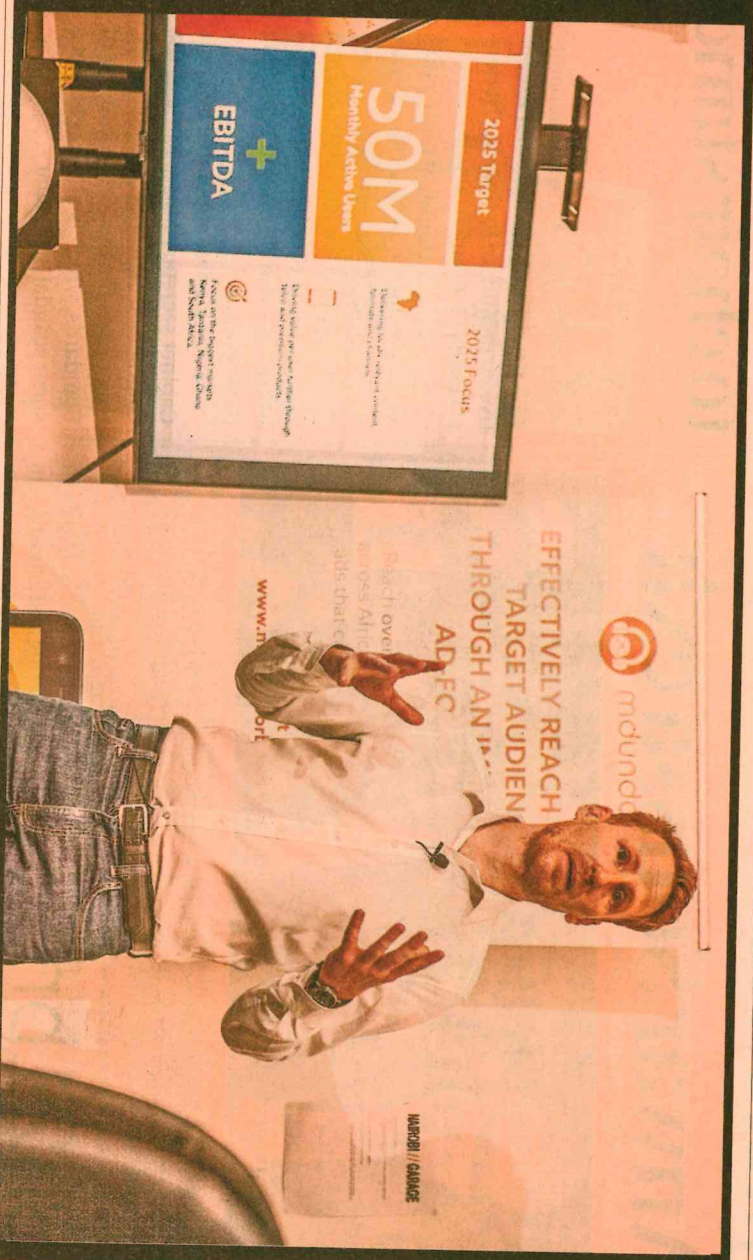


# AFRICA.

## Mdundo targets 50m monthly active users

Martin Moeller Nielsen, the chief executive and co-founder of music services company Mdundo, addresses the media on the firm's financial performance and outlook yesterday in Nairobi. Mdundo targets 50 million monthly active users in the next two years by focusing on markets such as Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa. **BILLY OGADA**



## Economy.

### Triple digit inflation returns to Zimbabwe

BBC

Zimbabwe's old enemy — tri inflation — is back, after an inflation doubled to almost 176 in June from 86.5 percent theous month.

Consumer groups say the family needs about one million babwe dollars (\$150) for food every month, as prices rise daily.

Most people are struggling to afford groceries or are skipping according to the NGO Action

The government blames speculators for the crash of the babwe dollar — which has lost more than 90 percent of its value in January.

The US dollar is also legal and most people prefer it, though the local currency to lose

The government recently ed authorities to impose some and taxes exclusively in local currency in the hope that it would in demand for the beleaguered Z babwe dollar.

Earlier June, the monetary committee had raised the bank rate to 150 percent from 100 percent.

## Minerals.

### Namibia minister looses bid to cancel Chinese miner's licence

REUTERS

Namibia's mines minister did not have the power to cancel a Chinese lithium miner's licence and so he has approached the courts to rule on it, a judge ruled on Tuesday.

Lithium miner Xinfeng too mibia's mines minister Tom Alton do to court after he cancelled the company's mining licence in and ordered it to stop operations May 31.

The minister accused the company of obtaining the licence through a flawed application process.

Xinfeng challenged the minister's decision in Namibia's High Court. "The first respondent (mines minister) did not have the power to revoke the mining licence without the consent of the governing authority to cancel it, a judge ruled on Tuesday. The press or implied authority to cancel it was not sufficient to cancel it under the governing legislation was required to approach the court for an appropriate relief," Acting Court Judge Ramon Maasdorp ruled last October, the Namibian government banned Xinfeng from exporting lithium ore to China, as the shipments were irregular. Xinfeng denied the allegations.

## Aviation.

### RwandAir launches direct flights to Paris on demand

THE EASTAFRICAN

Rwanda national carrier Monday launched direct flights between Kigali and Paris as demand for booking picks up ahead of summer.

Rwandair will be using its newly delivered Airbus A330-300 aircraft on the route, flying three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

The carrier joins Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airline with direct flights to France. Earlier this month, Air France launched direct flights from Paris to Dar es Salaam, ending

a 28-year hiatus.

The airline seeks to tap the huge Rwandan diaspora living in France as well as Belgium.

"Passengers travelling from Rwanda will now be able to reach Paris in 8 hours and 30 minutes," Rwandair said in a tweet on Monday.

The carrier has been expanding its operations over the last two years.

The latest Airbus acquisition makes it a total of 13 aircraft serving 28 destinations across East, Central, West, and Southern Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia.

## Energy.

### Taifa Gas to set up power plant in Zambia venture

THE CITIZEN

Tanzanian liquefied petroleum gas firm Taifa Gas plans to set up a \$100 million energy plant in Zambia through a joint venture with a local company, Delta Marimba.

The deal awaits regulatory approvals. Once operational, the power plant is expected to add 100 megawatts to the Zambian national grid.

"This is the right time for our country to value issues of the economy because it is the economy that will transform the lives of our people," Taifa

Group chairman Rostam Aziz said.

A Delta Marimba representative, Padmore Muleya, said the partnership is the start of greater developments for the two neighbouring countries.

Zambia's current energy demand is slightly above 3,000 megawatts, he said, with an output of 3,100MW.

Mr Muleya said the country expects heightened demand from the consumer and mining sectors after President Hakainde Hichilema's announcement to increase copper production from 890,000 tonnes per annum to three million annually.

## Petroleum.

### TotalEnergies faces second suit over Uganda oil projects

REUTERS

Five activist groups have sued French oil major TotalEnergies for a second time over its projects in Uganda and Tanzania in a Paris civil court, they said on Tuesday, after an earlier fast-track attempt was dismissed in February.

The French and Ugandan groups, led by Friends of the Earth France, accuse Total of failing to protect people and the environment from its Tienga oil development and the \$3.5 billion East African Crude Oil Pipe-

line (EACOP).

Their lawsuit makes use of a 2017 French "duty of vigilance" law requiring

## \$3.5bn

Size of EACOP

ing large companies to identify risks in their global operations and supply chains, and detail strategies to prevent them.

"TotalEnergies considers that its

vigilance plan is implemented effectively and has ensured that its subsidiaries in Uganda and Tanzania have applied the appropriate action plans so as to respect the rights of local communities and biodiversity," the company said in an emailed comment.

The company holds a 62 percent stake in EACOP, which will run 1,443 kilometres from Uganda's Lake Albert oilfields to the port of Tanga in Tanzania, with the capacity to send up to 246,000 barrels of crude per day out to world markets as early as 2025.

The first suit sought — and failed —

to halt the projects by judicial order under a special fast-track process, with the judge finding that TotalEnergies' so-called vigilance plan was legally adequate.

The judgment added however that only a detailed investigation in a standard-speed trial could examine whether the company's actions on the ground were in line with its duty to prevent identifiable harms.

This latest legal attempt instead seeks reparations for those who claim they have already been harmed as a result of the project construction.