

THE CITIZEN

Dar es Salaam, Saturday, 16 July 2016

YOUNG AFRICANS SHOULD BEAT GHANA TO ADVANCE

Tanzania representatives in the Confederation Cup, Young Africans, today play Medeama FC of Ghana in Group A encounter at the National Stadium in the city.

The match is important for Young Africans to qualify for semifinals of the tournament. Young Africans are yet to win a single match since the start of the group stage matches on June 19. They lost 1-0 in the hands of Mo Bejaia of Algeria and failed to utilise the home ground as they were beaten 1-0 by DR Congo's TP Mazembe.

If Young Africans lose in today's encounter they will technically be out of the competitions because the team may collect nine points in the remaining three matches of the tournament.

Being the only team in East and Central Africa featuring in the tournament, the Jangwani street boys have to be keen to have best results in the match.

Young Africans should realise that all Tanzanians are behind them and expect the best results.

The players should revive the hope of featuring in semifinals for the first time in history. Tanzania is yet to win the Confederation Cup in history. Only Simba SC qualified to finals when the tournament was known as Caf Cup in 1993 and lost 2-0 at the Uhuru Stadium by Stella Abidjan. Since then, none of our clubs had reached that stage. Young Africans will be playing at a time when their fans are disappointed following a series of defeats. However, we call upon fans to forget the past and focus on the future. They should cheer the players.

Fans are the 11th player in the team. As for the players, they should not be discouraged by previous lucklastre show. They should play hard and enthusiastically to win, bring honour to themselves and the nation. We believe that their morale is also high. We wish them good luck.

PROTECT HERITAGE SITES

Tanzania is among countries which have enough heritage resources to provide a clear insight into the past and help people learn about human history.

There are numerous cultural sites showing masterpieces of human creativity and natural sites presenting major stages in the earth's history. Much as these historical places give people a clear picture about our ancient cultures, stone tools, and our ancestors' art works, we are responsible for conserving them.

Seven such sites are so far recognised and taken care by the Unesco. These are the Kondoa Rock Sites; the ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara; the Stone Town of Zanzibar; Kilimanjaro and Serengeti national parks as well as Ngorongoro Conservation Area. But Tanzania also boasts having many other similar historical sites, natural features and structures which are worth recognising, protecting and preserving.

The commitment to protect heritage the seven sites which the government recently made during the 40th World Heritage Committee meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey, should also cover the likes of Kunduchi and Kaole ruins; Bagamoyo, Mikindani and Kivinje historical towns; Kalenga and Bweranyange traditional settlements in Iringa and Kagera regions, respectively; Mbozi Meteorite; Amboni Caves and Kondoa Rock Art shelters, to name just a few.

PUBLISHED AND PRINTED BY
Mwananchi Communications Limited
P.O. Box 19754, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

FRANCIS NANAI, Managing Director
BAKARI MACHUMU, Executive Editor

THOMAS MOSOBA, Managing Editor
Off Mandela Expressway, Tabata
Telephones: 022 2450875/6, 0754 780647
Newsroom: 022 2450723, 2450902, 2450717
Fax: 022 2450311, 2450866

Email: news@thecitizen.co.tz
newsthecitizen@yahoo.com

For compliments and complaints:
Email: customercare@mwananchi.co.tz



Water resources at the heart of SDGs

► **CHRISTOPHER SAYI**



Next week, Dar es Salaam will play host to the 6th Africa Water Week. It will attract government leaders and other stakeholders from across the continent to increase political commitment and develop solutions to the continent's water and sanitation challenges.

This year, the Africa Water Week will focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This United Nations-sponsored effort aims to create a common set of development targets for all countries. It is reassuring to see that water and sanitation feature prominently as SDG6. Furthermore, when we compare the SDGs to the UN's previous Millennium Development Goals, initiated in 2000 to rally the world around a 15-year agenda to tackle poverty, we also see a notable shift towards issues of water resources and water security. This is in addition to the continued, critical focus on increasing basic access to water and sanitation services.

This is a welcome and important shift. Population growth, economic growth and climate change are placing a growing strain on water

resources not just in Africa but across the world. Globally, we face an estimated 40 percent gap between water supply and water demand by 2030. Our agriculture, our industry, our energy, our tourism, all rely on water resources, which too often are taken for granted. As American statesman Benjamin Franklin said over 200 years ago, it is only when the well is dry, that we know the worth of water. Hence, the SDGs provide a welcome reminder of the importance of water for all aspects of our economic development.

With 2,300 cubic metres of water per capita, Tanzania does not lack water. What we lack are the systems and infrastructure to store and efficiently utilise water. Over 80 per cent of the rain that falls in Tanzania is never touched for any productive or social purpose. In areas where economic activity – and particularly agriculture – has developed more intensively, the challenges of low storage and inefficiency are resulting in water resources being stretched to their environmental limits.

This creates risks for a diverse mix of water-using stakeholders, including commercial agribusinesses, smallholder farmers, hydro-power providers, industries, pastoralists, wildlife reserves, municipal water providers and communities. Yet, as the risks grow, so does the under-

standing of the need to work together, across sectors and stakeholder groups, to find common solutions to the water challenge.

One important recent effort to address this challenge is through the Tanzania 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG) partnership, which brings together stakeholders to find joint solutions to the country's water challenges. As chairman of this partnership, I have observed the alignment of interest between government, the private sector and

More than 95 per cent of smallholder farmers in Tanzania do not have access to irrigation

civil society on the issue of water resource management. This alignment creates opportunities for innovative joint solutions.

To give one example, in the north of Tanzania we recently launched a Kilimanjaro Water Stewardship Platform. This initiative is uniting the Pangani Basin Water Office together with actors from the horticulture and sugar industry, development partners, NGOs and others, to develop, coordinate and scale up solutions to tackle the growing water resource challenges in the Pangani basin.

Another example is in the irrigation sector, where we are building a partnership to

increase access to finance for water-smart irrigation technologies. More than 95 per cent of smallholder farmers in Tanzania do not have access to irrigation, and almost all that do use inefficient surface irrigation which is bad for yields and water sustainability. Together with the National Irrigation Commission and the Financial Services Deepening Trust, we have brought together a group of irrigation suppliers, agriculture companies, financial services providers and other agriculture organisations to develop solutions that can increase our agricultural

productivity while using less water.

As host, next week's Africa Water Week provides us with a wonderful opportunity to showcase these positive experiences with our neighbours, as well as to learn from the experiences of countries in the region that face similar water resource challenge to ourselves. The Sustainable Development Goals are our goals, and our public sector bodies, our companies and our civil society must join hands if we are to succeed in achieving them.

The author is chairman of the National Water Board and the Tanzania 2030 Water Resources Group partnership.