondary school teachers and students in Dar es Salaam.

There are almost 21 million internet users in Tanzania, according to the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

Shubert Mwarabu, ACCO coordinator said to accomplish the target of ensuring Tanzanian youth are protected from online scams, they decided to come up with a six months pilot projects which includes provision of training to teachers through the Tanzania heads of secondary schools association (TAHOSSA).

"We chose to train teachers because they are the ones spending more time with our children. We are optimistic that teachers can easily pass over the message and help our children to stay safe online," stated Mwarabu, adding that teachers are also among the most victims of online crimes.

"The training co-organized by ACCO and the Centre on Illicit Networks and Organised Crime (CINTOC) are conducted in phases. We have now trained 60 teachers in the first and second batch, we are planning to conducting a similar training in coming days," he said, noting so far more than 60 secondary school students have also benefited from the training.

He said after the pilot project, ACCO would possibly extend the project to reach teachers

as well as students in other regions. He said the alliance works closely with TAHOSA, the police force's forensic department and the government through its institutions such as TCRA and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

In working with the police, he said, they collaboratively look into best ways to improve approaches towards combating cybercrimes.

The alliance engages the media such as newspapers, television and radios to pass over the educative information on online crime. He said there are a good number of Tanzanians who are unaware of online crimes, the thing that has resulted in most of them being victims of job and love scams and sometimes trapped into human trafficking.

Head Teachers, Tambaza High school and TAHOSA Chairman for Dar es Salaam zone, Hussein Mavumba said it is high time for education stakeholders and the society to provide their opinions in the on-going process for preparation of a new education policy and improvement of curricular so that cybercrime is taught at schools.

He said currently teachers pass over the imparted knowledge when teaching other subjects such as vocational skills and ICT.

"Young Tanzanians especially students are the most victims of online scams," said Mavumba commending ACCO for the efforts to combat the problem. Contributing virtually, ACCO Executive Director Gretchen Peters said to avoid being conned through the internet one has to

limit his/her personal information shared or posted on various social networks. She however noted that talking to strangers can make someone vulnerable to online crime.

"Personal information has value, it has to be protected; you do not need to post information such as work station, residential area and job details. Whenever you meet a scammer online you should first ask them to prove their identity to ensure you stay safe online," she added. Gretchen said that despite Tanzania having its own law governing the sector-The Cybercrime Act 2015, it has not much being used by courts and the government to go after criminals and prosecute them. The Act punishes and prohibits many online scams and crime including selling illegal goods.



## Foreign minister crusades for more women involvement in diplomacy

By Felister Peter

EARLY March, the Women in Diplomacy forum was launched in Dar es Salaam whereas among other things, it aims to bring women together and educate them on various local and international diplomatic issues.

The forum, the first in Tanzania, was launched by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Liberata Mulamula and was attended by prominent women leaders, ambassadors and students from the Centre for Foreign Relations and the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

Speaking at the launching event themed 'Gender Equality Today for Sustainable Tomorrow', Ambassador Mulamula commended the founder of the forum, Kaneni Mushi for coming up with an idea which is likely to provide a platform for young women diplomats to learn and engage in diplomatic issues.

Minister Mulamula underscored the need to use diplomacy in bringing peace and harmony in the society saying even when following events in Ukraine, the voice of Tanzania was insisting on the parties to give diplomacy a chance since it is the best way that can help in solving conflicts.

"My message to you on this important day is that Diplomacy should be used anywhere from business, family level and in our daily activities," the Ambassador said, applauding the founders of Women in Diplomacy as well as the participants for coming up with an important plat-

form for learning and sharing experiences with various stakeholders in the field of diplomacy and leadership.

She added: "I want to recommend you for organizing this event that appreciates the role of diplomacy in our day to day life. It is an important tool, the best forum we can have in the country."

Mulamula said through the platform youth can learn various diplomatic issues as they will have access to speeches from veteran women leaders and diplomats such as Ambassador Getrude Mongella and many others.

The minister stated that the forum will help many young women to achieve their targeted goals, calling upon the founders to continue organizing similar events to provide chances for many young women to learn.

She also challenged organizers to look on possibilities to expand the program to reach more young girls across the country.

Ambassador Getrude Mongella shared her experience of organizing the UN world conference on Women in Beijing 1995. She urged women to always unite and love one another as they are the powerful creatures.

Earlier, Founder of the Women in Diplomacy Kaneni Mushi said the forum aims at promoting the importance of diplomacy in the society and encouraging young women to take in diplomatic issues.

"We are expecting to do a lot through this forum; it is a continuous program that will promote patriotism among young citizens especial-



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Liberata Mulamula (R) has a word in Dar es Salaam earlier this week with Tanzanian politician Getrude Mongella, who served as first president of the Pan-African Parliament, shortly after the launch of the Women in Diplomacy Forum. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ly girls. We will also provide training on youth opportunities in diplomatic issues," said Mushi, acknowledging NMB Bank for supporting the initiative.

She said mentoring of young girls would be conducted by sharing experiences of successful women leaders including President Samia Su-

luhu Hassan—the country's top diplomat.

Mushi thanks Ambassador Mulamula for gracing the Women in Diplomacy launch event by considering its importance in promoting diplomacy within and outside the country. She pledged to ensure the forum operates in a manner that it doesn't contravene with the laws and

regulations governing the country's foreign policy.

The event was also attended by the US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Robert Raines, Ambassador Bertha Semu-Somi, Velisa Ingleton and Fire and Rescue Force Spokesperson, Puyo Nzalayaimisi.

## Scaling up nature-based solutions to deliver biodiversity and livelihoods to communities

By Guardian Reporter

CARBON Tanzania has today launched the newly expanded Yaeda-Eyasi landscape project, a nature-based climate solution validated by Plan Vivo this month that strengthens indigenous rights and protects biodiversity.

The Yaeda-Eyasi project is now Plan Vivo's largest active forest protection project and supplies high-quality carbon credits to the rapidly expanding voluntary carbon market while delivering livelihood and biodiversity ben-

efits to 61,000 indigenous people.

Marc Baker, Co-Founder and Director of Carbon Tanzania, said: "We are delighted to have been able to work with local communities to build a climate solution that secures their land rights and provides access to carbon finance. Our project development model has shown that when indigenous people have reliable, secure rights over their natural resources and receive appropriate compensation for their efforts to protect and manage them, powerful climate action results are possible."

The project, initiated in 2011 by Carbon Tanzania in partnership with three Hadza hunter-gatherer communities, went on to protect 32,000 ha of their ancestral forests.

It was originally known as The Yaeda Valley REDD project and won the UN Equator Prize in 2019.

Witnessing the success of this project, nine surrounding Datooga pastoralist communities joined forces with the Hadza and Carbon Tanzania to develop the Yaeda - Eyasi Landscape project resulting in the protection 110, 500 ha of dry land forest legally

owned by the Hadza and Datooga people.

The Hadza and Datooga communities value their land and natural resources in different ways but work together to defend their forests and prevent 171,100 trees from being cut down every year resulting in 177,284 tonnes of avoided emissions annually. These emissions are quantified and certified as carbon credits and sold on the voluntary carbon market earning the communities 1.3 billion Tanzanian shillings to date.

The Hadza and Datooga communi-

ties are now able to directly access international climate finance through the voluntary carbon market with the assistance of the project developer, Carbon Tanzania. Now, instead of bearing the cost of conservation, the Hadza and Datooga are benefiting from a commitment to manage and conserve it and are empowered to determine their own developmental needs.

The Yaeda - Eyasi Landscape project now extends around Lake Eyasi and connects the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a UNESCO World

Heritage site, to the Yaeda Valley. This habitat connectivity allows for the movement of wildlife, which results in enhanced outcomes for the conservation of the wider landscape and contributes to global efforts to protect biodiversity.

The scaling up of this nature-based solution demonstrates that the voluntary carbon market is an effective way to deliver climate finance to frontline and indigenous communities who are protecting biodiversity, their land rights and traditional lifestyles while improving their livelihoods.



Dodoma district commissioner Jabir Shekimweri (R) pictured yesterday planting a tree seedling in a pot installed on the side of Dodoma's Nyerere Road, chiefly in an effort to beautify the national capital. Second left is Dickson Kimaro, head of the Dodoma City Council's environment department. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## CAG initiates special audit financial system

By Guardian Reporter

CONTROLLER Auditor General (CAG) Charles Kichere has initiated a special audit of the financial system and procedures used in the Pre bargain Act of 2019 to satisfy all procedures and funds collected.

Kichere (pictured) made the remarks yesterday while presenting the audit report for the financial year ending June 30, 2021 to President Samia Suluhu Hassan, at the State House in Dodoma.

Kichere said in the audit he will look at the amount collected from the process and would include nationalised assets.

On the COVID-19 money, the CAG continues to audit all areas funded by the COVID-19 funding project and promises that every penny of the funds will be audited to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, procedures and guidelines.

"When I complete this audit I will submit a report to you and the results will be made public to enhance the accountability of the funds and I will follow the instructions you gave us when launching the project," he said.

However, he said he had audited the funds provided by the central bank for the period of January and March last year, and the report had been submitted, as well as audits of strategic projects, special audits of revenue systems and audits of public entities.

He said for the year 2021, he has conducted 56 special audits of which 37 are those of the local government authori-



ties, 12 central governments, six public entities and one of the ICT systems.

On airports construction, Kichere said from 2016/17 to 2020/21 the government spent 1.02trn/- to build and upgrade 12 airports.

He said the audit revealed that there was an overlap of jurisdiction and responsibilities for airport development between the Roads Agency (Tanroad) and the Airports Authority (TAA) leading to shortcomings in accountability and budget execution of such projects.

"There is an increase in cost of 22.35bn/- due to non-payment of 1,125 households at Julius Nyerere International Airport for more than 23 years.

The CAG said there are people who need to be compensated but have not been paid due to the procedures have not been completed so from 1997 to today the assessment shows the debt is increasing from 7bn/- to 29bn/-.

The CAG also noted the delay in payment of contractors which resulted in interest rates of 14.14bn/- of which 11.39bn/- was for Julius Nyerere International Airport and 2.75bn/- for Mwanza airport.

## Agency challenged to expand activities in Morogoro Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) has been challenged to expand its activities in Morogoro region to reach more farmers and enable them to enhance productivity.

During their tour at ASA offices, District Commissioners from all seven districts in the region commended the seed manufacturing agency urging it to expand its activities to cover all the districts.

Malinyi District Commissioner, Mathayo

Masele said that although the districts leads in production of various food crops including rice, farmers still face challenges in accessing quality certified seeds. He said the situation has forced farmers to use seeds from their previous harvests.

"Farmers harvest between five and six bags of rice per acre because of the poor seed quality. With quality certified seeds, farmers can boost their yields because the soil is healthy," said the DC, appealing to ASA to open office in Malinyi District to also assist farmers engaging on cocoa, maize and

sunflower cultivation.

He said farmers in Kilosa District are harvest more because they have access to quality seeds from ASA offices.

Kilombo District Commissioner, Hanji Godigodi called upon ASA to come up with an arrangement to assist farmers in storing their harvested seeds for use in coming agricultural seasons.

"You have the best technologies including storage and grading of seeds. Farmers should be assisted to properly store their seeds," said Godigodi.

ASA Acting Executive Officer, Valentine Kamugisha said the agency is among the five best seed manufacturers in the world. He said the agency produces seeds and distribute them to farmers.

He thanked the government for the continued support as of recent it provided ASA with two new tractors to improve its farm activities. He said they now have seven tractors, and that they are expecting to receive other two tractors in coming days.

The agency's Production Director, Justin Ringo said that ASA produces and stores

40 different types of seeds whereas currently it has a total of 997 tonnes of seeds at its Morogoro warehouse. He called upon farmers to use the seeds because they are drought resistant.

Ringo said that ASA has its own laboratory which is used to control the quality of seeds. He said previously they using a laboratory owned by Tanzania Official Seed Certification (TOSCD).

ASA Marketing Director, Emmanuel Lwoga called upon youth to engage in agriculture to earn income.





Sinda Sinda (L), marketing manager with Howden Puri Insurance Brokers Ltd, speaks at Thursday's launch in Dar es Salaam of a special insurance cover for entrepreneurs known as 'Hifadhi Biashara'. The service is primarily meant to protect owners of small businesses from risks. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to undertake sensitisation initiative in the Comoros

By Guardian Reporter

THE President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights Justice Imani Daud Aboud will lead a six-member delegation of the court to the Union of the Comoros on a two-day sensitisation mission next week.

"The mission is with a view to raising awareness of the Pan African judicial organ and to encourage the Union of the Comoros to deposit the special declaration to allow individuals and others to access the court directly," stressed Justice Imani.

The delegation includes the Court's Vice President Hon Justice Blaise Tchikaya, Deputy Registrar Nouhou Diallo and key Registry staff.

The Comoros acceded to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights on December 23rd 2013 but is yet to make the special declaration under Article 34(6).

The states that have deposited the declarations so far are eight out of 33 state parties to the Protocol and out of 55 AU member states.

The eight countries are Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Tunisia.

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights was established by

virtue of Article 1 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, to complement the protective mandate of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, with a view to enhancing the protection of human rights on the continent.

The success of the court requires a wider ratification of the protocol by member states, as well as their acceptance of the competence of the Court, by making the declaration under Article 34(6).

Universal ratification will give the Court the legitimacy it needs to effectively discharge its mandate.

The main objective of the sensitisation visits is to enhance the protection of human rights in Africa.

Specific objectives include raising awareness about the Court; encouraging the ratification of the Protocol and deposit of the Declaration that allows individuals and NGOs direct access to the Court; sensitising would-be applicants on how to access the Court and the procedures before the Court; encouraging the public to utilise the Court in settling human rights disputes and encouraging the utilisation of the Court for advisory opinions.

## SADC 'ready' to undertake capacity building programmes in Cabo Delgado

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has said it is committed to supporting the reconstruction process in Cabo Delgado province, in Mozambique through capacity building programmes, following wanton destruction of property and displacement of people by terrorist attacks.

Senior Officer, Defence Affairs

and Planning at the SADC secretariat, Colonel Abudu Mwaya said this when SADC multi-sectoral team engaged stakeholders while conducting a technical assessment in the province of Cabo Delgado, Republic of Mozambique from March 14th to 19th, 2022.

The technical assessment mission was undertaken to determine capacity building initiatives for the targeted groups.

The objectives of the assessment mission were to determine the capacity building exercises needed to enable SADC to develop well-tailored programmes to be undertaken, identify the targeted groups to be capacitated and to engage with other Actors on the ground already implementing similar programmes so that SADC complements their effort rather than re-inventing the wheel.

The team consulted a wide range of stakeholders, amongst others, government institutions such as Secretary of State of Cabo Delgado, the Governor, Director of Correctional Services, Provincial Police Commander, Instituto de Formação Profissional e Estudos Laborais Alberto Cassimo (IPPELAC), Agency for Development in the North (ADIN), Provincial Director for Youth and Sports, Director for Gender,

Children and Social Welfare and Mutuge District Administrator.

The technical team also met with other Non-Governmental Actors such as United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

This came against the backdrop

of the Extraordinary SADC Heads of States and Government Summit held on 12th January 2022 in Lilongwe, Republic of Malawi which directed the Secretariat to engage International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) to mobilise resources in support of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM).

Subsequently the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Union committed to support SAMIM under the Early

Response Mechanism (ERM) funding facility.

The training programme will be implemented between March and July 2022 in some identified districts across Cabo Delgado Province and will cover capacity building programmes for the Police, Correctional Services, Dialogue sessions with Civic Leaders and offer life skills training to the youth and women.



Arusha mayor Maxmillian Matle Iranqhe (L) has a cup of coffee on Thursday while exchanging views with residents of the city's Kaloleni ward. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

## CSOs highlight agri-food systems issues in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and other shocks hit the food security status and livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations the hardest – that was the central theme in a declaration at the end of a two-day regional consultation by civil society organizations (CSOs).

This is ahead of the 32nd session of the FAO regional conference for Africa (ARC32).

The consultation brought together small-scale producers' organizations and other civil society groups representing family farmers, fishers and fish workers, pastoralists and herders, indigenous peoples, consumers, forest workers, women and youth, in the region.

The event was convened virtually by the regional CSO steering committee through the regional platform of central African farmers' and producers' organisations (PROPAC) on 28-29 March 2022.

The participants discussed Conference agenda items and key issues relevant to civil society groups and communities in the region.

Discussion topics included the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on agrifood systems, the implementation of United Nations Decade for Family Farming (UNDDFF), promoting ecosystems restoration, investment and trade for competitive agri-food systems, ensuring agri-food systems are inclusive of women, youth and the rural poor, and the declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

On the second day, the participants adopted the CSO Declaration which calls for a set of key recommendations with commitments by CSOs. Those include but not limited to unlocking Africa's enormous potentials for Agrifood systems transformation calls for strategic partnership and cooperation with various actors, strengthen

inclusive multi-stakeholder mechanism including government, CSOs, producer organizations, other partners and stakeholders, at all levels from regional to country level;

It also provide continuously technical support for the most vulnerable at the grassroots community level suffering the adverse effects of multiple-shocks including COVID-19; accelerate effort to implement the UNDDFF, voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (in the context of food security and poverty eradication); promote the international way of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture 2022; Agro-ecology; inclusive agri-food systems for smallholder producers, family farmers, fishers, pastoralists, including youth, women and the rural poor, enabling and empowering them to benefit from opportunities such as the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and to overcome challenges and crises.

The CSOs also selected three CSO spokespeople who will participate and present the CSO Declaration during ARC32 (11-14 April). Engaging with civil society organizations for agri-food systems transformation

"The agenda of the 32nd Session of the FAO regional conference for Africa focuses on subjects and phenomena that influence our way of life, affect our existence and sometimes even threaten our survival, in particular the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agrifood systems, agroecology issues, the African Continental Free Trade Area, peasant rights, youth and women, to name but a few. Faced with this situation, as actors in the field, our point of view matters for the development of resilience actions," said Kolyang Palebele, President of the Centrale Regional Platform of Farmer's Organisation in Central Africa (PROPAC), who is also President of the Pan-African Farmers Organisation (PAFO).

## Makurunge ward calls upon telecom firms to install communication towers

By Beatrice Philemon

RESIDENTS of Makurunge ward in Kisarawe District, Coast Region have called upon telecommunication companies to install communication towers to enable them to facilitate communication network and internet services.

The residents are concerned that proper communication and internet services, they will be able to access, thus being able to search for markets for their various agricultural products.

"With internet services more youth will engage in profitable income generating activities such as being agents for mobile money services," said Stelalah Didace, adding, the services will also enable people to access national and international news

via social media and other digital platforms.

Tanzania Korean Youth Association Chairman, Tony Park raised concerns over poor telecommunication services in the ward.

He said although the government has been investing hugely to extend broadband to remote and rural areas across the country, still internet connection is not available in their localities, people cannot surf the web, browse Facebook and Instagram and use online learning.

"As residents we invite telecom companies to invest in network infrastructure to facilitate effective communication services and help us with high speed internet connectivity. Internet services would also facilitate online learning and assist people to access online markets," he said.

He said with high-speed internet connectivity local businesses are put on a global scale and people can work from where they are.

"Just look at the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), it has introduced an online education programme to support Tanzanian students at Sisters of Mary secondary school in this area, but students can hardly access the service over lack of internet service," he said.

Students can't connect with teachers from South Korea for online education and are missing a lot of information that can improve their academic performance because they lack access to the internet at school.

Meanwhile, Halotel Tanzania Limited Company's Business Director, Abdallah Salum noted that

in the next two years the company is planning to invest more in network infrastructure to have effective communication services in terms of upgrading, increasing service quality and expanding the coverage. He said the company's focus is to invest more on 4G network facilities country-wide to meet the growing demand from the public as the world now want or prefer digital services.

So far the company has deployed 800 fourth generation communication towers in the past six years to spread digital communication country-wide. The 4 G towers have also been deployed in all regions of Tanzania with the bulk of them stationed in remote areas.

"We believe that when modern telecommunication services are accessible to everyone as part of

everyday life, then contribution to socio-economic development is enormous

He said the mobile phone firm was contracted by the government to extend communication services to marginalized rural areas of the country in 2015, target to increase its subscribers from the current seven million to 10 million by 2023.

Salum said his company continuing to roll out 4G) towers to different areas across the country where such services have never existed before saying the target is have more customers upgrading their 3G number to 4G.

"With 4G services, Halotel's subscribers who are still using 3G sim-card can swap them and get 4G for free and get bonus internet data for use in three days," he said.



# Farm Africa donates sunflower seeds to Ikungi district farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

FARM Africa has donated a total of 480 tonnes of sunflower seeds to 427 smallholder farmers in four villages of Ikungi district in Singida region to support them engage in sunflower farming to increase their incomes.

Farm Africa gender officer, Helena Lawi said recently during her visit in Ikungi district to meet women smallholder farmers as part of the commemoration of the International Women's Day.

The beneficiary villages include Mng'ana in Sepuka ward, Munyu in Irinya ward and Kipumbuiko in Dung'unyi.

"We saw it better to support them so that they can produce high quality sunflower oil that meet the growing domestic demand and thus boost their incomes," she said.

This has been possible through the sunflower project being executed by Farm Africa in collaboration with UN Women and Ikungi District Council in four villages of Mng'ana, Munyu, Irinya and Kipumbuiko.

She said the project has opened up new opportunities for women farmers in the district with economic conditions of many of them improving.

The project was introduced in the district in 2019 and has managed to bring positive changes to many farmers.

"As Farm Africa, we are proud of what has been achieved so far in Ikungi District, these days women are more involved in decision-making, land ownership and they are free to grow anything they want, something that was difficult in the past," she said.

Before Farm Africa and UN Women intervention, women were not aware of their rights to own land and were not allowed to own land in the community. The training has brought up positive results as women are now aware of their rights and control misuse of resources.

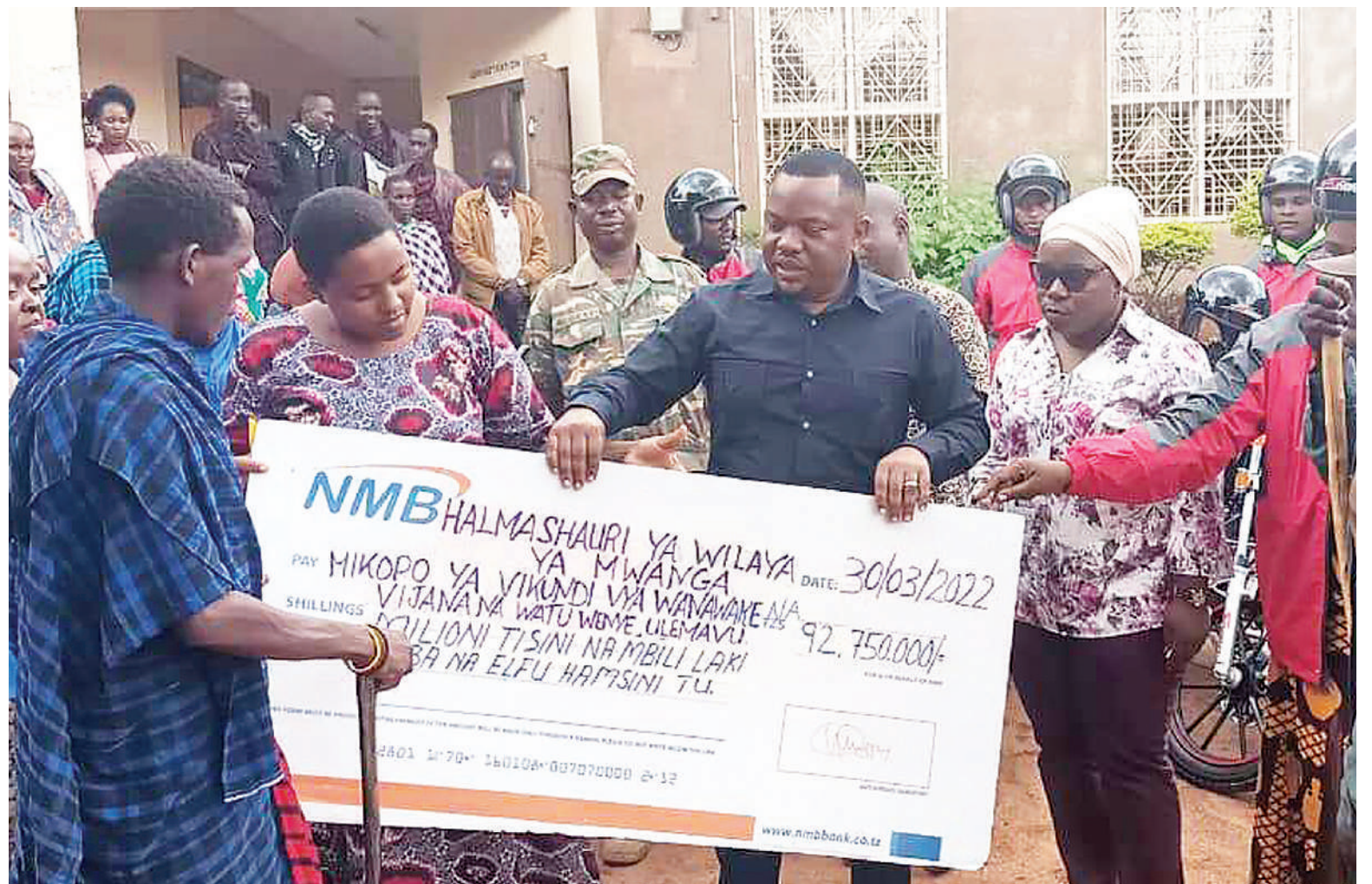
Ikungi District cooperative officer, Gurisha Msemu said the governments in collaboration with different stakeholders have offered a total of 95,132 tonnes of sunflower seeds to farmers to support them to engage in sunflower farming this season.

Sepuka Ward Councillor, Halima Ng'mba added that women should increase efforts to meet their goals without looking at challenges.

Helena Ayubu, who was the guest of honour, called on women in the area to contest in various leadership positions.

"So far, there are women's groups in Ikungi district that includes Wajifya, Mfuu, Mrumba and Masenga that are benefiting from the sunflower farming project," she said.

The project has opened up new economic opportunities as well as helped the groups to obtain a reliable market on what they produce.



Mwanga district commissioner Abdallah Mwaipaya (C, in dark blue) presents a dummy cheque for 92.7m/- on Thursday to Emmanuel Jushua (L), leader of the Eikimayara group from the Maasai pastoralist community, as part of 10 per cent of a loan from the district council for use by women, youths and people with disabilities. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

# Postcode system implementation now at 67 per cent, says minister

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Information, Communications and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye has said implementation of the postcode system which is to identify people and their residential areas has reached 67 per cent.

The postcode which was launched on February 8 this year by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in the country's capital-Dodoma is to be completed

before the Population and Housing Census scheduled for August 2022.

Nape made the statement on Thursday when speaking during a Regional Commissioner's conference held in Dodoma city whereas the officials discussed and submitted reports on implementation of postcodes.

"Our system that monitors its implementation indicates that it has reached 67 per cent based on identification of areas, capacity building for officers and executives implementing

the postcode system," he said.

According to the minister the government is also providing education to relevant officers supervising the exercise and designing a system to collect and receive information that would be used in installing physical infrastructure in various parts of the country.

He said there are hopes that its implementation will be completed ahead of schedule.

"The next step will be data and in-

formation verification before they are shared in the system in accordance with the given instructions to hand it over by May 22, 2022," said Nape.

Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Innocent Bashungwa said the exercise has been properly implemented.

"We have so far completed the exercise by 67 per cent, we still a way to go to ensure we finish and hand it over as directed. It is my hope that Regional

Commissioners will properly supervise the exercise as they did when executing the classrooms construction project," said Bashungwa.

Speaking of behalf of RCs, Arusha Regional Commissioners, John Mongella promised to complete the exercise with schedule.

When launching the postcode system, President Samia said the system is important for a sustainable development of our country it should be completed soon as the country set to

execute census exercise August, this year," the President said.

Tanzania will be 'most accessible country in East Africa' as the government works on to improve postcodes countrywide.

In the era of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), the system is important since it will the country to boost digital economy, e-businesses as well as help the country in help the country to take part in the global economy.



Richard Kayombo (L), Tanzania Revenue Authority's director for taxpayer services and education, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after a seminar on the submission electronic tax returns TRA organised in partnership with Assad Association. To his left is Sajjad Jusab, a managing partner with the association. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# Africa fertiliser financing mechanism governing council pleads for more private sector financing

By Guardian Reporter

INSTITUTIONAL members of the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism's Governing Council have endorsed plans to attract more private sector financing to the continent's fertilizer sector.

The move came during a recent meeting of the 13-member council, during which participants also validated the Africa fertilizer financing mechanism's 2021 annual report and endorsed its proposed 2021 work program.

Vincent Castel, regional manager at the agriculture & agro-industry department of the African Development Bank said: "The Africa fertilizer financing mechanism has now demonstrated to the development community that trade credit guarantees are an opportunity to tackle financing challenges and facilitate access to fertilizer for agro-dealers and farmers."

Council member, Abah Ofon and manager for export development at African Export-Import Bank said: "AFFM is in a unique and strategic position to show value to private sector players looking for leveraging opportunities."

The Africa fertilizer financing mechanism works with African governments, regional institutions, the private sector, development banks, and international donors to study the fertilizer value-added chain.

The organization assesses key transnational factors that impede fertilizer use in order to develop comprehensive financing strategies for jump-starting Africa's agricultural productivity. The African Development Bank manages the African Fertilizer Financing Mechanism.

During the meeting, the governing council commended the institution for its impactful projects to deliver trade credit guarantees in Nigeria and Tanzania.

The two projects, which support the implementation of trade credit guarantees to bolster fertilizer value chains.

In Tanzania, \$2.3 million in trade credit guarantees provided leverage of 11.2 times, enabling three suppliers to sell fertilizer worth \$26.3 million to 570,000 farmers via 28 hub agro-dealers and 966 retail agro-dealers.

In Nigeria, the project secured a leverage of 4.6 times the guarantee and facilitated access to financing for fertilizer blenders who traded fertilizer worth \$11.2 million.

Council members urged the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism to work with partners to mobilize more resources to support the fertilizer sector. The private sector currently offers a possibility to prepare rapid responses to solve challenges in the sector and achieve better results. Its market-responsive solutions can help take advantage of resources in the fertilizer industry that are already available.

During the meeting, governing council members also discussed the Africa fertilizer and soil health summit, which is scheduled to take place in the second quarter of 2023.

The event aims to build on progress that has occurred in the fertilizer ecosystem over the past 15 years.

The Africa fertilizer and soil health summit will also pave way for a new evidence-based, policy-driven, and practical action plan to inform fertilizer development on the continent going forward.

# African scientists call for better forest management to boost climate resilience

By A Special Correspondent, Mombasa

THE transition to a low carbon future in sub-Saharan Africa will be realised once the continent prioritizes sustainable management of its vast tropical forests, scientists have said.

Speaking at a forum in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa, the scientists called for enhanced protection of Africa's forested landscapes given their immense role in climate response, poverty alleviation, food and water security.

Nairobi-based African forest forum executive secretary Godwin Kowero stressed that taming the continent's rapidly unfolding climate crisis hinged on sound conservation of its equatorial forests, dry lands and marine ecosystem.

"As the continent grapples with climate change, we need to look at forests as key to the success of mitigation and adaptation efforts," said Kowero, who believed that forests and trees outside the natural forests will not only stabilize climate but also support livelihoods of rural communities.

Convened by African forest forum, the Mombasa forum that will take place in a hybrid format from March 28 to April 1 brings together senior policymakers, scientists, industry players and green advocates to discuss best practices on integrating the forestry sector in climate action.

Delegates will in particular share experiences on forest-based climate mitigation and adaptation programs that have worked in different parts of the continent and how communities are harnessing the resource to transform their

livelihoods.

Julius Kamau, the chief conservator of forests at Kenya Forest Service, noted that climatic shocks had escalated in Africa hence the need to leverage biodiversity hotspots including mangroves swamps and watersheds in order to minimise damage to the livelihoods of rural communities.

According to Kamau, enhanced forests' protection will not only boost Africa's quest for carbon neutrality but also improve the health and economic outcomes of communities bearing

the brunt of climate emergencies.

He said the 27th session of the Conference of Parties (COP27) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change summit slated for Nov. 7 to 18 in Egypt provides an opportunity to raise the visibility of African forest resources and their crucial role in climate resilience.

Fred Owino, a member of the African forest forum governing council, said that research and precise data were required to inform the design and execution of forestry-based climate change response in the continent.



## Differences between Treasury, NGOs on financing resolvable

DIFFERENCES are coming into the open on the manner in which development partners finance non-governmental organisations' activities, as it isn't clear if the boundaries been worked out with the government and agreed upon. That seems to be the moot point in listening to contending affirmations on the issue, where Finance and Planning Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba wants most of project cash directed to health sector projects listed by the government. NGOs have a slightly different set of priorities, clearly.

The issues were audible in some international media broadcasts early this week, with the question arising if the matter is new to those concerned, and what understanding exists at the moment. As a matter of fact, the health sector has a stream of NGOs working in that sphere, and some like the Benjamin William Mkapa Foundation are close associates of the government. It is mainly NGOs working in capacity building for instance electoral and civic education that seem to be the target of intimations of funds being redirected to other activities. And it is unclear if what was heard was an appeal or an administrative order.

Sentiments about funds going directly to NGOs and what amount in relation to development financing as a whole have differed from one decade to another. On the one hand it is evident that NGOs often bring crucial outreach services where the government would take plenty of time to arrive, or engage in the kind of education that isn't the preserve of the government. District authorities work through representative and lo-

cal authorities cells, which can't be used to change local attitudes, for instance about gender issues.

Looking at it from a distance, it is fairly visible what NGOs do and what the government is supposed to do, that there is often times a sort of convergence on some projects, but at times the government comes up much later after NGOs have done plenty of work in that direction. Environment wasn't originally a central government priority and when one looks at the matter globally, the whole idea of a global crisis of environment change took time to be accepted at the political level. Periodic catastrophes subsequently altered attitudes, with the United States dropping its outright skepticism after Hurricane Katrina, in 2005.

On the basis of experience, top administrators in various ministries have always been askance about the work of NGOs, wishing that the money be channeled to the Treasury or to the various ministerial departments to pursue what they believe is the same work. The reason for this view is that the government is a bit instrumentalist in its outlook, namely that all such funding is meant for development action, which thus comes down to projects, and so that it is well coordinated, be rhymed with central government priorities. That much is definitely the case for general budget support and the vast specified project aid for instance in the case of the World Bank; they distinguish clearly between state and NGOs commitments. As the sixth phase opens more to civil society, this expression of differences is likely to be resolved soon.

## We have done some good work on preventing blindness but it persists

ACTIVISTS around the world are preparing for the Prevention of Blindness Week that is observed from April 1 to 7 every year. United Nations chroniclers say it was initially a campaign launched by the Indian government to spread awareness about blindness, its treatment and prevention.

Here in Tanzania the problem has traditionally been illustrated by scattered or frequent instances of river blindness in some districts in the central zone of the Mainland, with the effect that there were numerous beggars drifting to major urban centres from those areas. How much this problem has been resolved is somewhat debatable.

The UN write up says that the campaign witnesses participation from health personnel from central government departments, voluntary agencies and regional government health education officers take part in working towards increasing awareness amongst the masses about blindness.

A major theme that is cultivated is that blindness is preventable, even where there are some underlying causes which makes the threat differ from one district to another, or one zone of the country to another. We all need this activity of awareness raising, instead of the immediate reflex of seeing blind people as simply unfortunate, just so.

The chronicle says that India was the first country to launch a government sponsored programme, the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) in 1976 to control avoidable blindness. Essentially it was a cataract centred programme which eventually grew to funding the management of a whole range of other situations, espe-

cially arising from chronic diseases. These situations are listed chiefly as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, eye injuries, childhood blindness, corneal transplantation, squint, low vision, retinopathy of premature birth, conducted alongside successful public private partnership (PPP).

When it developed this programme, India did not keep it to itself but philanthropists teamed together to set up camps periodically for tests and for treatment, and it wasn't just in this sphere but similarly in heart diseases, etc. In the past half-decade Tanzania has developed sharply pronounced capacities in many of these areas, with assistance from experts from India, the United States and elsewhere, but the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) is largely walking upright by now, having internalized this experience.

We definitely need walk in tandem with what is known as Vision 2020: The Right to Sight, whose objective as enunciated in 2019 is to work for eliminating avoidable blindness.

While one can't work out the math on say at what rate river blindness has disappeared from the central zone in the past 20 years, eradicating this source of blindness ought to be part of our sustainable development goals set for 2030.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) have a joint global initiative for eliminating avoidable blindness. It is an effort initiated by philanthropic pioneers and we need to live to the spirit of their selfless commitments to assist those who suffer from preventable blindness all their lives.



## There can be no climate action without targets to protect wetlands



By Jane Madgwick

SAFEGUARDING and restoring shrinking wetlands is our last, best defence against global warming and biodiversity loss

Targets matter. They focus attention. They allow us to hold accountable the people who make them. Calls to fight climate change were vague until the world agreed a goal to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as confirmed at the recent COP26 Glasgow climate conference. Likewise, a wish to halt deforestation has come into focus with the Glasgow deadline of 2030.

But where does that leave wetlands? The world's waterlogged peatlands, mangroves, rivers, salt marshes and tidal flats hold - or lose, if damaged - more carbon than all our trees. They nurture - or make extinct, if lost - more biodiversity than forests.

Peatlands damaged by drainage are responsible for more than 5% of global carbon emissions, and intact mangrove swamps hold four times more carbon per hectare than rainforests.

Yet these irreplaceable treasures were sidelined in the commitments made in Glasgow. And they will fare little better at this spring's UN biodiversity conference in Kunming, China, which aims to set an admirable target to conserve 30% of the planet for nature but says little about what should be conserved and where.

It is astonishing that we have no global wetlands targets. Nobody is held to account for the extinction of creatures in these watery domains or the carbon leaching from their ecosystems.

Without their protection and restoration, the world has little chance of reaching either its climate or biodiversity goals. And human

suffering through floods, fires and droughts will continue to escalate.

On World Wetlands Day, we must heed the call for global targets to protect and restore these Cinderella ecosystems.

Existing protection of wetlands is feeble. Their only would-be defender in international environmental agreements - the 51-year-old Ramsar Convention - has been signed up to by 172 governments but has no teeth. And the degradation and loss of both inland and coastal wetlands has continued regardless.

Only 2.5 million square kilometres are recognized as wetlands of international importance whereas the world's wet places cover an area five times greater - a twelfth of the planet's land surface - from the frozen bogs of Siberia to the caiman-populated Pantanal in the heart of South America.

The world may have lost half its forests, but it has seen an estimated 87% of its wetlands disappear. Drains and dams, coastal barriers and canals have done far more damage to nature and its capacity to store carbon than chainsaws.

### INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION BENEFITS

With other international organizations, Wetlands International has drawn up proposed targets that should be included in a new global agreement on biodiversity protec-

tion, promoted as part of "nature-based solutions" to climate change, and backed by the UN's current decade for ecosystem restoration.

Our targets include:

- Keeping intact remaining undrained peatlands, and by 2030 at least 100,000 square km rewetted by blocking drains to lock in their carbon, with five times more restored by 2050.

- With half the world's coastal mangroves lost, mostly to aquaculture and coastal infrastructure, restoration of 20% of this "blue carbon" by 2030.

- All remaining free-flowing rivers to be protected from dams, levees, sand mining and other impediments.

- Tidal flats to be increased by at least 10% by 2030, by removing sea walls and restoring supplies of silt from dammed rivers.

- Prioritizing stopover sites along the great international flyways of migrating water birds, to secure at least half of the 7,000 critically important sites identified by ornithologists by 2030.

Protecting and restoring wetlands can be challenging. A dam or polluting factory upstream on a river can destroy lakes, floodplains, marshes, fisheries and deltas all the way to the ocean. Many of those rivers cross national boundaries.

That is why international targets and accountability are vital - and

also why the benefits of action, for climate, for biodiversity, for human livelihoods and ecosystem protection, will flood across boundaries too.

Some countries are leading the way. The Scottish, Irish and German governments have peatland restoration strategies. Costa Rica is committed to protecting 100% of its coastal wetlands. US Rivers in 2020. Indonesia is bringing back mangroves for coastal protection and rewetting its forested peat swamps.

We are working with African governments to safeguard and restore around a million hectares of mangroves. And the Asian Development Bank has launched a Regional Flyway Initiative to protect stopovers for migrating water birds in East Asia.

Safeguarding and restoring wetlands is our last, best defence against climate change and biodiversity loss. It will save species, preserve and clean up water supplies, improve fisheries, revive ecosystems, keep carbon out of the air, prevent fires and safeguard billions of people from the impacts of climate change.

In Glasgow, more than 100 nations signed up to ending deforestation. We call for a similar effort at the UN biodiversity conference in Kunming this year to turn the tide for the world's wet places.



# Statutory remedies for unfair termination of employment contract

By Telesphor Magobe

**L**AST week we talked about unfair termination of employment, which is very common in the workplace.

We particularly said that employees retrenched on the grounds of operational requirements of their employer may be ignorant of their labour rights and could end up losing their rights.

In the circumstances, it is up to an aggrieved employee to seek legal aid and relief. Both employees working in the public and private sectors face similar challenges when it comes to unfair termination of employment.

Today, let us briefly look at remedies for unfair termination of employment as provided for in Section 40 of the Employment and Labour Relations Act, 2004 as amended 2019.

Subsection (1) states that where an arbitrator or Labour Court finds that there was unfair termination of employ-

ment, they may reinstate the employee from the date of termination without loss of remuneration, re-engage him or her on any terms that they may decide or pay compensation of not less than 12 months' remuneration.

Subsection (2) provides that a compensation order is in addition to, and not a substitute for, any other money the employee may be entitled to in terms of any law or agreement.

Subsection (3) stipulates further that where the employer decides not to reinstate or re-engage the employee, then the latter is entitled to 12-month salary compensation in addition to other dues and benefits from the date of unfair termination of employment to the date of final payment.

In *Faima Siraji v Mbeya Urban Water and Sewerage Authority* (No CMA 42/2015), the High Court of Tanzania (Revision No 5 of 2020) dealt with a labour dispute case, whose applicant had prayed for compensation as her fixed term contract was not renewed as expected, which she claimed

amounted to unfair termination of contract.



amounted to unfair termination of contract.

The Court, referring to a legal principle settled in *Good Samaritan v Joseph Robert Sevari Munthu No 165/2011* [2013] LCCD 1 held that: "When an employer terminates a fixed term contract, the loss of salary by employee of the remaining period of the unexpired term is a 'direct foreseeable and reasonable' consequence of the employer's wrongful action."

"Therefore, in this case probable consequence of the applicant's action was loss of salary for the remaining period of the employment contract which was 21 months..."

This was also the position in another case of *Benda Kasanda Ndassi v Makufuli Motors Ltd* (Revision No 25 of 2011) in which the Court held that: "In the circumstances when termination is unfair and is of a fixed term contract, the award of compensation of the remaining period is appropriate."

So, the Court held that the applicant was entitled to 34 months compensation for termination of employment of a fixed term contract in addition to a one-month's salary in lieu of notice, annual leave and subsistence allowance.

Today I would also like to briefly look at sick leave, maternity leave and paternity leave. Some employees may be familiar with these terms, but they may not know what they are entitled to in such cases.

Section 32 provides for a right to sick leave. Any employee is entitled to sick leave for at least 126 days in any leave cycle. For the first 63 days, a sick employee is entitled to be paid full salary and the remaining 63 days he or she is entitled to be paid half salary.

In this case, the sick employee is required to produce a medical certificate issued by a registered doctor or any other doctor accepted by the employer, whose acceptance shouldn't be unreasonably withheld.

Maternity leave is provided for in Section 33. Subsection (1) states that: "An employee shall give notice to the employer of her intention to take maternity leave at least

3 months before the expected date of birth and such a notice shall be supported by a medical certificate."

Subsection (2) further provides that an employee may begin maternity leave—at any time from four weeks before the expected date and on an earlier date if a doctor recommends it for her health or that of her unborn child.

No employee is required to work within six weeks of the birth of her child unless a doctor certifies that she is fit to do so. The law also provides that an employee may resume work on the same terms and conditions of employment at the end of her maternity leave. It states that the employer shouldn't require or permit a pregnant employee or an employee who is nursing a child to work and risk her health or the health of her child.

An employee is entitled also within any leave cycle to at least 84 days paid maternity leave or 100 days' paid maternity leave if she gives birth to more than one child at the same time. Likewise, an employee is entitled to an additional 84 days' paid maternity leave if the child dies within a year of birth in

the leave cycle.

So, the employer is only obliged to grant paid leave for 4 terms of maternity leave to an employee. Where an employee is breastfeeding a child, the employer is required to allow her to breastfeed the child up to two hours per day during working hours.

Section 34 provides for paternity and other forms of leave. Subsection (1) states that, during any leave cycle, a male employee is entitled to at least 3 days paid paternity leave if—the leave is taken within 7 days of the birth of his child and at least 4 days paid leave for the sickness or death of the employee's child, the death of the employee's spouse, parent, grandparent, grandchild or sibling.

I hope by now you have an idea of statutory remedies for unfair termination of employment and what an employee is entitled to in cases of sick leave, maternity leave and paternity leave.

Today's proverb: "He who knows nothing, doubts nothing."

**The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at [tmagobe@gmail.com](mailto:tmagobe@gmail.com)**

# Gender rights activists laud Samia, upbeat about 50/50 parity by 2030

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

**L**EADING gender rights activists in the country are happy with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's one year in the office, expressing hope that Tanzania is likely to perform better under her stewardship in the ongoing efforts to achieve 50/50 gender parity by 2030.

The Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP) recently took stock of the president's performance and noted positive trend in a number of aspects including nomination of more women in public office, including those that previously appeared reserved for men.

President Samia took office as the Head of State, on 19 March 2021, following the death of the former late John Pombe Magufuli. She has since embarked on a number of reforms in all spheres, attracting applause from actors such as democracy stakeholders, diplomats, investors, press freedom advocates and others.

Presenting a paper themed "TGNP dialogue on 8760 hours of the 6th phase government: Let's reflect, celebrate and strategize; equality today for sustainable tomorrow # Women in Action" in Dar es Salaam recently, TGNP Board Member and Gender Consultant Mary Nsemwa said the president's one year in office is a milestone for gender rights movement in Tanzania.

"We see her as a champion of the national 50/50 campaign going by her efforts including appointment of more women leadership in leadership and decision-making organs at different levels in government," she said.

She said the women movement in Tanzania has confidence in the current leadership and believes the country will make strides towards achieving the set targets ahead of time.

As an indication that the government has really committed itself to ensuring gender equality, equity and women's empowerment is attained in the country, it is committing substantial amounts of money towards that end, she added.

"For example, it has been reported that the government has already provided 2.22trn/- to 5.5 million women through 61 established women's funds," she said.

Nsemwa said Samia being President of the United Republic of Tanzania is in itself an achievement towards attaining the target of 50/50 gender parity, an agenda which TGNP as part of the transformative feminist movement has fought for in Tanzania and globally.

She said Tanzania has agreed to implement the gender commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) specifically goal 5 and Beijing Platform for Action.

The activist added that President Samia, who is the first female President in East Africa and the only current female President in the SADC region, the 5th female President in Africa and the 21st female President in the world, has so far demonstrated gender responsive and inclusive leadership, and that progress is being witnessed in various areas.

However, she noted that the issue not just having a woman in the highest office in the land, it is important to look into the quality of her leadership.

"Her leadership style and dedication to gender equality has been demonstrated in action. This has been generally welcomed. Many people who had a chance to comment about the 100 days in



Gender rights activists in a group photo after a dialogue on President Samia Suluhu Hassan's one year in office held in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo/Daniel Semberya

office as Head of State, have shared positive comments including her being a listener and inclusive of different groups of people namely women, youth, elderly, politicians, civil society organizations, religious leaders and activists," she said.

"President Samia has echoed commitment to fulfill the vision outlined in the Beijing Declaration and attain the Global Agenda 2030 targets for 50/50 gender parity in leadership and decision-making positions."

Nsemwa said the President's appointments of government leadership positions signals determination to enhance efficiency, political inclusion and gender parity at different levels of governance. She added that more and more women are occupying previously male-dominated positions and sectors, citing that for the first time, Tanzania has witnessed and celebrated a female Clerk of the National Assembly.

"Director of Presidential Communications at State House is also a woman," she said.

The activist noted that some of the ministries which have always been held by male ministers are now under custody female ministers. These include Ministry of Defense and that of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation.

Nsemwa added that despite the political will and enabling environment to promote gender equality at global and national levels, gender disparities continue to be a major challenge.

"There are many inequalities based on gender, class, age, ethnicity, and location (rural or urban) across all spheres of life namely s social, economic, political, and legal, which mostly affect women and youth," she said.

She said women population is at 51.3 per cent yet they are not the main contributors to the country's economy. Women account for 52 per cent of the working age population (15 years

and over), but labour force participation rate is higher among males (89.4 per cent) than among females (84.2 per cent).

"Women thus constitute a greater proportion of the economically inactive population. Of the 13.3 per cent of the population in this category, 8.2 per cent is women and 5.1 per cent men. The gender gap in labour force participation increases with rising education level," she said.

Although the government allocates 10 per cent of councils' revenues towards women, youth and people with disabilities, only a few benefits and the majority are left out struggling without employment and hustling in the informal sector, she said.

The activist added that women participation in leadership and decision-making positions is still low due to low education levels, lack of confidence and squeezed opportunities.

"The President has committed to improving the education system in the country by reviewing the Education and Training Policy of 2014 and the education curriculum to fit in with the current context," she said.

"We hope this review will be inclusive and will give priority to girls and children with disabilities so that they can benefit from their basic right to quality education."

She said the President's directive to allow pregnant girls to continue with schooling is highly welcomed and has attracted US\$500 million from the World Bank whose target is to benefit more than 6.5 million students without discrimination and shall include girls who drop out of school for various reasons, including pregnancy.

Speaking to women in Dodoma, President Samia reiterated commitment to ensure effective implementation to meet the target of 95 per cent and 85 per cent water supply in urban areas and rural areas, respectively.

To achieve this, Nsemwa advised that the government should address the structural obstacles and social-cultural norms that tend to restrict women's access and management of water resources in many rural areas.

Despite all the achievements attained by the government in the last one year, the activists urged the government to do the following among others:

To maintain effective and institutionalized systems for monitoring and evaluation of all development projects and programmes to safeguard gender-equitable benefits and outcomes; to support the civil society organizations to strengthen the fight against all forms of gender-based violence (GBV) including sextortion in the learning institutions, workplaces, and social service delivery points.

Also, concerted efforts needed to sustain and increase the numbers of women in leadership positions in order to ensure that gender issues and specific issues of women and other marginalized groups are taken into account in planning and budgeting.

Lilian Liundi, TGNP Executive Director commended the President for her initiatives to ensure gender equality is attained in the country at all levels, noting that immediately after coming to office, she clearly said that gender equality was her government's agenda.

"Gender equality is development; it is unbecoming to have over 50 per cent of the population not participating fully in productive activities. If this remains unchanged, development automatically slows down" Liundi said.



# What is alopecia? It's no laughing matter for millions of Black women

By Danita Peoples

**A**WAY from the recriminations over what could be perceived as a mean-spirited jibe and a disproportionate response, many people will sympathize with Pinkett Smith. As millions of women in the U.S. will attest, hair loss is no laughing matter.

The Conversation asked dermatologist Danita Peoples of Wayne State University's School of Medicine about alopecia and why certain forms of it can disproportionately affect Black women.

## What is alopecia?

Alopecia is a medical word that refers to hair loss generally. And there are descriptors added which can refer to where the hair loss is occurring, or to the cause of it. Traction alopecia, for example, is hair loss from trauma or chronic inflammatory changes to the hair follicles.

## What causes alopecia?

Traction alopecia happens when there is trauma to the scalp, where the hair is being pulled or rubbed on a regular basis, causing inflammation around the hair follicles. This can lead to hair loss or thinning.

Alopecia areata describes hair loss to a particular area. It has different levels of severity, so there might be just a coin-sized area of hair loss on the scalp, or it could affect large areas. It can occur any place on the body.

Or it might result in complete hair loss on the scalp, alopecia totalis. Some people lose eyebrows or see a thinning of their eyelashes.

People can even have alopecia universalis, which is a loss of hair on the entire body.

Alopecia areata is considered an "immune-mediated" type of hair loss. The immune system is attacking the hair follicles. It has to do with T cells, the important white blood cells in

the immune system.

And then other autoimmune disorders can have alopecia associated with them. This is the form of alopecia that Jada Pinkett Smith has said she has.

Lupus is an autoimmune disorder that can lead to hair loss. One type is systemic lupus erythematosus. Another type, discoid lupus erythematosus, primarily affects the skin and can cause hair loss with scarring on the scalp.

Thyroid abnormalities can be related to hair loss as well. In fact, when patients come to me with hair loss, the first test that I may order is a thyroid study.

## Who does it affect?

Anyone can get alopecia. Alopecia areata can show up at any age, from children to adults, and both men and women. But it's more likely to affect African Americans than white or Asian Americans. About 1 million people in the U.S. have alopecia areata.

Traction alopecia can affect people in certain professions, like ballerinas, who wear their hair up in buns all the time. The pressure and friction from sports headgear, like helmets or baseball caps, can also cause hair loss. And in some parts of northern Europe, where it is common for people to pull their hair back tight on a regular basis, there are higher rates of traction alopecia. Traction alopecia affects one-third of women of African descent, making it the most common type of alopecia affecting Black women.

## Why is traction alopecia so common among Black women?

That is due to certain hair styling practices that Black women use on their hair - wearing tight weaves or extensions, straightening with heat, that sort of thing. Hair is a big deal among African American women in a way that it isn't for others. When I was growing up, my older relatives told us girls that our hair was our "crowning glory." And they made a big deal about us keeping our hair looking stylish and well groomed, and that usually meant straightening it.

But I believe there's less pressure than there used to be for Black women to keep our hair straightened, in



US actor Will Smith (L) and actress Jada Pinkett Smith (R) attend the 27th Critics Choice Awards at the Fairmont Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, California, USA, 13 March 2022. EPA-EFE/DAVID SWANSON

the workplace or elsewhere.

## How is alopecia treated?

It depends on the cause. There are injected or topical corticosteroids for alopecia areata. If it's due to a nutritional deficiency, like iron or protein, obviously you simply need to correct the deficiencies with supplements or by changing the diet. When it is caused by traction or discoid lupus, if you don't treat the inflammation on the

scalp soon enough, the hair loss can become permanent.

When it comes to traction, though, it's much more about eliminating the practices that cause the problem in the first place. What's happening now is more people are aware of the downsides of chemical or heat applications to straighten the hair and are using those damaging processes less.

One thing that may help is the CROWN Act, legislation introduced last year, which the U.S. House passed on March 18, 2022. That would make it illegal to discriminate against people wearing natural styles, such as afros and braids, so I am hopeful that it will contribute to a lot less traction alopecia in the future.

DM/ML

# Chinese cities gather pace in facilitating rural e-commerce

By Zhang Yikai, Ye Chuanzeng,

**I**N order to better leverage e-commerce to sell high-quality agricultural products to more consumers and make logistics services more efficient and cost-effective, various cities in China have carried out helpful explorations to enhance brand building and improve logistics system.

In recent years, flourishing e-commerce in vast rural areas across China has served as a new platform for the circulation of agricultural products, broadened the channels for farmers to increase their income, and stimulated the potential for rural vitalization.

As a matter of fact, many farmers have had trouble selling their high-quality agricultural products online.

Wuchang rice, a specialty of Wuchang city, northeast China's Heilongjiang province, is one of China's protected geographical indication (GI) products that enjoy great popularity with consumers. However, Yu Dianhong, a resident in Lujia village, Minle Korean ethnic township, Wuchang city, found it not as easy as he thought it would be when he started to sell home-grown rice online a few years ago.

Many consumers would question whether his rice was actually from Wuchang city. To assure online shoppers of the authenticity of his products, Yu often needed to show them a photo of his ID card.

For Yu, things started to change in 2015, when Wuchang city created a website to publicize information about products under the city's rice brands and established a rice traceability and anti-counterfeiting system based on agricultural Internet of Things (IoT).

Only locally grown rice up to standard can be included into the system and obtain a traceability and anti-counterfeiting mark and QR code, according to Yu.



Volunteers help pick and sell strawberries via livestreaming platform at a planting base in Banjing township, Rugao city, east China's Jiangsu province, Feb. 24, 2022. File photo

"The website can help consumers easily confirm the authenticity of my products. And after scanning the QR code on the packaging, they can find out which village the rice was grown, who grew it, what variety it belongs to and what the quality report says," Yu said, adding that the sales of his products have more than doubled after

the establishment of the system.

Brand building brings rural e-commerce onto the fast lane of development. By making efforts to continuously promote the construction of regional public brands of agricultural products, cities can increase the appeal of local characteristic agricultural products and

facilitate large-scale production, standardized management and industrialized operation, eventually improving the quality, efficiency and market competitiveness of rural e-commerce.

Besides brand building, smoothing the "last kilometer" in logistics services is also crucial for fresh vegetables, fruits and other products with strong seasonality and short shelf life.

In Zigui county, central China's Hubei province, electric vehicles running on rails provide a solution to the transportation of fresh navel oranges grown in high mountains and steep slopes.

At the touch of a button, the electric vehicles can move to an orchard below the slopes from the roadside. After farmers load boxes of navel oranges onto the vehicles, they carry the fruits up hills along the rails within several minutes.

"Our base produces 250,000 kg of navel oranges a year. The transportation cost per kilogram of the fruit used to be 0.24 yuan, but it has now been cut to 0.1 yuan, which means a reduction of 35,000 yuan in total a year," said Liu Guohua, manager of the base of a navel orange cooperative located in Yandengbao village, Guojiaba township, Zigui county.

Though nestled in high mountains and unsuitable for farming, Yandengbao village is an ideal place for the growth of navel oranges. However, due to poor transportation infrastructure, local farmers had to rely on manual labor for the transportation

of navel oranges, Liu recalled, who finds the electric vehicles much more convenient.

In 2019, the village carried out electrification transformation of local power equipment. It set up a power grid and later built two electric tracks with a total length of 250 meters between orchards and roads.

"It took us 20 minutes to carry navel oranges up and down the mountains in the past, and now the electric vehicles can transport navel oranges from orchard to the roadside in four minutes," Liu noted, adding that they no longer need to worry about safety hazards during manual transportation.

In Zigui, there are 588 routes for on-rail vehicles stretching 119,300 meters in length, which help transport navel oranges from more than 2,667 hectares of orchards in mountains to the roadside.

After the navel oranges are transported out of the mountains, the next step is to take them from villages to the market, for which Zigui county mobilized local express delivery companies, e-commerce enterprises, and rural comprehensive transportation service stations and built a village-level logistics service system.

Zigui's navel orange industry has formed a virtuous circle with high-quality products, sufficient logistics services and a good market, pointed out Liu Haotian, an official with the e-commerce office under the bureau of science and technology, economy and information technology of Zigui county. *People's Daily*

## 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 UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



## 'Residential address system key in scaling up country's social and economic developments'

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Residential Addresses and Postcode System has been described as the most important as everyone's address will be identified, be it a working place, residence or business area. It identifies the exact place where a person lives, the place where his or her business or office is located.

Worth 28bn/- the system operates by following the name of the street and street, house or building number and postcode—a special digital system that identifies the area to deliver postal services where in Tanzania it starts at the county, district, regional and regional levels.

In Tanzania, residential address project is being implemented by the Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology, in collaboration with President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements, with the aim of facilitating communication, delivery of government services to citizens and the implementation of social, economic and administrative activities.

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) post communications unit manager, Haruni Lemanya described the system as key in scaling up country's socio-economic developments.

He said that residential addresses will make the country easily accessible

and enable people to participate in the digital economy.

He said that the system makes them do business with each other and abroad as long as the goods can be sent where one is or the goods can be reached where they are. It enables every person to have a real residential address unlike in the past where the issue of addresses was an individual choice.

With the system every business registered in Tanzania will have a real address, the identity of the people living in the country will be simplified, also the registration of property, business, births and deaths will be improved, emergency services, such as police, fire and ambulances will be able to identify emergency areas and access them more quickly and easily.

Visitors in that matter will be able to identify where they are going more easily rather than constantly asking for directions, the expert said.

According to expert, residential addresses placement is protected by international procedures that have been ratified by member states of the International Postal Union (IPU), whereby appropriate standards should be observed by all member states. Tanzania has a Residential Address System Manual issued by the Office of the President-PMO-RALG which outlines the steps and procedures to be followed when setting up Residential Addresses in the country. Thus Street placement standards comply with international



and national procedures as they dictate. The system is in line with the International Postal Code (SAP2), International Postal Service (PAPU) and Global Postal Union.

"All these entities are also the basis for cooperation between global postal service providers, which helps to build a reliable global network that ensures the delivery of modern postal services," he said, stressing: This process is important to consider as it eliminates the potential for conflict among local stakeholders.

"The issue of naming streets and roads is very important to be participatory as roads are public infrastructure; and Residential addresses are an issue that affects the whole community," Lemanya stressed.

The process of naming streets and Roads will start at the local / sub-district level and continue at the Village Level, the Ward Development Committee, the Standing Committee on Urban and Environmental Planning and finally the Council of Councillors. The Residential Address Manual stipulates that the Council will be responsible for providing information to all stakeholders on the approved local names and inclusion in the Permanent Register of Roads / Local Names in the respective Councils.

At the working meeting with the Regional Commission-

ers in Dodoma in February this year, President Samia Suluhu Hassan also stressed that it is important that citizens are involved in every step of the Residential Address project.

"So if we properly engage the people, this exercise will be easier and less expensive than we had hoped for," stressed President Samia Suluhu.

In many places, especially in urban areas, local names and roads depend more on the popularity of the person, object or geography of the place, for example when in an elevated area they can call their area 'Kilimani' the area where a famous sailor lives given the name 'sailor' and so on; in addition, if one resident starts building as the first in the respective neighbourhoods they may decide to give the neighbourhood a name, such as 'Komba Street'. In addition to the usual procedure, the Residential Address Book has set out a procedure that follows government directives on how to provide street and street names.

The procedure for obtaining local names is in people's power through the Local Government Authorities as directed in the Address Guide.

Ubungo District Commissioner Kheri James said his district adheres to the procedure used to get local names as

outlined in the guidelines where the street name will come from the people through the relevant local assembly or neighbourhood.

"Some people may choose a person's name based on helping the community such as building a road and at the same time with him or her being a local resident or neighbourhood," he said.

The government's desire is to see the residential address system completed in all regions by next month, to pave the way for the Population and Housing Census.

The system is also available through the mobile application called NAPA Mobile App which integrates all the information on human settlements, government and private office buildings, roads, routes, names of facilities that provide social services such as hospitals, schools, and dispensaries.

## WHO and govt working to further improve TB diagnosis and treatment

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is set to further improve the diagnosis and treatment of TB and other chronic lung diseases (CLDs) such as asthma, COPD, allergies, lung cancer after a new initiative to integrate community-based TB prevention and care with detection of chronic lung conditions showed impactful results in Tanga Region.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health supported the pilot project in Tanga as part of its global effort to integrate community TB activities and chronic lung disease for early detection of other CLDs in line with the WHO ENGAGE TB patient-centered approach.

Speaking during the commemoration of World TB Day in Tanga Region recently which themed: 'Invest to End TB', Dr Christine Muanhu, WHO Medical Officer lead-

ing the Communicable Diseases Cluster said the positive results of the pilot project facilitated early and accurate detection of chronic lung disease including TB, resulting in improved treatment outcomes and patient quality of life.

She said if the initiative is scaled up countrywide more patients with chronic lung diseases can be appropriately diagnosed and managed.

"Through this project over the two-year period, over 1,045 cases of chronic bronchitis were identified, and a few possible cases of lung cancer were referred for further management at specialist hospitals," said one of the key expectations of the pilot project was increased diagnostic accuracy of chronic lung diseases that were previously misdiagnosed. The project was conducted in three health facilities in Tanga region where over 1,045 cases of chronic bronchitis were accurately diag-

nosed, whereas prior to the project, almost 33 percent of chronic bronchitis and upper respiratory tract infections (URTI) were misdiagnosed as asthma.

She said WHO provided technical support and procured the spirometry equipment required for improved quality of diagnosis of CLDs. Existing TB M&E tools and training packages were revised and adapted to include new elements for CLD, and training community and facility health workers to use the screening tools were conducted. Financial support was provided by the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation.

Dr Tiget Ketsela Mengestu, WHO Tanzania Country Director. "This is a smart investment to make since it facilitates not only early detection of chronic lung diseases but ensures correct diagnosis. It is patient-centered because patients will start using the medicine for the right diagnosis early, increasing

chances of recovery," said

This year's theme on TB Day was 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives' to convey the urgent need to invest resources to ramp up the fight against TB and achieve the commitments to end TB made by global leaders. During the climax of the WTD in Tanga, the World Health Organisation Representative in Tanzania handed over a newly procured spirometry machine to the Tanga RHMT.

Tanzania is one of the 30 countries with the highest burden of tuberculosis (TB) in the world. According to WHO, 133 000 people (222 per 100 000 population) fell ill with TB and 26,800 died from the disease in 2020.

World TB Day is an opportunity to focus on the people affected by this disease and to call for accelerated action to end TB suffering and deaths, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Dr Mary Bendera from Ngami-

ani health centre in Tanga city, which was selected as pilot area on chronic lung diseases said previously, most of the patients who were showing signs of TB, were given TB dose, but through the screening program, services have now improved.

"We thank WHO for providing us training on TB screening and treatment, we have understood well how to screen and differentiate TB and other lung diseases for proper dose provision. Through screening, we have found that some of them do not have exactly TB but other lung diseases," he said.

She said in the screening, those who are found having chronic lung diseases were referred to the regional hospital for further treatment.

Elisei Magiri, medical doctor at Tanga Regional Hospital said there are several lung related diseases apart from TB and these include asthma, cardiac and others.

"Most of the people who experience chronic coughing directly assume that it is TB, but with the programme, public awareness has been conducted and many of them are now aware of the difference and the importance of seeking for medical support from hospital once they fall ill," he said.

He said health specialists themselves have benefited from the project by increasing awareness on how to expand screening to identify the major diseases facing a lung related patient.

"Through the screening we conducted, we found some people who were experiencing chronic coughing who had TB but others diagnosed with cardiac challenges, so you can see the importance of screening before using medicines, because you can take TB dose while you are suffering from other diseases," he explained.

"More public awareness is still needed by engaging players in the

grassroots, increasing screening equipment and treatment so as to fight chronic lung diseases in the region and the country at large. We thank the government and WHO for providing us special training to further help us improve service provision," he added.

He said that not every cough is caused by cigarette smoking, dust or anything, but the public should seek medical support once they experience long coughing.

TB remains the world's most deadly infectious disease claiming more than a million lives each year with enormous impacts on families and communities. In 2020, an estimated 9.9 million people fell ill with TB worldwide while 1.5 million people died from TB.

In 2019, there were an estimated 208,000 TB related deaths among people living with HIV (PLHIV) globally, accounting for approximately one-third of all HIV-related deaths.

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

NAIROBI

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 rose six- to eight times more than 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 said the study's focus was specifically on the role of agriculture in influencing malaria, and how practices can be adapted to curb malaria rather than fuel it.

He believes that antimalarial interventions such as medicines 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."



He 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 diagnosis and treatment 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, said 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, said Apat.

"Adoption of malaria vector control practices at scale in these settings would include personal protection using insecticide-treated bed nets, improved housing designs and screening of windows, doors and eaves, among others," he said.

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 actions 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.



# Battle between UN chief and US envoy ends in decisive blow with American veto

## UNITED NATIONS

**W**HEN Madeleine Albright was nominated to be the first female US Secretary of State back in 1997, some apparently questioned whether “a woman could go toe-to-toe with world leaders.”

“Madeleine quickly quashed those misguided doubts,” says Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a tribute to Albright, who passed away last week at the age of 84. “There was simply no doubt that, in any room, she was as tough as anyone and often tougher. That said, it wasn’t always easy.”

Blinken says she reportedly walked into her first meeting of the UN Security Council, as the new U.S. ambassador, and quipped: “15 seats and 14 men, all looking at me.”

But when she saw the plaque at her seat that read THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, her nerves vanished: “I thought, if I do not speak today, the voice of the United States will not be heard. When I finally did speak, it was the first time that I represented the country of my naturalization, the place where I belonged.”

Albright, known for her courageous stand on international diplomacy, was also a feminist and a strong advocate of gender empowerment. When she campaigned for Hillary Clinton, who was running for the US presidency in 2016, Albright famously told a gathering of potential women voters: “There is a special place in hell for women who don’t

help other women”.

But when she was the US envoy to the United Nations (1993-1997), Albright had a rousing, long running battle with UN Secretary-General (UNSG) Boutros Boutros-Ghali, a former deputy prime minister of Egypt.

The independence of the Secretary-General is a longstanding myth perpetuated mostly outside the United Nations. But as an international civil servant, he is expected to shed his political loyalties at the UN’s revolving door at the entrance to the Secretariat building, when he takes office, and more importantly, never seek or receive instructions from any governments.

But virtually every single Secretary-General—nine at last count—has played ball with the world’s major powers in violation of Article 100 of the UN charter.

Boutros-Ghali, the only Secretary-General to be denied a second term because of a negative US veto, and who passed away in February 2016, unveiled the insidious political maneuvering that goes inside the glass house by the East River.

**That single negative vote was cast by Albright.**

The US, which preaches the concept of majority rule to the outside world, exercised its veto even though Boutros-Ghali had 14 of the 15 votes in the Security Council, including the votes of the other four permanent members of the Council, namely the UK, France, Russia and China.



Madeleine Albright.

port to succeed in my job (as Secretary-General), Boutros-Ghali says. But Christopher refused to respond.

Boutros-Ghali also recounted how Christopher had tried to convince him to publicly declare that he will not run for a second term as secretary-General. But he refused.

“Surely, you cannot dismiss the Secretary-General of the United Nations by a unilateral diktat of the United States. What about the rights of the other (14) Security Council members?” he asked Christopher. But Christopher “mumbled something inaudible and hung up, deeply displeased”.

One of his “heated disputes” with Albright was over the appointment of a new executive director for UNICEF back in 1995. It was a dispute “that seemed to irritate Albright more than any previous issue between us”.

President Bill Clinton wanted William Foege, a former head of the U.S. Centres for Disease Control, to be appointed UNICEF chief to succeed James Grant.

“I recalled,” says Boutros-Ghali, “that President Clinton had pressed me to appoint him (Foege) when we had met in the Oval Office in May 1994.”

“I replied to her (Albright) as I had then to President Clinton: that while Dr. Foege was without doubt a distinguished person, unfortunately, I could not comply,” writes Boutros-Ghali.

He also told Clinton that he was personally and publicly committed to increasing the number of women in the top ranks of the United Nations, and UNICEF would particularly benefit from a woman’s leadership.

Since Belgium and Finland had already put forward “outstanding” women candidates - and since the United States had refused to pay its U.N. dues and was also making “disparaging” remarks about the world body - “there was no longer automatic acceptance by other nations that the director of UNICEF must inevitably be an American man or woman.”

“The U.S. should select a woman candidate,” he told Albright, “and then I will see what I can do,” since the appointment involved consultation with the 36-member UNICEF Executive Board.

“Albright rolled her eyes and made a face, repeating what had become her standard expression of frustration with me,” he wrote.

When the Clinton administration kept pressing Foege’s candidature, Boutros-Ghali says that “many countries in the UNICEF Board were angry and (told) me to tell the United States to go to hell.”

The U.S. administration eventually submitted an alternate woman candidate: Carol Bellamy, a former director of the Peace Corps.

Although Elizabeth Rehn of Finland received 15 votes to Bellamy’s 12 in a straw poll, Boutros-Ghali said he appealed to the Board president to convince the members to achieve consensus on Bellamy so that the United States could continue a monopoly it held since UNICEF was created in 1947.

And so, Boutros-Ghali ensured that the post of UNICEF executive director will remain the intellectual birthright of the Americans for the last 75 years—and even to this date. **IPS**

Boutros-Ghali, who held the post of UNSG from 1992-1996, continued a strong contentious relationship with Albright.

In its tribute to Albright, the New York Times wrote last week that she was largely unknown until Bill Clinton took office as president in 1993 and named her chief delegate to the United Nations.

Over a four-year period, the Times said, she became a tough advocate for the global interests of the United States. But she and Clinton “clashed repeatedly with Boutros-Ghali over peacekeeping operations in Somalia, Rwanda and the Bosnian civil war.”

In his 368-page book titled “Unvanquished: A US-UN Saga” (Random House, 1999), Boutros-Ghali provided an insider’s view of how the United Nations and its Secretary-General were manipulated by the Organization’s most powerful member: the United States.

In late 1996, Albright, on instructions from the US State Department, was fixated on a single issue that had dominated her life for months: the “elimination” of Boutros-Ghali, according to the book.

UN Under-Secretary-General Joseph Verner Reed, an American, is quoted as saying that he had heard Albright say: “I will make Boutros think I am his friend; then I will break his legs.” After meticulously observing her, Boutros-Ghali concluded that Albright had accomplished her diplomatic mission with skill.

“She had carried out her campaign with determination, letting pass no opportunity to demolish my authority and tarnish my image, all the while showing a serene face, wearing a friendly smile, and repeating expressions of friendship and admiration,” he writes.

“I recalled what a Hindu scholar once said to me: there is no difference between diplomacy and deception,” wrote Boutros-Ghali, in his book.

During his tenure, Boutros-Ghali pointed out that although he was accused by Washington of being “too independent” of the US, he eventually did everything in his power to please the Americans. But still the US was the only country to say “no” to a second five-year term for Boutros-Ghali.

The former UN chief recalls a meeting in which he tells the then US Secretary of State Warren Christopher that many Americans had been appointed to UN jobs “at Washington’s request over the objections of other UN member states.”

“I had done so, I said, because I wanted American sup-

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 257 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

**WORD-FIT**

3 letters EVE, ZEN, TUG,  
4 letters AFAR, MENU, MEAT,  
5 letters FRESH, STAGE, TUBER, ADOWA, VOICE, BELOW, ELOPE  
6 letters FRANCE, ARDENT, ENDURE, RAYGUN, EATERY, ENAMEL,  
7 letters MEGABIT  
8 letters OSSIFIED  
9 letters RINGOUZEL, HONEY MOON

**CROSSWORD**

**CLUES: Across**

1 former Tanzania’s president from Chato  
5 country speaking English and maori  
7 the area of variation between limits in a particular scale  
9 a dish of meat and vegetables cooked slowly  
11 a person who is in charge of a Newspaper  
13 the place where one lives  
14 a mischievous child  
15 Bamako is her Capital city  
17 grumble  
18 two sides of a leaf of a book  
20 the time from noon to evening

**CLUES: Down**

1 a king or queen  
2 a wild white or yellow flower, especially a daisy  
3 burned materials to produce heat  
4 make less powerful  
6 lowest in rank  
8 geogaw  
10 a charge payable to use road  
12 word meaning you exist  
16 once more  
17 Village Jesus turned water to wine  
19 an immortal act

**SOLUTIONS**

GRABBLE, KENYA, ROBE, NOUN, AGENT, EUG, BUAHOMAGE, BEMBA, YONOTRY, KATANGA, MASTEMU, AILSTAIN, ADELLE, DUFF, GEM, LI, BYA, AMOK, I OASIS, MASSES, AVERLETT, N CAREER, JUNEME, UNIFORM, RAIDER, OFAYE, SWAT, MAT

By Magezi, 0755-429-240, felixmagezi@gmail.com

**RADIO One** **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATU - 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 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.30 AM BRAND TALK 09.00 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.00 AM DJ SHOW 11.30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 12.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 12.30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHI 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.30 AM BRAND TALK 09.00 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.00 AM DJ SHOW 11.30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 12.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 12.30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHI 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.30 AM BRAND TALK 09.00 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.00 AM DJ SHOW 11.30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 12.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 12.30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHI 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.30 AM BRAND TALK 09.00 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.00 AM DJ SHOW 11.30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 12.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 12.30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHI 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.30 AM BRAND TALK 09.00 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.00 AM DJ SHOW 11.30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 12.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 12.30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHI 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.30 AM BRAND TALK 09.00 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.00 AM DJ SHOW 11.30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.40 AM HIZI NAZO 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 12.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 12.30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

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Radio One



## BUSINESS

## Stanbic loses bid to challenge stamp duty

KAMPALA

TAX Appeals Tribunal has ruled that performance bonds, bank guarantees and advance payment bonds are security bonds because they apply where an institution undertakes to make good any loss, damage or liability incurred by a party caused by the



**Advance payment bonds which assessed [Shs2.9b], performance bonds assessed [Shs2.6b] and generic guarantees assessed [Shs800m] were considered as indemnity bonds. Therefore, the total stamp duty payable by the applicant in respect of the said indemnity bonds is Shs6.3b.**

issuer of the bond or by some other person's conduct.

Performance bonds make a defaulting party accountable for its default enabling an aggrieved party to claim.

According to the tribunal, a bank guarantees to pay a third party who is a beneficiary on breach of contract or default on performance by a party to the contract while advance payment bonds are meant to guarantee the proper and faithful performance of contracts and undertake to make good the payment of the advance payment in case of breach of contract.

"An indemnity bond also allows for indemnity where there is a claim for

loss but may not necessitate proof of loss. The parties do not go to court to prove the loss. The amount to be paid or limit is set at the time the bond is executed," the tribunal ruled.

The three-member panel comprising Dr Asa Mugenyi (chairperson), Ms Christine Katwe and Mr George Mugerwa (members) unanimously ruled that Stanbic Bank Holdings was liable to pay Shs6.3m to Uganda Revenue Authority (URA).

"Advance payment bonds which assessed [Shs2.9b], performance bonds assessed [Shs2.6b] and generic guarantees assessed [Shs800m] were considered as indemnity bonds. Therefore, the total stamp duty payable by the applicant in respect of the said indemnity bonds is Shs6.3b," the panel ruled.

Advance payment guarantees proper and faithful performance of the contracts and undertakes to make good the payment of the advance payment in case of breach of contract.

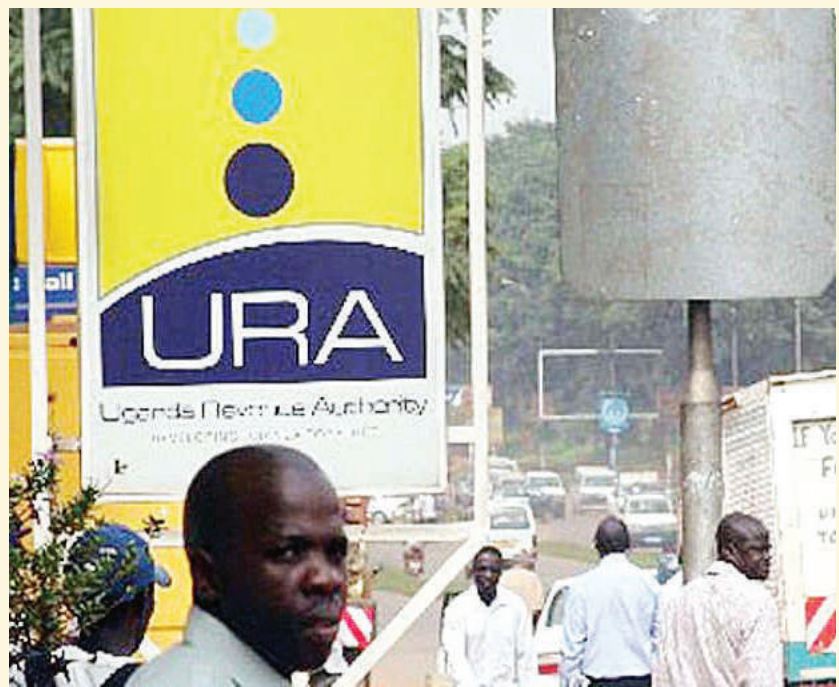
Therefore, the tribunal ruled that advance payment bonds or security, or guarantees should be considered as indemnity bonds.

However, it ruled that bid bonds are not indemnity bonds because they do not attempt to indemnify a third party against any loss or claim arising from a breach of contract.

Therefore, the tribunal dismissed the bank's arguments that imposing stamp duty on the mentioned instruments may have serious economic implications, saying no evidence had been adduced.

**The ruling**

The ruling resulted from an application in which Stanbic Bank Holdings was challenging a stamp duty assessment of Shs950m arising from the determination of whether performance bonds, advance payment bonds, guarantees and bid bonds are liable to pay stamp duty.



With the half year revenue collection calendar already elapsed, the Uganda Revenue Authority is still behind in its domestic revenue collection targets of slightly more than \$6.17 billion.

## Safaricom dividend pay pulls NSE to one-year low

NAIROBI

INVESTORS at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) lost Sh73.2 billion in a week and the value of the bourse sank to one-year low on reduced interest on Safaricom after the telecoms operator paid a multi-billion shilling dividend.

The market capitalisation dropped to Sh2.426 trillion on Thursday from Sh2.499 trillion when the bourse opened on Monday, marking the lowest valuation of shares since April 8 last year.

Safaricom, the country's most profitable company, accounted for 95 percent of paper or Sh72.12 billion loss, underlining its dominance that is making it difficult for investors to gauge the performance of the bourse.

The telecoms operator had announced payment of a Sh25.6 billion interim dividend ahead of Thursday for shareholders on its register on March 17.

Safaricom declared a dividend payout of Sh0.64 per share, representing a 42.44 percent growth over the inaugural interim payout in the prior year.

This followed a 12.1 percent growth in net profit for the half year ended last September to Sh37.05 billion.

The telco's share dropped to Sh34.15 on Thursday from Monday's opening price of Sh35.95, driving the Nairobi bourse to a one-year low.

The influence of Safaricom on the bourse this week is informed by the fact its share of combined investor wealth at the NSE stood at 56.4 percent.

The telco claimed at least half of the market wealth nearly two years ago and has been deepening its share of the NSE wealth since then.

Already, the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has flagged the dominance of five companies – including Safaricom – in the 65-stock market as a big risk, with the performance of the telecommunications firm dictating whether the market goes up or down on any given day.



Securities trader Mbutia Irungu at Nairobi Securities Exchange trading floor at the Exchange building in the Kenyan capital.

This outsize influence of the stock on the market is also seen in the daily traded volumes, where often it accounts for over 65 percent of daily shares traded at the bourse.

For investors, this has meant that holding Safaricom shares has become a necessity when building a portfolio, with its high liquidity and retention of value a magnet, especially for foreign investors.

**Expected profits**

A minimal fall in the Safaricom share price creates an impression that the market is underperforming despite other counters recording gains.

Bank stocks that were expected to lift the market after lenders reported triple-digit growth in profits and outside dividends remained muted at the NSE.

The share prices of KCB Group, Equity Group and Co-operative Bank have remained flat over the past week despite the three lenders declaring a record Sh26.8 billion in dividend payouts – nearly triple what they paid last year.

Eric Musau, the executive director for Research at Standard Investment Bank, said growth in share prices for banking stocks remained flat because investors had expected profits to jump based on their quarterly performance.

"Banks release results on quarterly basis and so by the time we were reaching the third quarter of last year, a good momentum had been built and a lot of expectations had been based on the prices," Mr Musau said on the phone.

Equity Group, the largest lender by assets, shed 1.94 percent on its share price in the review week to Sh50.5 per unit, while Co-op Bank closed at Sh12.85, a marginal 0.39 percent drop week-on-week.

KCB Group, on the other hand, traded at Sh44.05 per share, a slight 0.11 percent gain in a week.

"The question to ask is that when dividends for banks are paid, are we going to have a downward? That may well be the case in that we may have a bit of a pullback, but by that time we will have the next set of quarterly earnings...and prices could start building up."

The payouts, therefore, represent a turnaround for the top bank shareholders, who had to endure lean times in terms of dividends in 2020 as the lenders adjusted to a leaner operating environment due to Covid-19.

The dividend boom also comes after the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) loosened restrictions on shareholder payouts as the country recovers from the Covid-19 economic fallout.

The CBK in August 2020 asked commercial banks to seek its approval ahead of paying dividends for the year ended December, which saw top lenders freeze payments.

adjustment in prices (like for Safaricom)?" Mr Musau posed.

But the lenders have turned the corner following the record profits as they seek to expand their loan books and shift from government securities.

## Equity gets nod to auction Fourways homes in loan row

NAIROBI

EQUITY Bank can now sell mansions belonging to real estate firm Suraya Property Group to recover its loan after the Court of Appeal gave the green light in a protracted battle that seen several parties try to take over the houses in Kiambu.

A bench of three judges agreed with the lender that Equity is a reputable bank and the developer can still recover the money, in case the appeal, which is yet to be heard, is successful.

Justices Roselyn Nambuye, Hannah Okwengu, and Imaana Laibuta said Equity can sell the houses subject to the issuance of fresh notices, as had been directed by the High Court in 2020.

The houses were constructed by China Wu-Yi and financed by Equity for more than Sh1 billion.

Muga Developers, a joint venture partly owned by Suraya was placed under receivership in 2020 by Equity Bank. Mr Muniu Thoithi and Mr George Weru were appointed as the administrators.

"The applicant having offered the suit property as security, it has become a commercial entity that



The Fourways Junction Estate in Kiambu County.

can be compensated in monetary value," the judges said.

In the ruling, the court noted that Muga Developers has not demonstrated any efforts to repay the loan.

Mr Moses Ndirangu, who works for Equity said the bank has in the past four years made unsuccessful

attempts to recover the millions used to finance the housing scheme.

Suraya Property owners Peter Muraya and his wife Susan formed Muga Developers with the family of the late Samuel Gatabaki in 2007, for the development of Fourways Junction Estate. While the Gatabakis

provided the land, Suraya was to source for funds.

The estate is strategically located a short distance from the leafy Runda Estate. It holds a mix of cluster houses, apartments, office blocks, a shopping mall, a three-star hotel, and a fully-fledged country club.

China Wu-Yi has also been

fighting to get 10 houses as part of the payment for their services.

Suraya Property has denied the claims stating that even if there was a deal to that effect, the property is charged to Equity Bank which granted the Sh1.76 billion cash for the project.

China Wu-Yi has also been

## Hopes aired for gains from China-EU talks

BEIJING

THE China-EU summit should focus on pragmatic cooperation between the two sides and bring a measure of stability to a world in the midst of turbulent times, say analysts who hope to see positive signals emerge from the discussions.

China and the European Union will hold their 23rd leaders' meeting via video link on Friday, as the international landscape faces increasing uncertainty resulting from the Ukraine crisis.

Tian Dewen, deputy director of the Institute of European Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that the conflict between Russia and Ukraine indicates that the post-Cold

War world pattern may be experiencing major changes.

During the conflict, the leaders of China and some EU countries have spoken of the need for nations to encourage the parties to continue direct negotiations until a positive outcome is achieved and peace restored.

"The meeting is being held at a critical juncture while the world is going through turmoil," he said. "It should push forward practical cooperation between China as well as further injecting a certain amount of stability and certainty into a changing world."

Tian said the COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged the world economy and disrupted global supply chains. The pervasive indiscriminate sanctions imposed

on Russia over the Ukraine conflict have hit economic sectors from global energy markets and food supplies to trade and financial markets, and will continue to do so.

"Under the circumstances, China-EU cooperation should play a positive role in stabilizing the global supply chains and aiding the recovery of the global economy," he said.

Both sides can work together in a wide range of sectors including efforts to mitigate climate change, safeguard biodiversity and promote health, as well as ensure a more balanced and reciprocal trade relationship, he said.

China-EU relations encountered some setbacks last year, with an exchange of sanctions and counter-

sanctions between the two sides in early 2021 freezing the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment, a deal years in the making.

But figures show that bilateral trade has been progressing well. China and the EU achieved a record \$828.1 billion in their bilateral goods trade last year, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

Also, the European Union surpassed the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to become China's largest trading partner in the first two months of the year. In January and February, bilateral trade surged 14.8 percent year-on-year to reach \$137.16 billion, the Commerce Ministry figures showed.

He Yun, an associate professor in the

School of Public Administration at Hunan University in Changsha, said that the meeting is important both in light of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and in terms of future China-EU relations.

**Peaceful resolution**

On the one hand, the EU and China need this opportunity to communicate their respective positions on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and find a way to work together to bring forth a peaceful resolution that is in the interests of all parties.

On the other hand, the EU has just published its Strategic Compass document, which marks a major shift in its security and defense strategy, and it is in the midst of writing a document on the NATO Strategic Concept, He said.

"It is clear that the EU's policies and priorities are shifting, and both the EU and China need this meeting to work out where they are shifting toward and how that will impact future EU-China relations," she said.

She added that Europe responded to the Russia-Ukraine conflict by significantly increasing its defense spending, as well as making plans for the deployment of a rapid response force.

This will set the EU on course to become a more equal partner to the US and give the EU more say and leverage in their defense pact. However, the EU's deepened threat perception of Russia will inevitably strengthen NATO and the trans-Atlantic ties, as the bloc's security largely hinges on the alliance, she said.



# Sacked Uganda Airlines boss seeks Shs3.3b pay

KAMPALA

**S**ACKED Uganda Airlines chief executive officer Cornwell Muleya has written to the Ministry of Works seeking compensation up to a tune of Shs3.3b being payment of salary arrears, gratuity, untaken leave, reimbursement for fuel, telephone and toll expenses, repatriation allowances and damages, among others.

In a March 28 letter written through Muwema & Company Advocates and Solicitors, Mr Muleya also demands for immediate reinstatement into his job as the chief executive officer of Uganda Airlines and "an unconditional apology for the material inconvenience, reputational damage and loss suffered".

The letter, which is addressed to Mr Bageya Waiswa, the Ministry of Works permanent secretary, also demands that Mr Muleya is availed with copies of investigations into alleged mismanagement and proceedings and resolution of the board of Uganda Airlines upon, which a decision was made to terminate his services, failure of which this "shall confirm absence of any merit in the allegation leveled against our client".

He is seeking payment of Shs189m as salary arrears, Shs226.9m in gratuity, Shs139.1m in untaken leave, Shs19.2m as reimbursement for fuel, telephone and toll expenses, Shs252.1m in severance allowances and Shs126m as four weeks net pay as provided by the law.

Other payments include Shs1.2b as damages for loss of expectation interest in employment, Shs54m or \$15,000 as repatriation allowance, Shs1b as payment for reputation damages and Shs322.2m



Cornwell Muleya was sacked as Uganda Airlines CEO on February 15, 2022.

as up to-date costs amounting to 10 percent of pecuniary claim.

On April 29, 2021, Mr Muleya was sent on forced leave over alleged failure to supervise and curb corruption of staff at Uganda Airlines, delayed operations of the Airbus, delay to implement the self-handling project, gross procurement malpractices, financial mismanagement and unethical human resource practices in recruitment.

He was later suspended on May 21

before his contract was terminated on February 15.

However, in the letter, Mr Muleya notes that the "purported suspension and termination ... was done contrary to due process and the law" and "presents a clear case of a witch-hunt wrought with malice and reeks of illegalities".

Yesterday Mr Waiswa, told Daily Monitor that the letter had been "written to me in my personal capacity not the Ministry or office", not-

ing that he was "consulting my legal team, because he [Mr Muleya] cannot sue me as a person".

"You know, this has been his problem from the word go. I could write to him letters and he would not recognise me asking in which capacity I was doing so.

I would tell him, I am the PS Ministry of Works under which your organisation falls and above all, I am the chairman of the interim board of directors. He [Muleya] refused to

accept that," he said, noting that whereas Mr Muleya would want to sue him as a person, he is protected by the law.

In the letter, Mr Muleya also claims his termination, suspension and forced leave were all illegal because the termination notice was issued with "the full knowledge that our client was never heard in any disciplinary proceedings".

However, Mr Waiswa claimed that Mr Muleya had refused to appear before board disciplinary hearings, of which he was made aware by the Uganda Airlines company secretary.

"All the times we asked him [Muleya] to appear through the company secretary, he did not. One time he [company secretary] took him a letter to sign, he [Muleya] refused to sign it, which is an act of impunity," he said.

The letter is copied to President Museveni, Office of the Attorney General, Minister of Works, minister of Finance.

## Warning of legal redress

Acting through Muwema & Company Advocates, Mr Muleya also informs Mr Waiswa that "your open acts of public misfeasance have occasioned immeasurable loss and damage to our client's distinguished career in the aviation industry which he has painstakingly built over the last 20 years ... we are under firm instructions to institute appropriate legal action to redress and atone for the said loss and damage".

## Rwanda, WEF launch Africa's first 4IR centre

KIGALI

THE Ministry of Information Communication Technology and Innovation of Rwanda, in partnership with the World Economic Forum (WEF), have launched the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) in Rwanda.

According to a statement released to the media, C4IRs "shape new policies and strategies in technology governance that enable agile implementation and iteration via a fast-growing network of national and sub-national centres."

C4IR Rwanda will have a particular focus on data governance, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning.

President of Rwanda Paul Kagame said, "The launch of this centre is enabled by investments that we, as a country, have been making in science and technology. I hope the centre will build on this by making the Fourth Industrial Revolution an equalising force, and contributing solutions to some of today's most pressing challenges. We are very happy to have the World Economic Forum as a partner in this crucial and other endeavours."

Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the WEF, highlighted the importance of Africa taking the lead in shaping the future of technology governance: "I have no doubt that the centre will herald a new era for Rwanda and the continent. Innovation and entrepreneurship are key in heralding the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The work of our 4IR Centres has always been important, but in this time of great global upheaval it is more crucial than ever to build together a better future and use technology to do so."

Børge Brende, President of the WEF, delivered the keynote address, where he underlined the C4IR networks' role in helping leaders anticipate, understand and shape the trajectory of technological change for human-centered, society-serving outcomes to create an inclusive, human-centered future.

"This is the first centre to be formally launched in Africa," he said. "It says a lot about the leadership in the country when it comes to leapfrogging and being visionary when it comes to new technologies;

I think that this Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Rwanda will play an important role to meet the ratio of Rwanda becoming an upper middle-income country by 2035. The centre, I hope, will be a key enabler of Rwanda's goal of becoming an even more prosperous society".

Strengthening collaborations and innovation

According to the stakeholders C4IR Rwanda will work with stakeholders around the world to design and pilot new approaches to technology governance in the country to help foster innovation inclusively and responsibly.

## Jubilee to pay shareholders Sh31.6b in annual dividends

KAMPALA

**JUBILEE** Holdings will pay shareholders a total of Sh31.6b (Ksh1.015b) in dividends including a special dividend of Sh435.96 (Ksh14) per share (2020: Sh280.26 (Ksh9)).

This comes on the back of a record performance in which the insurer posted a 67 percent rise in profit after tax for the year ended December 31, 2021.

During the period, profit before tax stood at Sh261.5b (Ksh8.4b) from Sh158.8b (Ksh5.1b), representing an increase of 66 percent partly driven by the gain on the sale of controlling interests in the general businesses in Kenya and Uganda, transactions that were completed last year.

Jubilee retains a 34 percent interest in both companies.

This performance was also achieved due to tight expense control measures, improved return on investment, despite increase of medical and life claims relating to Covid-19 cases.

During the period total gross written premiums and deposit administration contributions recorded a modest increase of Sh25.6b (Ksh825m) up to Sh1.2 trillion (Ksh38.8b), despite not having the general insurance business.

This was attributed to growth of Sh43.5b (Ksh1.4b) in the health insurance business, maintaining the number one position in the region and Sh37.3b (Ksh1.2b) growth in the life insurance business, to make up for the impact of the partial loss of the general insurance business.

Total comprehensive in-

come after tax grew substantially to Sh230.4b (Ksh7.4b) from Sh180.6b (Ksh5.8b) in 2020, while investment income registered a growth of Sh143.2b (Ksh4.6b) from Sh351.8b (Ksh11.3b) to Sh495.1b (Ksh15.9b).

The group's performance remained solid and resilient with total assets increasing by more than Sh280.2b (Ksh9b) to Sh4.82 trillion (Ksh155b). Shareholders equity and reserves increased from Sh186.8b (Ksh6b) to Sh1.21 trillion (Ksh39b).

In a statement yesterday, Mr Nizar Juma, the Jubilee Holdings Group chairman, the results cement Jubilee's as the most stable and reliable insurer in East Africa.

"Over a long period of time we have demonstrated our ability to deliver profits consistently," he said.



Jubilee Holdings chairman Nizar Juma.

## Huawei inks deal with CRASA to drive Africa's DX ambitions

CAPE TOWN

**HUAWEI** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) to drive Africa's digital transformation.

CRASA is a Southern Africa consultative technical body with 13 Countries as members (Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) focusing among several other things, on development of model regulations and harmonisation of the ICT regulatory frameworks in order to improve the com-

munications sector's business environment and investment climate in SADC.

Bridget Linzie, CRASA Executive Secretary and Yang Hongjie, Director of ICT Strategy and Policy Department of Huawei Southern Africa Region, signed the MoU during the CRASA 11th annual general meeting attended by delegates from all 13 member countries in Luanda Angola.

Under the agreement, both parties intend to exchange information and ideas on ICT policies and regulations, undertake joint research on network security, data protection, digital inclusion policies and emerging technologies like 5G, and organise capacity building activities

through meetings, workshops and trainings.

"I appreciate the efforts that Huawei has been taking in introducing the most innovative ICT technologies to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in the past years, and sharing their tremendous global experience and know-how in contributing to the development of the region. We will deepen cooperation with Huawei to further accelerate digital transformation for inclusive growth in the region," said Linzie.

According to CRASA, Africa's digital transformation accelerated dramatically during the pandemic and is expected to continue growing in the post

pandemic era, with ICT infrastructure and services becoming increasingly indispensable for the growth of industry and for individuals' personal life.

Alfred Marisa, representing the chairperson of CRASA, added, "I am happy that CRASA will have Huawei as a strategic partner to shape the ICT future of the region by providing support in connecting the unconnected and to bridge the region's digital divide.

In this era of digital economy, it is extremely important to put in place an enabling environment to harness new technologies like 5G to drive social economic development and enhance cyber security and data protection. CRASA is looking forward

to a fruitful cooperation with Huawei in these specialist areas."

Yang Chen, Vice President of Huawei Southern Africa Region, said, "Huawei is glad to have the privilege of partnering with CRASA to accelerate the ICT development in the region. We have been working with important stakeholders in our industry to build a healthy ecosystem to realise our vision of bringing digital to every person, home and organisation to build a better-connected and intelligent world. We believe that with our combined efforts between Huawei and CRASA, more people will be able to benefit from the growth catalysed by ICT development."



From Left: Alfred Marisa, vice chairperson of CRASA; Bridget Linzie, CRASA Executive Secretary; Yang Hongjie, Director of ICT Strategy and Policy Department of Huawei Southern Africa Region; and Yang Chen, Vice President of Huawei Southern Africa Region.



# Stock futures rise before first session of April, jobs report

## NEW YORK

U.S. stock futures opened slightly higher on Thursday evening as traders looked ahead to the start of a new month of trading and a closely monitored new economic report on the state of the labour market.

Contracts on the S&P 500 edged up to kick off the overnight session. The index fell for a back-to-back session on Thursday, limping into the final session of March and the first quarter.

Investors on Friday are set to closely monitor the Labor Department's monthly jobs report, offering the most up-to-date snapshot of the strength in hiring across the U.S. economy.

Consensus economists are looking for non-farm payrolls to rise by 490,000 for March, according to Bloomberg data, slowing from February's 678,000 gain but still marking an increase well above pre-pandemic trends. The unemployment rate is expected to dip to 3.7%, or to the lowest since February 2020.

Stocks are heading into April following a volatile month and quarter of trading. The S&P 500 and Dow each dropped more than 4.5% for the first three months of 2022, closing out their worst quarters and first quarterly de-

clines since the first quarter of 2020.

The Nasdaq Composite fared worse as investors rotated away from technology and growth stocks that had led the market higher last year, and the tech-heavy index shed 9.1% during the first quarter.

April has historically been a strong month for stocks, and has in fact produced a positive return for the S&P 500 in 15 of the last 16 years, according to LPL Financial's Ryan Detrick. This time, however, stocks are facing a variety of headwinds that may upend this historically positive seasonality.

Namely, a confluence of concerns around the geopolitical and macroeconomic backdrop contributed to stocks' worst quarterly performance in two years, and have yet to be fully resolved.

Geopolitical risks have been elevated since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February, raising the specter of further snarls to global supply chains that have already been struggling to recover from pandemic-era disruptions.

A broad-based spike in prices, and in oil and energy prices especially, has further stoked concerns over the resilience of the consumer the key driver of the domestic economy going forward.

And the Federal Reserve has begun a protracted process of raising interest rates and tightening financial condi-



tions in a market that had grown accustomed to easy monetary policy since 2020.

"I think investors are very happy that the quarter is over. It was a tough one. Obviously inflation was bad all the way until ... the end of the quarter," Robert Cantwell, Up-

holdings portfolio manager, told Yahoo Finance Live on Thursday.

And in all likelihood, the next four to six weeks, it's likely going to continue to be bad news because inflation is persistent, and we're still comping record growth rates from the first four months of last

year."

"That said, as you get to the second half of next quarter, you could see a scenario where growth rates start accelerating again while inflation tempers, and that has the potential to bring a lot of the bulls back into the market," he added.

LPL Financial points out that corporate profits may be another component driving the latest rebound in equities. Even in the face of war in Eastern Europe and decades-high inflation, earnings have been holding up, and estimates for S&P 500 Index earnings per share over the next four quarters are higher in March.

Although not by much at 1.5 percent, the positive forecast is significant under the circumstances - particularly compared to how other countries have fared. Inflation is driving the more sizable corporate profits as companies enjoy more pricing power as they pass along higher costs to customers.

"On the back of energy independence, the trajectory of U.S. corporate profits has been unaffected by rising energy costs and high inflation so far," LPL Financial equity strategist Jeffrey Buchbinder noted, adding that conversely, earnings expectations in international markets have fallen in March. "The U.S. profit outlook is the envy of the world right now."

Elsewhere on the companies front, meme-stock favorite GameStop revealed in a form 8-K filed with SEC after Thursday. GME is following a growing list of major companies Alphabet, Amazon, Tesla it what could be the 'summer of stock splits'.

Stock splits are a corporate action taken to improve trading liquidity and make shares more affordable without impacting market capitalization. GME rallied as much as 20% in extended trading to a 4-month high of more than \$200 per share following the news.

# Why the tanking Japanese yen should concern globe investors

## TOKYO

THE Bank of Japan (BOJ), its currency, the yen, was crashing while yields on their government bonds were surging. The solution four days of unbridled bond buying by the BOJ to stem the hemorrhaging and contain interest rates. While the gambit worked (for now), Wall Street is waking up to this potential canary in the coal mine.

Big moves in the yen are rare, but traders pay attention when the currency starts moving. It's the third most heavily-traded currency, and it's involved in trillions of dollars worth of highly leveraged trades.

Hedge funds try to arbitrage differences in interest rates around the world by borrowing in "cheap" currencies (like the yen) and investing in bonds in higher-yielding countries the so-called carry trade.

For instance, if 10-year Australian bonds yield 5 percent while similar Japanese bonds are paying close to nothing, investors can sell the yen, buy the Australian dollar, and use the proceeds to buy Australian bonds. There are lots of moving parts and wonky details, but that's the gist of it.

But because traders are essentially picking up dimes in front of a bulldozer, these bets are highly leveraged to maximize returns which means they can fall apart quickly and cause systemic risk if enough traders are effected.

So when the yen starts making big upward or downward moves, traders face tough decisions. Hedge funds staring down the barrel of multiple margin calls will liquidate good bets even safe haven assets like gold to cover their bad bets. This is how contagion works.

For now, the BOJ's bond buying effectively printing more money, in this case yen is supporting easy financial conditions. But if the bank's hand is forced and it abandons the buying, a massive unwinding will likely follow. And no one is currently pricing in this risk.

Since the yen is being used as a cheap source of funds to leverage the carry trade, it's a risky bet, points out.

Everyone is piling on the same side of the trade such that it becomes self-fulfilling. But the yen has also historically functioned as a flight-to-safety haven during times of stress. If that relationship reasserts and the yen strengthens materially, it's game over for those playing the carry.

"Far from offering sanctuary from

the world's strife, Japan is being treated once more as an ATM to fund risk-taking elsewhere," Authers wrote.

While the yen and Japanese bond market have cooled for now, the BOJ will have a big decision to make. Further pressure could lead Japanese authorities to intervene in the yen.

Japan has a long and storied history of weakening the yen to favor their exports. But this would be the first time since 1998 that the bank would intervene to strengthen the currency.

Surging commodity costs is currently the biggest factor. Japan is a huge energy importer, which depresses its currency as the yen is sold to buy oil and gas (and food and everything else) at higher prices.

This outweighs the benefit of boosting their exports as their goods become cheaper abroad especially as Japan has offshored a lot of its manufacturing over the last decade.

A plummeting yen also puts upward pressure on interest rates, which is at odds with the BOJ's policy of controlling the entire yield curve. (By way of reference, the Federal Reserve only seeks to influence short-term U.S. rates.) If the BOJ is forced to abandon its yield curve control strategy, that brings the yen devaluation option to the forefront.

The other dynamic at play is the strengthening Chinese yuan, or renminbi, which is dangerously close to approaching the very level versus the yen that caused authorities in China to devalue its currency by 3 percent in 2015.

That surprise move upended global risk markets and sent many stock markets around the world plunging into bear territory.

Today, add a pandemic and a war in Europe to the mix not to mention a Federal Reserve that's the most hawkish in at least two decades and markets may not bounce back so quickly as they eventually did in early 2016.

Jens Nordvig, founder and CEO at Exante Data, recently remarked how different the current situation is from prior times of global gyrations in the currency markets.

"[Y]ou can only reach the conclusion that the regime is now totally different. This cycle is different, very different, and all asset classes are gradually waking up to this new reality, with [foreign exchange markets] showing it forcefully lately."



ITV		CAPITAL							
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## WORLD

# Dialogue the only solution for Ukraine crisis - Wang Yi

HEFEI

IALOGUE and negotiation are the only solutions to the Ukraine crisis, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Thursday.

Wang made the remarks during a press briefing following foreign minister-level meetings on Afghanistan, which saw officials from Afghanistan and its neighboring countries gather in Tunxi, east China's Anhui province.

"I have had intensive and in-depth exchanges with my counterparts on the Ukraine issue in recent days. All parties expressed their understanding of China's position and made positive comments on China's role," Wang said.

"Our position is consistent. In dealing with all hotspot issues, China stands for peace, dialogue and justice. Our attitude is also clear, we strive to play a responsible and constructive role in dealing with all challenges," he added.

Wang explained China's stance from five key aspects. Firstly, China adheres to in the right direction of promoting peace talks. China maintains that dia-

logue and negotiation are the only solutions, opposes adding fuel to the fire and intensifying the conflict, calls for a ceasefire and supports direct talks between Russia and Ukraine.

China upholds the basic norms governing international relations. It advocates respect for the purposes and principles of the UN Charter as well as sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, and opposes putting small and medium-sized countries at the forefront of geopolitics, he said.

Thirdly, China insists that a return to the Cold War mentality should be prevented. China doesn't agree with camp confrontation, which means countries are either friends or foes. Instead, China is committed to promoting international solidarity, advocating common, cooperative, comprehensive and sustainable security while respecting and addressing the legitimate concerns of all parties, according to Wang Yi.

China supports safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of all countries, he pointed out. China opposes unilateral sanctions that violate



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi chairs the third foreign ministers' meeting of neighboring countries of Afghanistan, in Tunxi, east China's Anhui province, on Thursday. XINHUA

international law, calls for safeguarding the international industrial and supply chains to avoid harming normal economic and trade exchanges and people's lives.

China adheres to consolidating peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. China is committed to the policy of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness in its neighborhood. China is wary of the United States using the Indo-Pacific strategy to instigate a bloc confrontation in the region, he said, adding that China works to accelerate regional integration and cooperation, and safeguard the hard-won development momentum.

Wang stressed that as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China will continue to work with the international community to play a constructive role in promoting peace talks and safeguarding peace in accordance with the will of the parties concerned and the developments of the Ukraine crisis.

## 'Afghanistan must not be excluded'

China believes that if Afghanistan responds more effectively to the concerns of all parties, the diplomatic recognition of the Afghan government will come naturally, said the Chinese minister.

Diplomatic recognition is a major concern

of the Afghan interim government and a common concern of the international community, he said, stressing that Afghanistan should not be excluded from the international community.

China has observed that the Afghan interim government has made significant efforts and achieved certain results in maintaining stability and state governance since its establishment, he said.

Noting that the international community, including Afghanistan's neighboring countries, still has a lot of concerns and expectations involving the Afghan interim government, the Chinese foreign minister said it is hoped that the interim government will make greater progress in promoting national reconciliation, building a more inclusive government and protecting the rights of women and children in employment and education.

In particular, he expressed the hope of the international community that the interim government will take a firmer attitude in fighting terrorism and make more tangible results in this respect.

"We believe that diplomatic recognition of the Afghan government will come naturally as the concerns of all parties are addressed more forcefully," Wang said.

Xinhua

## COVID-19: Malaysia reopens borders to international travelers

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA opened its borders to international travel yesterday, ending restrictions that have been in place since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020.

Among measures adopted by Malaysian authorities to facilitate the travel of non-Malaysian nationals to the country are the abolishing quarantine requirements for vaccinated travelers, with only a pre-departure test and a test within 24-hours of arriving in Malaysia.

Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Nancy Shukri said over 10,000 foreign travelers and Malaysians residing abroad are expected to arrive at airports nationwide on Friday alone and the ministry is targeting over 2 million tourist arrivals within the year.

"After two years, today is a historic moment and a huge relief for our tourism industry as we welcome international tourists, newcomers and regulars alike,



A woman carries an infant upon arrival from Jakarta after landing at Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 (KLIA 2), as Malaysia reopened its borders for travelers fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, in Sepang yesterday. AFP

back to Malaysia, supporting our economy again," she told reporters at an event to mark the reopening at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

Separately, Transport Minister Wee Ka Siong noted the influx of travelers moving across the bridge connecting Malaysia and Singapore, allowing families to reunite ahead of Ramadan, the Islamic fasting month, and Qingming, a traditional tomb-sweeping festival.

The relaxed standard operating procedures (SOP) and other measures, while welcome, must not mean that caution is thrown to the wind, according to Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) President Koh Kar Chai.

Malaysia reported 18,560 new COVID-19 infections as of midnight Thursday, bringing the national total to 4,201,919, according to the health ministry. A further 44 deaths have been reported, bringing the country's COVID-19 death toll to 34,983.

## East Africa urged to pursue export-led growth to boost forex earnings

NAIROBI

ECONOMIC experts on Thursday urged the East African Community (EAC) member states to pursue an export-led growth strategy in order to boost their foreign exchange earnings.

"Growing export sales through diversification of markets can result in employment creation and higher incomes for East Africa," said Hadjiah Nannyomo, partner of global advisory firm Ernst and Young, during a pre-budget meeting to highlight expectations of the 2022/2023 budget which will be read on April 7.

Nannyomo told journalists in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, that the trading bloc with

relatively limited domestic markets can tap into the lucrative global trade in manufactured goods.

The EAC treaty requires Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi to read the budget on the same day to promote harmonization of fiscal policies. Kenya will however table its 2022/23 fiscal budget earlier due to the general elections to be held in August.

Data from the Central Bank of Kenya indicate that the country's foreign exchange reserves currently stand at approximately 900 billion shillings (7.8 billion U.S. dollars).

Nannyomo said that an export-led strategy will boost foreign exchange earnings through the prioritization of investment in

industries where a country enjoys competitive advantages such as the abundance of raw materials.

She revealed that export-oriented growth can also be achieved through attracting foreign firms with modern technology to establish local operations with the aim of producing goods for international markets.

Julius Ngonga, the partner of East Africa leader, strategy and transactions at Ernst and Young, said that the Ukraine-Russia conflict has disrupted East Africa's exports and imports from both countries.

Ngonga observed that the region's governments will have to implement fiscal measures in order to protect affected sectors from the interrupted trade resulting

from the conflict. Anthony Muthusi, the managing partner of Ernest and Young Consulting, said that the region requires an export-led strategy that will help East Africa reduce its dependence on the export of raw materials. He added that exports of manufactured products will also integrate the region into the global value chains.



**Growing export sales through diversification of markets can result in employment creation and higher incomes for East**

## Khashoggi case: Prosecutor wants trial moved to S. Arabia

ISTANBUL

A TURKISH prosecutor called on Thursday for the trial in Istanbul of Saudi suspects over the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi to be halted and transferred to Saudi authorities, a move which comes as Turkey seeks to mend ties with Riyadh.

Khashoggi's killing at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul four years ago triggered a global outcry and put pressure on Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

A US intelligence report released a year ago said the prince had approved the operation to kill or capture Khashoggi, but the Saudi government denied any involvement by the crown prince and rejected the report's findings.

Turkish officials said they believe Khashoggi, a prominent critic of the crown prince, was killed and his body dismembered in an operation which President Tayyip Erdogan said had been ordered at the "highest levels" of the Saudi government.

The killing and subsequent accusations strained ties between the two regional powers and led to an unofficial Saudi boycott of Turkish goods, which cut Ankara's exports to Riyadh by 90 percent.

Erdogan now seeks better ties with states which have become bitter rivals in recent years, including Egypt, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Israeli and UAE leaders visited Ankara in recent months, but progress with Cairo and Riyadh has been slower. Erdogan said last month he hoped to take "concrete steps" with Riyadh soon.

The Istanbul court where the 26 Saudi suspects have been on trial in absentia for nearly two years said on Thursday it would ask for the Justice Ministry's opinion on the request to transfer proceedings, and set the next hearing for April 7.

In 2020, Saudi Arabia jailed eight people for between seven and 20 years for Khashoggi's murder. None of the defendants was named in what rights groups described as a sham trial.

At the time Ankara said the verdict fell short of expectations, but has since softened its tone as part of the broader attempt to repair ties. Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told broadcaster A Haber on Thursday that "judicial cooperation" between the two countries had improved.

Erol Onderoglu, a representative for Reporters Without Borders (RSF), said Turkey's Justice Ministry should reject the prosecutor's request to transfer the case to Saudi Arabia.

## Saudis Sought Transfer

Last year the Turkish court rejected requests to add the US intelligence assessment of Prince Mohammed's role to the case file. It then asked for details of the Riyadh trial from Saudi authorities to avoid defendants being punished twice.

The Turkish prosecutor said Saudi authorities responded by asking for the case be transferred, and pledging to evaluate the accusations against the 26 defendants.

The request should be accepted, the prosecutor said, because the defendants were foreign citizens, the arrest warrants could not be executed and their statements could not be taken, leaving the case in abeyance or suspension.

The crown prince told The Atlantic monthly in an article published this month that he felt his own rights had been violated by the accusations against him as any person should be considered innocent until proven guilty.

Agnes Callamard, Amnesty International secretary general, said that Turkey is "betraying" Khashoggi and justice. Callamard was the former UN special rapporteur for extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions and carried out the investigation that found Saudi officials "planned and perpetrated" Khashoggi's killing.



Friends of murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi hold posters bearing his picture as they attend an event marking the second-year anniversary of his assassination in front of Saudi Arabia Istanbul Consulate, on Oct 2, 2020. File photo

## Digital village construction drives modernization of agriculture and rural areas in China

EMERGING technologies representing digital technologies are injecting strong impetus into the modernization of China's agriculture sector and rural areas.

During the country's 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), all 832 impoverished counties and 128,000 poor villages in China had been lifted out of poverty, and advances in agricultural science and technology had contributed over 60 percent to the growth in the country's gross agricultural output.

As all existing administrative villages in China have been connected to broadband Internet services, the

country has witnessed significant results in the construction of digital villages across the country, as a result of a pilot project launched to promote the integration of digital technologies into the development of agriculture and rural areas.

While mobile phones become new farm tool, data is employed as new agricultural materials in the country.

In light of the trend in the development of digital villages, the Office of the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission (OCCAC) and nine other government departments jointly issued an action plan for the development of digital villages between 2022 and

2025, which pointed out that China will see notable results in the development of digital villages by 2025.

A number of distinctive brands of rural e-commerce product will be cultivated; Internet culture will flourish in rural areas; and rural digital governance system will be continuously improved, according to the plan.

In an effort to accelerate the development of digital villages, China will further improve new infrastructure in rural areas, tap into the potential of new business forms and models and promote the construction of rural digital governance system.

China will not only gather pace in

the deployment of facilities concerning 5G, artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things in rural areas to achieve in-depth integration of digital technology and agriculture, but strive to improve the digital literacy of rural residents.

A document on key tasks for enhancing people's digital literacy and skills in 2022 issued by the OCCAC and several other government organs proposed improving farmers' skills in utilizing new digital farm tools.

Only by effectively boosting farmers' digital literacy and skills can the country truly turn data into new agricultural materials for production and

mobile phones new farm implements in rural life.

China's "No.1 central document" for 2022 unveiled on Feb. 22 specified that the country would implement a campaign to facilitate the development of agriculture and rural areas by promoting digital business and e-commerce in rural areas.

Statistics suggest that the number of rural netizens in China has reached 284 million. Many Internet celebrities from the countryside who share rural cuisine, scenery and daily life with netizens have emerged on short video platforms. While attracting plenty of followers, they have helped promote

the sales of local specialties and generate more opportunities for their hometowns.

On livestreaming e-commerce platforms, a vast array of agricultural products, including apples from Yantai city, east China's Shandong province, and lotus roots from Honghu city, central China's Hubei province, has won great popularity with consumers.

Data showed that in 2021, China's rural online retail sales reached 2.05 trillion yuan (\$320 billion), and the online retail sales of agricultural products rose to 422.1 billion yuan.

People's Daily



## Rising hunger looms in Sudan, with little aid in sight

KHARTOUM

MILLIONS more Sudanese are set to go hungry this year as economic turmoil and erratic rains drive up prices and reduce harvests, with a halt to foreign assistance and the war in Ukraine putting food supplies at further risk.

The rising levels of hunger forecast by United Nations agencies threaten to further destabilize a country that faces growing conflict and poverty following a military takeover last year.

Sudan has been mired in economic crisis since before the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir in an uprising in 2019. A transitional government attracted billions of dollars in international support, but that was suspended after the military takeover, placing Sudan on the brink of economic collapse.

Currency devaluations and subsidy reforms have driven up prices, and inflation is running at more than 250 percent. In the capital Khartoum, the cost of ever-shrinking small loaves of bread has risen from 2 Sudanese pounds two years ago to about 50 pounds (\$0.11) today.

Some 87 percent of Sudan's imported wheat comes from Russia and Ukraine, according to FAO data, making it one of the Arab world's most exposed countries to the war in Ukraine.

"If this measly piece of bread is 50 pounds, what kind of life can we have?" said Haj Ahmed, an elderly man at a vegetable stall in Alhalfaya, on the capital's outskirts.

The World Bank estimates that in 2021 56 percent of Sudan's population of around 44 million were surviving on less than \$3.20, or about 2,000 pounds per day, one of its global poverty lines, up from 43 percent in 2009.

Last week the World Food Programme estimated that the number of people experiencing levels of hunger that will force them to sell essential assets, or who will have nothing more to sell, will double by September to 18 million.

Aid agencies have long worked to help the rural poor and people displaced by war in Sudan. In 2019 the WFP extended its operations to urban centers for the first time. "This jump didn't happen yesterday or a couple months ago, it's been building," said Marianne Ward, WFP deputy country director.

"It's not exclusively driven by conflict anymore, it's also about structural issues such as inflation (and) availability of foreign currency," she said.

### LOWER CROP YIELDS

Inflation means farmers are unable to afford inputs including seeds, fertilizers and fuel, experts say. There has also been increased unrest in some important farming regions, and rainfall has been scarce in some places and too heavy in others.

Yields of sorghum, millet and wheat are 30 percent lower than they have been on average over the past five years, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the WFP estimate.

Sudan will face its first deficit of sorghum, the country's traditional staple grain, since the droughts that ravaged the region in the 1980s, UN agencies project. Prices have doubled in the past four months, one trader said.

The ministries of finance and agriculture did not respond to requests for comment.

Billions of dollars of World Bank and IMF financing, some earmarked for budget support and agricultural development, were frozen and could be lost because of the military takeover.

Direct humanitarian aid has continued but USAID and the WFP paused programs that had been aimed at supporting a transitional civilian government by covering about a quarter of last year's wheat consumption. The WFP says its food stocks in Sudan will run out in May without new funding.

Frequent protests against military rule, increasingly fueled by economic grievances, bring life to a halt in Khartoum and other cities.

"The burden of all this political mayhem falls on the citizen," said Ghareeballah Dafallah, an agricultural engineer in Alhalfaya who struggles to afford food and electricity. "People used to be ashamed to say they were hungry, but now it's clear."

Xinhua

## Ethiopia, Kenya agree to deepen cooperation on bilateral, regional security concerns

### NEW YORK

ETHIOPIAN and Kenyan defense forces have agreed to strengthen cooperation on bilateral and regional security issues, the Ethiopian government has announced.

The two countries agreed to boost their security cooperation during the latest meeting of Field Marshal Birhanu Jula, chief of Staff of the Ethiopian Armed Forces, and Robert Kibochi, chief of Kenya Defense Forces, in Nairobi, Kenya, the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs disclosed in a statement issued late Wednesday.

The two officials have "agreed to strengthen cooperation in bilateral and regional security issues, including hosting capacity-building training sessions and sharing experiences in peacekeeping," the statement read.

The two sides emphasized the need to exploit opportunities for cooperation and cement longstanding ties between the two countries while pledging to empower the East Africa Standby Force as member states.

The two East African countries last month agreed to jointly fight extremists and militant groups al-Shabab and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA). The Ethiopian parliament voted to designate the OLA as a terrorist group in May 2021.

The agreement was reached between Hilary Mutyamba, the inspector general of the Kenya Police, and Demelash Gebremichael, the commissioner of the Ethiopia Federal Police Commission, during their meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, last month.

"The two agreed to conduct joint security missions to stem the movement of OLA and al-Shabab, particularly in the two countries' common border areas," Ethiopia's state-run news agency ENA reported.

Xinhua

# Russia-Ukraine conflict poses new challenge to global food security, says FAO official

ROME

THE ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, which came at a time when economies worldwide are still grappling with the negative effects of COVID-19, poses a new challenge to global food security, an official with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has said.

"Many countries rely on supplies from Ukraine and Russia for their food import needs, including numerous least developed countries and low-income food-deficit countries," Boubaker Ben-Belhassen, director of FAO's trade and markets division, told Xinhua in a recent written interview.

Russia and Ukraine are major agricultural producers and exporters, he said, adding that Russia stood as the world's top exporter of nitrogen fertilizers, the second leading supplier of potassium fertilizers and the third largest exporter of phosphorous fertilizers in 2021.

"Disruptions to Ukrainian and Russian grain and oilseed production and exports and restrictions on Russia's exports can have significant impacts on global food security," noted Ben-Belhassen.

The conflict is resulting in reduced exportable supplies, as well as higher energy, fertilizer and overall input prices, which in turn translate into higher costs of production and even-



People go shopping at a supermarket in Lviv, Ukraine, Feb. 28, 2022. (Xinhua/Ren Ke)

tually higher food prices, according to the official. "FAO's simulations suggest that international food and feed prices could rise by 8-22 percent above the baseline levels and the number of undernourished people could increase by 8-13 million people in 2022/23 (season)," he said, adding the actual impact will depend on the duration and magnitude of the conflict.

Meanwhile, the pandemic could have lasting effects on global food security, Ben-Belhassen noted.

Preliminary estimations published in the 2020 edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report suggested that the pandemic may add 83-132 million

people to the ranks of the undernourished in 2020 alone, he said.

The economic rebound in 2021 was highly uneven among regions, he said, adding that many developing nations, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, are not foreseen to return to pre-pandemic economic growth levels before 2024.

"This will continue to widen pre-existing inequalities and undermine poverty reduction and sustainable development progress," he said.

Citing an FAO analysis, Ben-Belhassen noted that about 660 million people may still face hunger in 2030, 30 million more people

than in a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred. The pandemic has worsened the negative trends that already existed before the crisis, he said.

Factors including protracted conflicts, climate variability, and economic slowdowns and downturns interact to the detriment of food security and nutrition by creating multiple, compounding impacts at many different points within global food systems, and the pandemic has aggravated the situation, he explained. "High food prices represent another threat to global food security," noted the FAO official.

In February, the FAO Food Price Index was up some 21 percent from a year ago and reached an all-time record high, he said, adding those to be most affected are low-income food-deficit countries.

With the current pace, the international community is "not on track" to achieve the target of ending hunger by 2030, he said.

"Bold and urgent actions need to be taken and scaled up to accelerate progress, especially actions to address inequality in food availability and access to adequate and nutritious foods."

Noting that China is a key player in world food markets, Ben-Belhassen said there is a lot to learn from the experience of China on fighting hunger. China's effort towards more sustainable agrifood systems and improving agricultural production and quality "is a step in the right direction and can help substantially in the fight against poverty and hunger and in achieving the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)," he said.

The official also highlighted "the role of China as one of the strongest proponents of South-South approach to development cooperation." "China has been acting as a significant participant and active supporter of the FAO's South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiative," he said. "FAO greatly values China's contribution to the program, which now operates in 20 countries and has reached more than 100,000 beneficiaries and many more indirect beneficiaries at grassroots level in rural areas," he said. "China's development experience will be an important resource to support other developing countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs," he added.

## That's a leader expected by the people: Costa Rican farmer on Xi

By Bi Mengying, Wang Xinping.

"THIS is President Xi visiting our coffee plantation. This is Mme. Peng having a sip of our coffee. This is President Xi having a casual talk with my family..."

In a rural house in the small town of Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica, the Zamoras were introducing a few delicately framed pictures on a cabinet in their living room to People's Daily. For the Costa Rican family, Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to their home nine years ago is still a fresh memory.

On June 3, 2013, Xi, on a state visit to Costa Rica, went to Santo Domingo together with his wife Peng Liyuan, where they were received by Mr. and Mrs. Zamora, who were in their seventies.

The Costa Rican couple introduced their 12-member family to Xi and Peng, and showcased their clean and tidy house from the living room to the bedrooms, and to the kitchen.

The Zamoras, who made a living by planting coffee, showed Xi and Peng around the coffee plantation behind their house.

The youngest son of Mr. Zamora Alberto introduced to People's Daily a moment of Xi's visit to the plantation that the Chinese President picked up and smelled a coffee flower, and said its appearance, color, shape and even fragrance were similar to those of the Chinese jasmine.

Coffee is everyday drink in Costa Rica, while in China jasmines are always made into tea drink. "At that moment, I deeply felt that Costa Rica and China share many similarities though they are geographically distant. President Xi's comparison between coffee flower and jasmine symbolized the connection between the Costa Ricans and the Chinese," said Alberto.

Mr. Zamora said many foreign state leaders visited his country, but he had never seen one like President Xi who specifically dropped by an ordinary rural family. "We were very excited to have guests like President Xi and his wife," he noted.

He shared with People's Daily a photo in which his family was sitting around the Chinese President, while Mme. Peng is holding his granddaughter. "President Xi was very easygoing. I felt as if we had known each other for a long time and he was even like a family member to me," the Costa Rican said.

In a log cabin in the Zamoras' backyard, Xi had a taste of the family's homemade coffee and empanadas. Mr.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan visit the Zamoras, a rural family during his state visit to Costa Rica, June 3, 2013. File photo

Zamora said he hoped his coffee would one day reach Chinese consumers, and Xi assured him that China and Costa Rica had signed many agreements on farm produce trade, and more Costa Rican agricultural products would be exported to China.

Today, apart from coffee, many other premium Costa Rican commodities are being sold in the Chinese market, including dairy products, pineapples and banana.

Xi told the Zamoras that he had been doing farm work as a grass-root for many years, and when he later moved to the jobs in the counties, municipalities, provincial governments and the Central government, he frequently went back to the countryside to see the farmers and to know their basic requirements and real feelings. Mr. Zamora said his family was impressed and inspired by Xi's pride over the farmer identity.

Alberto's deepest impression about Xi was the Chinese President's remarks that it is a very important task for China to do a good job for the rural areas, particularly to focus on the efforts to help the farmers go out of poverty and live a happy life.

Since Xi's visit, Alberto has been particularly solicitous of the news about China's poverty alleviation. The historic achievements made by China in poverty reduction inspired him very much.

"President Xi often visits schools and factories, and goes to the fields to learn about the real life of the people. I think that's a leader expected by the people. From the news, I can see what he really

cares about and the huge efforts he makes to alleviate poverty in his country," Alberto told People's Daily.

In a display cabinet in the Zamoras' living room, there is a painting of the Great Wall, which is a precious gift to the family from Xi. The Zamoras also has a volume of the book Xi Jinping: The Governance of China. When Alberto showed People's Daily a page in the book of Xi's visit to his home, pride was all on his face. He said his family was called "The Chinese Family" by neighbors because of the Chinese President's visit, and the visit has changed their life.

In June 2014, Alberto joined an agricultural training program hosted in China's Anhui province. He finally came to the country that he had fascinated for so long. Now his family receives Chinese New Year greetings from the Chinese Embassy in Costa Rica every year, and embassy staff would visit the family in-person. A close bond between the family and China is thus forged.

People's Daily

## Mental health problem driven by virus prevalent in US schools

WASHINGTON

MORE than a third of high school students surveyed in the United States experienced stress, anxiety or depression, and nearly a fifth said they seriously considered suicide during the COVID-19 pandemic, US researchers reported on Thursday.

The first nationwide survey of its kind found that 44 percent of students reported feeling sad or hopeless every day for two consecutive weeks or more during the prior year, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study.

"The findings we presented today highlight complex issues, however, and kids, parents and schools cannot address them alone. The impact of COVID-19 will be felt for many years with devastating consequences," CDC official Jonathan Mermin told reporters in a news briefing.

The online survey of 7,705 students in grades 9-12 across the country was conducted during January to June 2021 and asked, "how often was your mental health not good?"

The survey found the prevalence of poor mental health and suicidality was high across students of all sexual identity, racial and ethnic groups, but was more prevalent among students who identified as female than males.

Suicidal thoughts or attempts and general poor mental health were also more prevalent among LGBT students than among het-

erosexual youth, the survey published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report found.

The study confirms concerns raised by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children's Hospital Association, which in October 2021 jointly declared a national emergency in child and adolescent mental health, noting that the stresses brought on by the pandemic have exacerbated issues that existed prior to the health crisis.

As schools were closed during pandemic lockdowns, teenagers were exposed to a variety of stresses, including abuse from parents and isolation.

More than half of the students surveyed said they experienced emotional abuse by a parent or other adult at home, with 11 percent reporting physical abuse. Nearly 30 percent reported that a parent or other adult in their homes lost a job and 24 percent said they went hungry because there was not enough food.

To address these mental health issues, researchers recommended improving student connectedness with other students as well as with staff, and noted that school districts should consider school-wide programs such as those focused on social and emotional learning.

Because the survey was the first of its kind, it was not possible to compare trends with those seen in other studies before the pandemic, researchers noted.



High school students hold a walkout advocating for safer COVID-19 precautions in schools at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington DC on Jan 25, 2022. File photo



The Guardian

## SPORT



Bernard Morisson

## Morisson yet to justify his position in Ghana national football team

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

GHANA's senior national football team has finally qualified for the 2022 World Cup slated for November 21- December 18 in Qatar after beating age-old rival Nigeria in the African qualifiers' third round.

Simba's Ghanaian winger, Bernard Morisson, recently claimed he deserved to be called up to his country's national side, famously known as 'Black Stars', forgetting there are steps the performer needs to climb to get that call-up.

Soccer fanatics should face it, Brazilian football player, Neymar, was rich before he left for Europe.

In 2012 while playing for his country's Premier League club Santos he bought a luxury yacht worth \$10 million. It is a lot of money.

It means he had already become rich by playing in the Brazilian Premier League.

However, it is said that two issues led to his move to Europe in 2013, signing for Barcelona in a transfer that was only a matter of time because Neymar was bound to play in Europe.

There were two reasons. The Brazilians forced him to play in Europe. The first reason is that it does not matter what kind of talent he would have shown in Brazil but he would never have been considered a World Player of the Year if he had continued to play in Brazil Serie A.

It does not matter if he won Copa America, it does not matter if he won Copa Libertadores, it does not matter if he won the World Cup with Brazil.

A footballer needs to play in Europe to win the World Player of the Year award.

It is hard for a footballer to win the World Player of the Year award if he is not playing for one of the major European leagues clubs.

It is moreover difficult if such a footballer is playing in South America, Africa, Asia, or down in Australia.

The performer has to show his talent in Europe in a tough league against strong sides.

Another reason why the Brazilians told Neymar to play for Europe was the fact that they wanted him to mature in European football before representing Brazil in the 2014 World Cup finals that took place in that country.

That is why Neymar left a year before the World Cup. They wanted him to leave for Europe and play regularly before becoming their most important player in the tournament that would take place in his home country.

I remembered Neymar after recently reading news about Morisson who has been crying out for being left out of the Ghana national team while playing football in East Africa. I laughed a little.

There is a writer from Ghana who comes to Tanzania to watch some of Simba's matches.

It looks like he has a special campaign with his friend Morisson about the winger being called up to the Ghana national team.

There is a lot of truth that Morisson forgets. He has been crushing Andre Ayew and his younger brother Jordan Ayew as if they do not match him in football. And

The winger feels he deserves the call-up through playing for Simba in Premier League matches against the likes of Coastal Union.

Football has its limits. There are more than 100 Ghanaian footballers who naturally do not reach Morisson's talent, but they play football in countries whose leagues are better than Tanzania's.

How do Ghana's national soccer squad's gaffers choose Morisson when the footballer is playing in Tanzania?

It can be ridiculous if the performer plays a role that does not have competition but not Morisson's role.

In West Africa, most goalkeepers who play in Africa or within their own countries get lucky to be called up to their countries' squads.

A few African goalkeepers are playing outside the African continent.

Morisson made fun of himself. I have reviewed the list of Ghanaians who play for the national team other than Abed Pele's children and I have listed people who play in the German, Belgian, French, England, and other European premier leagues. Why did he want to be called? Where does that necessarily come from?

A player may have a natural talent, but if he is playing in a European premier league then he deserves to get a chance.

He plays in a lot of competitions every weekend. That is a common truth for coaches who coach national teams.

Morisson has to blame nobody but himself. His talent is clear and he does not deserve to be here.

The winger deserved to be in Europe many years ago, but he has become more of a comedian than a footballer.

It is no coincidence that he is here. It is not just him. Many foreign players in our league are not here by chance.

Some are here because they are too old unless they can only play here, there are those who frequent entertainment joints we know cannot play in competitive leagues.

Some misbehave in public. It is no coincidence that we have many talented foreign footballers who can play in Tanzania because of our football system. They could not play elsewhere.

Morisson knows exactly what to do so he can be called up to the Ghana national team. He knows he is deceiving Tanzanians that he is being oppressed but he knows the truth.

Playing for Simba or Yanga in CAF club tournaments matches is not enough for footballers to be called for the national teams of Ghana, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Mali, or Senegal.

This is the reason Simba's Ivorian defender Serge Pascal Wawa has plied his trade in Tanzania for a long time, and he is not complaining about not earning selection for his country's national squad.

There is a time Morisson would need to work hard to justify being called up to the Ghana national team.

It should be noted that he has not justified his position at Simba to be called up to the Ghana national team.

When a football enthusiast mentions three key players for Simba, Morisson's name will be missing. How can he crave to play for Ghana?

He brings deception because he knows that local football fans tend to be told what they want to hear.

In Zambia, there were times when their players were coming to Tanzania and they did not get selected for the national team.

When Zambian forward Davis Mwape came to Yanga he was no longer called to Zambia's national team.

I do not know why Zambia's national side's technical bench has changed its position on Simba's midfielders Clatous Chama and Rally Bwalya.

Zambia's national squad's gaffers probably opted for the move because Simba is making its presence felt in African club competitions.

## Taifa Stars head coach's vision in safe hands

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

PROBABLY it was due to his leadership in the invention, nurturing, and development of young soccer talent which is why it has been so easy for him to give a chance to the youngsters in Tanzania's national football squad 'Taifa Stars'.

This is Danish gaffer Kim Poulsen who is serving in Tanzania for the second time, the first time he was more focused on the youth football set-up he was behind the program to produce young players who inspired Tanzanians by participating for the first time in the U-17 African Nations Cup finals in Gabon in 2017.

Poulsen, like other coaches who know the basics of football, are can well prepare youngsters, even after returning to serve Tanzanian football once again, this time carrying the reins to sharpen the senior national squad he has continued with his philosophies for the past seven years.

Since 2021, Poulsen's return to the country has had the tactician trusting the youngsters in his squad at various intervals.

The tactician has been calling up the youthful footballers to his squad for experience early on, it was the case for Ramadhani Kabwili, Kelvin John, Nickson Kibabage, and others.

As the days went by the number of youngsters continued to increase in Poulsen's squad and now the performers, Novatus Dismas being one of the footballers, have started to get a chance to play in the first team.

Six other U-20s were named in the Taifa Stars squad for the two international friendly fixtures against the Central Africa Republic and Sudan.

Haji Mnoga

This is his first call-up to



Tanzania's senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players jubilate when one of the side's players netted a goal in an international friendly fixture against the Central African Republic held in Dar es Salaam last week. PHOTO: TFF

Taifa Stars and he secured a place in the first friendly match against the Central Africa Republic.

The 19-year-old right-back played for 135 minutes in two matches. Shortly after the second game, he said: "Playing for my favourite country is a big deal for me, some things I think will stay the same gradually."

"For me, it is just a matter of time because I believe in order, I am very happy with the cooperation from all my teammates," he said.

In Taifa Stars' 3-1 victory over the Central Africa Republic, Mnoga did not appear to be as open-minded in the sense of attacking.

The fullback sat deep to absorb pressure as opposed to the way the footballer plays in England at Weymouth on loan from Portsmouth.

Novatus Dismas

Ever since he started to get a place in the first team, he has been doing well in terms of regular use in various competitive fixtures, scoring the first goal for the national team in the game against the Central Africa Republic.

At age 19, and the level he has been showing are

two different issues, he has been serving as a defensive midfielder, he has been fulfilling his responsibilities well while sometimes helping to push the attacks.

Dismas began his career in professional football in Europe last year after doing well in Israel where he went on a special invitation to Maccabi Tel Aviv club following plying his trade in the NBC Premier League with Biashara United which he played for on a season-long loan from Azam FC.

The good performance he showed for the team that invited him made the Israel football giants sit down with Azam FC for negotiations and Dismas became the official player of Maccabi Tel Aviv.

It did not take him long to be promoted to the first team because he started in the youth squad.

Ben Starkie

Ben Anthony Swakali (born July 23, 2002) has been known as Ben Starkie, a professional player who has been playing as a midfielder and for some time as a striker.

Born and raised in England, he plays for Spald-

ing United. He has started serving Tanzania from the grassroots.

In the encounters with the Central Africa Republic and Sudan, he was one of the Taifa Stars players who were given the opportunity for the first time.

Immediately after the game, he expressed his feelings, saying: "The most important moment in my football career is playing for the first time in the senior national team for Tanzania. This is a time of great pride for me and my family."

Kelvin John

Some see Kelvin John as Taifa Stars captain Mbwana Samatta's successor, due to the path the former has been taking.

Kelvin has turned professional at a young age and the youthful footballer now plays for KRC Genk in Belgium.

He had been doing well in the club's youth squad until the senior squad's technical bench decided to promote him as they appear to be counting on him for next season.

Kelvin has always been hungry for success and his biggest dream is to play professional football at the highest level in Europe as did his predecessor, Samatta.

Samatta has set a record of playing and scoring in the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, and even in the English Premier League and at the Carabao Cup final at Wembley.

Tepsi Evance

There was a time when the youthful footballer, aged 18, went to France to try out for Nantes FC participating in the French Premier League 'Ligue 1'.

A football fanatic could say that it was not his time

because despite doing well the deal melted away due to reasons beyond his control.

Evans got the position after graduating from a clinic held on October 29, 2019, at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam under the management of Cambiasso Sport Management in partnership with Rainbow Sport.

For now, the prodigy Starlet has been the talk of the Mainland Premier League with Azam FC so much that Kim earned him a call-up to the senior national team.

Abdulrazack Hamza

He is 18 years old, but he has been getting a chance to play in Namungo FC's squad, Hamza looks set to be one of the best defenders in the years to come, his being called up to the Taifa Stars squad is opening the doors for him.

To him, Namungo FC is like a strategy that he plans to use to achieve his goals of playing professional football abroad as is the case with his fellow youths.

Abdulwalib Mshery

He has been mentioned by Tanzanian football stakeholders since he was turning out for Mtibwa Sugar.

The goalie's quality made Yanga fight for his signature following the departure of the team's number one goalkeeper, Malian Djigui Diarra, who went on to play in the 2021 African Cup of Nations in Cameroon.

Since joining Yanga, Mshery has continued to show his edge at the goalposts to consequently impress Poulsen.

The gaffer now believes the goalkeeper could help Taifa Stars in the next few years despite the presence of experienced keepers Metacha Mnata and Aishi Manula.

## NBC Premier League clubs' major steals in January transfer window

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE function of the mini registration period is to help clubs improve the deficit in their respective squads, registering footballers that will boost them.

There are NBC Premier League teams that have benefited from the registration, while others suffer the pain of signing players who fail to meet the teams' goals and end up showing low standards.

The Guardian sheds light on 11 players registered by various Premier League teams in the mini registration period this season who have added strength and eliminated deficiencies in the squads.

Aboutwalib Mshery (Yanga)

He is Yanga's number two goalkeeper, deputizing Malian Djigui Diarra.

The youthful shot-stopper joined the Jangwani Street outfit from Mtibwa Sugar.

Mshery has since joining Yanga excelled in four matches, having not conceded a goal against Dodoma Jiji FC in Yanga's 4-0 win.

The keeper was between the posts in Yanga's 2-0 win over Coastal Union, 0-0 draw with beya City FC, and a 1-0 victory against Mbao FC.

The young shot-stopper has shown quality and, in the absence of Diarra, Yanga's head coach Nasreddine Nabi cannot get the pressure of sorting out the goalkeeping role whenever he needs good results.



Yanga's goalkeeper Aboutwalib Mshery. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Ibrahim Ajibu (Azam FC)

He started impressively after joining Azam FC from Simba where he played for two years.

After landing did he make his way into the first team even though he is currently going through a difficult period of fighting for a spot in the squad, having taken part in five games and scoring one goal.

Hamis Kiiza (Kagera Sugar)

The former Yanga and Simba SC forward had since joining Kagera Sugar from Uganda's Proline FC been involved in four goals.

has scored three Premier League goals and has become a key first-team player.

Denis Nkane (Yanga)

The 18-year-old talent attracted Yanga leadership to hand him a contract after serving Biashara United.

He started his life in Yanga slowly, an outfit that is very competitive when it comes to getting the opportunity to play.

The winger keeps on getting playing time, he shows great potential and carries the hopes of the Jangwani Street club which needs the league title.

David Kameta (Geita Gold FC)

Simba loaned out right-back, David Kameta 'Duchu', to Biashara United and he was later taken over by Geita Gold FC during the mini registration period. The defender has been a key figure in the squad on the right.

Adeyem Saleh (Geita Gold FC)

He served Yanga for two years, but the challenge of garnering playing time in the squad prevented him from extending a new contract with the Jangwani Street outfit.

The left fullback, therefore, went on to join Geita Gold FC during the mini registration period and has been playing regularly on the left side.

Juma Nyosso (Geita Gold FC)

Geita Gold FC strengthened the defensive line by also capturing veteran defender Juma Said Nyoso, one of the most experienced footballers in the league, from Ruvu Shooting.

Said brings in his experience to a team that makes their debut in the league.

Kelvin Yondani (Geita Gold FC)

After spending the entire season at Polisi Tanzania, Kelvin Yondani has become a key player in the Geita Gold FC first team, with the team suffering two losses from seven games since joining in January.

Salum Abubakar (Yanga)

The skillful and visionary central attacking midfielder, Salum Abubakar, served Azam FC from 2007 to 2021.

Yanga signed him in January on a two-and-a-half-year contract and is now a key figure in the absence of midfielder Khalid Aucho.

Haruna Chanongo (Ruvu Shooting)

Chanongo is a new addition to Ruvu Shooting trained by Boniface Mkwasa and since joining the team as a free agent after being inactive for six months, he has been a reliable star who has started to show his edge.



# There's plenty for Africa's teams to learn from these World Cup exits

By Ed Dove, Special to ESPN

**A**FRICA'S World Cup qualifying concluded on Tuesday evening with a pulsating series of second legs, leaving Nigeria and Egypt fans bereft upon their teams' exits. While five teams -- Ghana, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia and Cameroon -- have booked their tickets to Qatar, much of the discussion after the dramatic bouts has focused on who's missed out on the global showpiece.

But there's still plenty to see for Africa's fans, including Liverpool and Senegal stalwart Sadio Mane, and Cameroon creatives Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting and Karl Toko Ekambi.

Here are the key talking points -- and some of the lessons learned -- from the denouement of Africa's World Cup qualifying campaign.

## \*Africa's finest to miss out on Qatar

Africa's most high-profile absentee at the World Cup later this year will be Mohamed Salah, after Egypt came up short -- again -- when faced with Senegal and a penalty shootout.

Less than two months after losing the Africa Cup of Nations final against the Teranga Lions on penalties, the Pharaohs again came up short after Hamdi Fathi's own goal in Dakar cancelled out Saliou Ciss's own goal in the first leg in Cairo.

Having been criticised for not taking a penalty in the Nations Cup final shootout, Salah stepped up first on Tuesday, only to blaze his spotkick over the bar after Kalidou Koulibaly, Senegal's skipper, had hit the bar with his opening effort.

Ahmed Sayed Zizo and

Mostafa Mohamed would also miss as Senegal ran out 3-1 winners in a shootout blighted by lasers being shone in the faces of Pharaohs players by the home supporters.

Those of a Senegalese persuasion may claim it's karmic justice for Egypt fans aiming lasers of their own at the Teranga Lions during the first leg, but legitimate questions can be asked about why the Algerian official didn't intervene amidst some feeble pleas from the stadium announcer for fans to desist in their bating of the visiting players.

The Egyptian Football Association have lodged a formal complaint, but it's unlikely to change the bottom line: Salah will miss the World Cup.

It's a bitter blow for a player who's considered Africa's finest, and is enjoying a magnificent season at club level, but whose international legacy is unravelling after a miserable two months.

Failure to reach Qatar comes on the back of a disappointing AFCON for Salah -- even though he was generously named in the Team of the Tournament -- with Egypt ultimately capitulating in the final.

Now 29, 2022 was the year for Salah to take on both the AFCON and the World Cup in his prime; instead, one passed him by, and he'll be absent for the other.

He'll turn 34 during the 2026 tournament, and failure on Tuesday surely means that -- after injury overshadowed Salah's performance at Russia 2018 -- we've likely been denied the prospect of ever seeing one of Africa's all-time greats truly make his mark on the grandest stage.

Africa's champions ad-



The World Cup on Qatar will be without Africa's best player in Mohamed Salah, after Egypt were sent packing by Senegal. (Agencies)

argued with the dismissal of Gernot Rohr in mid-December, the timing of the German coach's exit -- so soon before the Nations Cup and the World Cup playoff -- raised concerns.

## \*Nigeria only have themselves to blame

Elimination by Ghana in Abuja on Tuesday -- the Black Stars advance on away goals following a 1-1 draw -- brings to a close three and a half chaotic and muddled months in which the Nigeria Football Federation have surely contributed to their own side's demise.

While few supporters

ing stages in front of their own fans, when Thomas Parthey gave the Black Stars the advantage in the eleventh minute.

Nigeria responded from the spot via William Troost-Ekong, but head coach Augustine Eguavoen -- initially the short-term replacement for Rohr -- failed to capitalise on his immense attacking resources to hurt a Ghana side who conceded three goals against the Comoros just over two months ago.

Of course, the absences of Wilfred Ndidi and top goalkeeper Maduka Okoye were massive blows, but once again, the absence of a strategy, the lack of coherent long-term thinking, and inconsistency in selection and appointments have undermined a genuinely talented Nigeria squad.

The consequence is that the Eagles -- can we really call them "Super"? -- miss out on only their second World Cup since first qualifying in 1993. NFF and Amaju Pinnick have serious questions to answer...

## \*Morocco silence the critics...for now

Unlike their fellow north Africans Egypt and Algeria, a difficult few months for Morocco ultimately ended in delight as they thumped the Democratic Republic of Congo 5-2 on aggregate -- with a 4-1 triumph in Casablanca on Tuesday -- to progress.

The resounding victory will silence some of coach Wahid Halilhodzic's critics for now, with the Bosnian previously alienating many supporters and media with his decision to cut Chelsea playmaker Hakim Ziyech and Ajax's Noussair Mazraoui.

The knives were out after their limp Nations Cup

exit at the hands of Egypt, while the decision to omit the creative Ziyech -- who's since retired from international football -- risked coming back to haunt Wahid after they were held 1-1 in Kinshasa in the first leg.

After a magnificent attacking display in Casa, however, coupled with a 100-percent record during the group stage, Morocco's tails are up as they reach consecutive World Cups for the first time since 1998.

Most encouragingly, based on Tuesday's showing, are the new threats emerging in the form of Tarik Tissoudali -- who scored twice across the two legs -- and Azzedine Ounahi, whose double in the second leg took the tie beyond DR.

Both players only made their debuts for Morocco at the AFCON, in the victory over Ghana, but have settled well at international level, with Ounahi's magnificent opener on Tuesday the most outstanding moment of individual quality from across both matchdays in Africa.

Even more encouragingly for Halilhodzic, however, will be the way the two dovetailed for the 21-year-old's second, as Tissoudali burst down the left before crossing for Ounahi to finish calmly.

With invention and interplay like this, who needs Ziyech...?!

## \*Queiroz departs Pharaohs post

The first (and probably not only) managerial casualty from the World Cup qualifiers is Egypt's Carlos Queiroz, who announced his exit from the Pharaohs post in the immediate aftermath of their defeat.

"[The] dream is over," he posted on social media. "From the bottom of

my heart, my gratitude to Egypt Federation for this honour of coaching the National Team.

"It was my privilege to work and be helped by such dedicated and capable professionals and wonderful friends."

The ex-Real Madrid head coach and Manchester United assistant manager promised much upon his appointment as Egypt boss, having overseen a notable improvement with the Iran national side during two World Cup campaigns with Team Melli.

While he did take Egypt to an AFCON final, his brief six-month spell with the national side has been one of frustration and controversy, with the Pharaohs winning few admirers for their cagey, conservative style, and Queiroz's own incendiary touchline antics prompting criticism.

He was suspended for the Nations Cup final after being sent off in the semi against Cameroon, although both during that tournament and for the playoff against Senegal, Queiroz managed to oversee resolute defensive displays despite a swathe of key absences due to injury and suspension.

## Algeria's decline continues

Few could have imagined, at the turn of the year, that the first quarter of 2022 would go so badly for former African champions Algeria and Riyad Mahrez.

They entered the calendar year as reigning African champions, and cultivating a continental record undefeated streak, only for things to unravel spectacularly. Their run ended on 35 matches at the hands of modest Equatorial Guinea, before they were dumped out of the Nations Cup by

the Ivory Coast.

In the first leg of these playoffs, it appeared as though they had finally put an end to their disastrous run by banishing the demons of Douala and defeating Cameroon at the Stade de Japoma -- the same arena where their AFCON dreams had imploded -- setting them up for a strong second leg in Blida.

Algeria have never lost a match at the Stade Mustapha Tchaker -- winning 36 of their previous 43 fixtures at the venue -- but that run came to a screeching halt on Tuesday, in the most remarkable circumstances.

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting's goal -- firmly against the run of play -- in the 22nd minute ultimately sent the tie to extra time, and while substitute Ahmed Touba thought he'd won it with a header in the 118th minute, Karl Toko Ekambi struck from close range in the 125th minute to send Cameroon to Qatar.

Head coach Djamel Belmadi collapsed to the turf, head in hands, tears rolling down his cheeks at the full time whistle, simply aghast at how -- as during the AFCON -- Algeria could dominate possession, create a hatful of chances, but fail to kill off a contest.

Manchester City maestro Mahrez, irresistible at times, was also guilty of missing a decent opportunity, and he, like Salah, will have to watch Qatar 2022 on television.

For Cameroon, Samuel Eto'o's decision to sack head coach Toni Conceicao, and appoint national legend Rigobert Song has paid off handsomely, as the Indomitable Lions qualify for their record-extending eighth World Cup.

# World Cup finals draw in Qatar puts spotlight on a tournament like no other

DOHA, Qatar

**F**OR Qatar, the World Cup draw last yesterday was the bell signaling the last lap of a race that began more than two decades ago. That's when the Gulf state -- poor in square miles, population and (back then) name recognition, but rich in per capita GDP and ambition -- decided to make sports one of the central planks of its development.

Sports would raise the country's profile, drive business opportunity, provide some sort of legacy for the day when, inevitably, the oil and natural gas run out. It was just one prong of the strategy -- security (the U.S. military's Gulf Central Command is in Doha), media (Al Jazeera) and education were also priorities -- but in some ways, it was the most significant.

The most significant step in the journey was back on Dec. 2, 2010, when a vote by FIFA's Executive Committee awarded them the 2022 World Cup. It would turn out to be a day of controversy -- three of the 25 ExCo members were suspended for corruption before the vote even took place, another 11 who voted that day were subsequently banned, prosecuted or suspended, and longtime FIFA president Sepp Blatter was ousted a few years later -- but it meant Qatar was on its way and there was no turning back.

And now, stuff gets real.

The draw Friday will determine how the 32 participating nations will line up in groups of four. Well, almost -- real life, of course, has gotten in the way in the form of a pandemic and a war, which means three spots are still to be determined. Barring any further twists, one will be contested by Ukraine, Scotland and Wales, another by Australia, United Arab Emirates and Peru and the final one by Costa Rica vs. New Zealand. While most of FIFA's 211 member nations had their World Cup dreams crushed a long time ago -- and a few just in the past 10 days -- fans in 37 countries can continue to hope, at least until June, when the final qualifiers are played.

What will they find when November rolls around and the so-called Biggest Show in Sports kicks off? A World Cup like no other.

For a start, we're used to countries hosting World Cups, but this is essentially a tournament held in a single city, Doha. Qatar has a population of nearly 2.5 million, and nearly 90% of them live in the Doha metropolitan area. Seven of the eight venues are either in central Doha, or within a couple of miles of the city limits. The one that's not (Al Khor) is a mere 30 miles away. Never before in the history of the game has so much "stuff" -- players,

fans, sponsors, executives, hangers-on -- been concentrated in so little space.

Also, never before has a World Cup been contested in a place that feels so new, so unmoored from the constraints of history and, specifically, from football culture.

Qatari culture is rich and ancient: People have been living here since the Stone Age, but the nation itself only achieved independence in 1971 and, for much of its history, it was ruled by others, whether British, Saudi or Ottoman. That independence, broadly coinciding with the discovery of vast oil and natural gas reserves, was a blessing. Its riches were -- relatively speaking -- spared from being extracted by foreigners, and it suddenly found itself with a blank slate in terms of development and the cash to make (almost) anything happen.

Doha felt like a vast construction site when I first visited nearly 20 years ago and while it's bigger and bolder today, it still feels like a work in progress. Very little that is tangible is older than the turn of the millennium: not the luxury tower blocks, not the mega-malls filled with familiar brands, not the stadiums themselves. Most of them look like what you would expect them to look like: striking architectural follies that look especially impressive



Doha's now a metropolis and yet it'll be the first time a World Cup is essentially hosted in a single city, with 90% of Qatar's population living in or near the city. (Agencies)

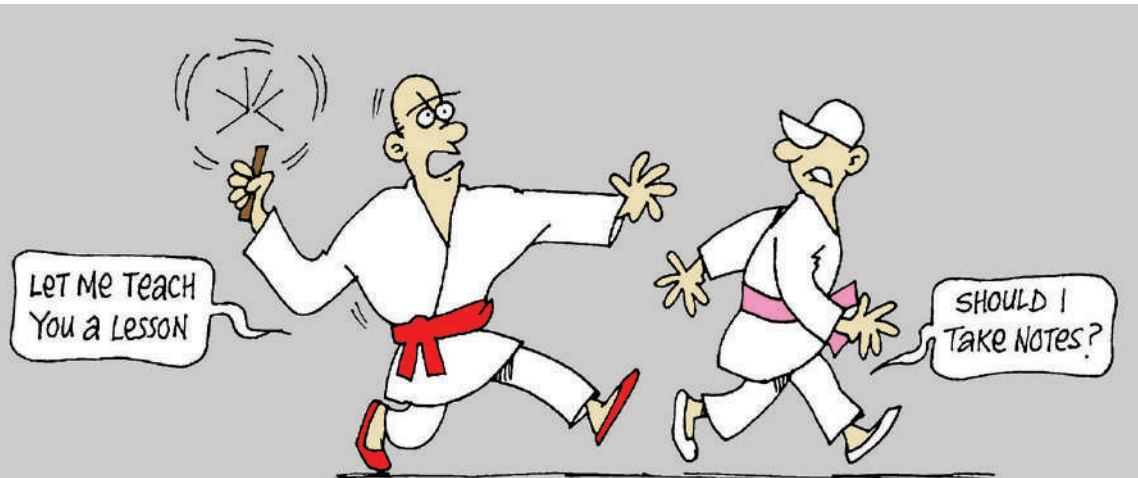
from afar, though one (Stadium 974) deserves credit for creativity, as it was built entirely from shipping containers and will be disassembled after the tournament. They too contribute to the air of impermanence and rootlessness: You're in Qatar, but you could be anywhere -- anywhere that sports and entertainment, sponsors and politics meet. In some ways, that's an unfair criticism. The past few World Cup hosts (Russia, Brazil, South Africa, Germany) didn't just have strong and distinct footballing cultures; they were powerful global country brands too. There was an identity there that folks were familiar with and which the

tournament built on. Qatar doesn't have that luxury. To many, they are what the world chooses to project

on them: a cookie-cutter, uber-wealthy Gulf petrostate with an absolute ruler, garish luxury construc-

tions and designer stores, a nation that mistreats migrant workers and likes to accumulate shiny assets,

Gwiji by David Chikoko



ESPN



There's plenty for Africa's teams to learn from these World Cup exits

PAGE 19

## Simba SC faces tough test against US Gendarmerie Nationale

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S only representative in Africa club competitions, Simba SC, will complete the CAF Confederation Cup group stage matches against Niger giants, Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale.

Simba has seven points, the same as Morocco's RS Berkane in second place, ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast sits at the top with nine points, bottom-placed US Gendarmerie registered five points.

It looks like Simba is waiting for Sunday's match at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam to complete the quarterfinal journey as the Niger outfit hardly seems to be an obstacle.

In the first match in Niger, Simba forced a 1-1 draw, with winger Bernard Morrison entering as a substitute in the second half and equalizing for the visitors.

History however does not tell Tanzania's football lovers that the Sunday match is as easy as other group matches that do not determine the fate of the team in the competition.

A Kiswahili statement 'Kwa Mkapa Hatoki Mtu' for that matter does not fit the context of the game.

Simba has seldom made good use of the home ground to determine its fate in the tournament.

In the match against Zambia's Nkana FC, a goal scored in the final minutes after Simba started a free-kick quickly sent the latter to the group stage of the CAF Champions League.

There are several other matches in which Simba decided its fate in Dar es Salaam, but the CAF Champions League has been a challenge for the club.

In 1993, Simba forced a goalless draw with Stella Abidjan in Ivory Coast, so be sure to win the CAF Cup in Dar es Salaam.

But Boli Zozo ruined everything. He scored two goals that put an end to all the championship preparations that had been made and some announced off the pitch.

A similar situation arose for Simba in the knockout match against Ismailia of Egypt in Dar es Salaam.

Simba needed a good result at the National Stadium (now Uhuru Stadium) to avenge a 2-0 away loss.

Joseph Kaniki scored two goals, but the match was canceled due to heavy rain.

When it was repeated the next day, the result was a 1-0 win for Simba and it was eliminated on a 2-1 aggregate result.

Simba faced a similar situation in the CAF Confederation Cup after scoring an away goal in Abidjan against ASEC Mimosas in a 2-1 loss.

It was expected that Simba would score at least one goal in Dar es Salaam to advance but Ivorian attacker Sekou Bamba rejected the plans.

Bamba scored the first goal and in the second half, he provided a pass to give ASEC Mimosas a 2-0 win and extinguish Simba's dreams.

In the match against UD Songo of Mozambique, Simba managed to force a goalless draw in Maputo and thus a victory of any kind in Dar es Salaam would have given the outfit a ticket to the first round of the CAF Champions League.

Luis Miquissone gave UD Songo the lead in the 14th minute at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and a penalty kick by Simba's Erasto Nyoni in the last minute did not stop UD Songo from advancing via the away goal rule.

And this year Simba again failed to use Benjamin Mkapa Stadium to decide its fate in the CAF Champions League.

The Mainland Tanzania Premier League champions won 2-0 against Jwaneng Galaxy in Botswana and the rematch in Dar es Salaam saw Simba start to score and thus seemed to clear the way for qualification to the group stage.

Jwaneng Galaxy though bounced back and scored three goals that gave them the victory via the away goal rule, as the final result was 3-3.

I have used those few records to remind Simba that when it comes to a seemingly light environment, the situation is different and the result is costly.

First, Simba's officials start making statements that seem like they have made it to the next stage even before the team descends on the pitch.

Such statements must distort the psychology of the players and give the fans unrealistic expectations and when they see the different outcomes on the pitch, they go as far as losing the motivation to cheer.

Simba needs to prepare for the Gendarmerie match with those records and thus do the right thing as the Nigeriens are also preparing themselves differently.

If Simba qualifies for the quarterfinals it will continue to favour Mainland Tanzania Premier League to be represented by four teams as was the case this season.

Simba's success means two clubs will play in the CAF Champions League and as many will play in the CAF Confederation Cup.

# Simba SC out to fight for Mainland Tanzania's prestige in CAF club competitions



Simba footballers engage in preparations in Cotonou, Benin before confronting ASEC Mimosas in this season's CAF Confederation Cup Group D duel which took place last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba will on Sunday know its fate in this season's CAF Confederation Cup when it takes on US Gendarmerie of Niger in the tournament's final Group D match to take place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba needs to win to advance to the quarterfinals to join the other seven teams in the knockout round.

The good news is that if Simba makes it, the side will continue to add numbers of the country's clubs to the CAF club competitions next season.

If Simba reaches the quarterfinals the side will continue to favour Mainland Tanzania to be represented by four teams as was the case this season, meaning two outfits will play in CAF Champions League and as many

will play in the CAF Confederation Cup.

The points count system is used to determine the number of teams that will represent the country in the club competitions organized by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

Mainland Tanzania will have a great chance of fielding four teams in the Africa club tournaments next season if Simba will advance to the quarterfinals.

So far Tanzania has 23 points which will increase to 30.5 if Simba reaches the quarterfinals and moves up from the 12 places to eighth, ninth, or 10th out of the 12 countries given the opportunity to field four teams each depending on the success of Zambia, Libya, and Nigeria.

Nigeria currently has 26 points and does not have a single team in the group stage of the CAF club tournaments.

It will have to give space to Tanzania while Zambia with 24.5 points remains stagnant, with the country's club Zanaco sitting last in CAF Confederation Cup Group A with three points.

If Zanaco finishes at the bottom of their group, Zambia will remain with the current 24.5 points as opposed to finishing third if

Should the Zambian team post victory in the final away match against Pyramids FC the former will still not qualify for the quarterfinals.

Libya is the biggest threat to Tanzania in the race as it currently placed 13th with 23 points.

The northern African nation is on par with Tanzania, considering Libya is represented by two outfits, Al Ahli Tripoli

and Al Ittihad Tripoli, in the group stages of the CAF Confederation Cup.

Al Ahli Tripoli currently leads Group A with 10 points and has already qualified for the quarterfinals.

Al Ittihad has a good chance of qualifying for the quarterfinals as it is sitting second in Group B with 10 points while third-placed JS Saoura of Algeria has seven points.

Tanzania should also wish well Cameroon's Cotonsport, which sits last in Group C, to hold onto the position until the group stage ends so that Cameroon with six points so far does not have a chance to overtake Tanzania.

If ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast leads Group D and qualify for the quarterfinals it could be a threat to Tanzania if the Ivorian club makes it to the final or win the title and draw closer to Tanzania.

Simba sits third in Group D and if it emerges victorious in the final group match on April 3 against US Gendarmerie, the results will see the former reach a total of 10 points and reach the quarterfinals.

To ensure Simba achieve its goal of defending Tanzania's chances, Simba captain John Bocco said they will make sure they reach the quarterfinals for the country's honour.

The goal-getter disclosed Simba is eager to achieve the goal of reaching the quarterfinals and fighting for the four spots in continental club competitions.

## Biashara United and longest winless streaks this season

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

THIRTEEN of the 16 clubs in the NBC Premier League have gone at least five consecutive games without a win in the ongoing 2021/22

Only Young Africans (one), Azam FC, and Simba SC on three are the teams with less than five games without victory.

Biashara United has the longest winless streak this season which stands at 11 games.

After beating Prisons 3-0 in October for their win of the season, Biashara United had to wait until February to see the second win of the season.

A 2-0 home victory over Azam FC ended the Mara-based Biashara United's winless run that included eight draws and three defeats against Mtibwa Sugar, Coastal Union, and Young Africans.

The dreadful run cost head coach Patrick Odhiambo his job. The Kenyan coach who joined the team towards the end of last season was relieved of his duty in December.

He has been replaced by Vivier Bahati who has mar-



Biashara United's players participate in training in Mara to shape up for past Premier League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BIASHARA UNITED

ginally improved the side.

Mbeya Kwanza FC and Polisi Tanzania have the joint second-longest winless streak having gone eight games without registering maximum points at a certain stage of this campaign.

After the newly promoted team

from Mbeya won its opening game against Mtibwa Sugar in September 2021, it went on to win none of the next eight games, losing four and drawing the other.

The glorious win finally came just three days before Christmas, when Kagera Sugar was defeated

2-0 at a disbelieving Kaitaba Stadium with the losers registering nine shots on targets to the victors' two of the day.

All appeared rosy at Polisi Tanzania when the club had won its four of opening eight Premier League matches after seeing off

Prisons 1-0 in December.

Unfortunately, they would have to wait three months and one day until their next win, falling from the top three to the bottom half of the table. That winless streak ended when they beat Azam FC on March 5.

Dodoma Jiji FC, Mtibwa Sugar, Prisons, and Ruvu Shooting are tied on seven games without victory. Prisons have not won since December 26 when they beat Kagera Sugar.

They have registered five losses and two draws in that period. Two points picked in that time mean that Odhimabo's men sit rooted to the bottom of the table.

Mtibwa Sugar had a tough start, they had to wait until December to see their team's first win of the season. It cost Joseph Omog his job at the end of last year.

He has since been replaced by Salum Mayanga who was previously at Prisons at the start of the season.

Dodoma Jiji FC is on the joint-longest current winless run in the league, they have not won in their last seven games. It is a record shared with Prisons and Mbeya Kwanza FC.

At one moment in the season, Kagera Sugar, Namungo FC, and Coastal Union went six games without a victory while Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, Mbeya City FC, and Geita Gold FC went five consecutive matches without picking maximum points.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

