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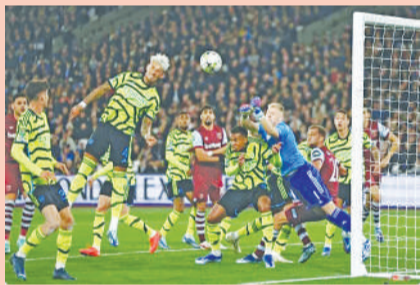
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KMC FC meets Dodoma Jiji FC in Premier League battle

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Man Utd dumped out of League Cup by Newcastle, Arsenal lose at West Ham

German president sees local organic pesticide

By Guardian Reporter

AN organic pesticide or biocide derived from natural fungal parasites to control crop pests, especially the moth family, was yesterday shown to visiting German president, Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Dr Never Mwambela, lecturer at the College of African Wildlife Management Mweka, made a presentation in Dar es Salaam yesterday before the visiting statesmen, noting that the biocide is a product of her startup company, Plant Biodefenders.

It seeks to use biological methods for containing pests named 'Tuta absoluta,' described as a leaf miner, and fall armyworms without polluting the environment, thus ensuring the good health of consumers

The scientist who invented the pesticide, impressed the visitor who pledged further German support for innovation, after he heard a pitch from the researcher, pointing at "desire and ambition" as having enabled the key innovation.

Describing herself as proud and yet humbled, she said she had successfully found a lasting solution for the invasive pests, with more than 9,000 farmers so far benefitting from this invention.

President Steinmeier, leading a high-profile delegation of members of the German business community, commended the scientist for her breakthrough innovation, thanks to the support extended by

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Samia extolls branding for ecosystem tourism



The first electric locomotive manufactured in South Korea is offloaded at Dar es Salaam port yesterday, ahead of a test drive from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro set for next month. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

It should support efforts to preserve cultural sites, artifacts and traditions for future generations for the continent to make best use of its natural attractions

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has urged African countries to rewrite the narrative about the continent by telling their own stories from their own unique perspectives on rebranding ecotourism for the world at large.

Zuhura Yunus, the director of presidential communications, said in a statement yesterday that President Samia made the call at the 23rd global summit of the World Travel and Tourism Council in the Rwandan capital of Kigali.

"African governments must ask themselves some serious questions for tourism to make the required strides, including strategic marketing and branding, research and conservation," she stated.

"Africa should tell its own story in its own terms and set a positive narrative about Africa. We cannot afford to remain silent in this era of fake news. We should stand up and put the record straight. Africa is not only the future, it is now," the president declared.

Africa should develop compelling narratives

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PM hints at recruiting teachers from Form VI

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

TEACHING courses will now only be offered to form six leavers who will also be subjected to a one year internship and pre-service training when the new education policy approved by the cabinet becomes operational in 2027, Parliament was told yesterday.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made this observation in the spot question session, affirming that the government has made changes to the 2014 education policy, including harmonisation of competence based evaluation by introducing a range of assessment tools to test pupils'

learning progress.

"The government will administer the use of one recommended teaching textbook in primary and secondary schools to achieve proper evaluation of common teaching and learning progress," he said.

The government will also improve

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Motorists struggle to cross the flooded Jangwani valley yesterday following heavy rains for much of the past three days in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

WCF investment earnings at 665bn/-

By Carlos Banda

EARNINGS in the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) have increased to 665bn/- due to positive compliance in fund contributions by employers in the formal sector.

John Mduma, the WCF director general, made note of this increase when unveiling the WCF biennial performance report before journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

WCF earnings have been growing year on year, as it started by earning 12.02bn/- back in 2017 and this year it has already earned 345bn/- bringing up the cumulative income of 665bn/-.

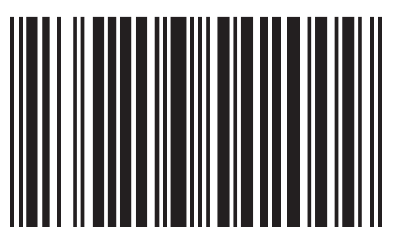
"We have been generating income by investing the contributed funds," he said, noting that the fund has so far contributed 62.7bn/- in income taxes generated from investment income "earned from the money injected by companies whose employers have been contributing to the fund."

WCF praised government policies for improvements, including lowering the interest charged on employers delivering their contributions late from ten percent per month to two percent.

Other improvements include the increase in minimum compensation to 275,702.83/- for employees with 100 percent disability, reduction in contribution for private sector employers from 1 percent to 0.5 percent.

Anselm Peter, the WCF director of operations, stated that the fund plays a key role in

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Samia extolls branding for ecosystem tourism

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and a brand identity that highlights the continent's unique cultural heritage, natural beauty and diverse experiences, she asserted.

African states must embrace ecotourism and invest in targeted marketing campaigns across various platforms to reach the global audience, she said, underlining that Africa should prioritise conservation.

It should support efforts to preserve cultural sites, artifacts and traditions for future generations for the continent to make best use of its

natural attractions, she said.

Research on tourism trends, visitor preferences and environmental impacts are crucial for the tourism sector to remain relevant in Africa, she further noted, emphasizing the role of the private sector in the tourism eco-system.

There has to be collaboration between government, the private sector and non-profit organisations as like elsewhere in Africa, tourism plays a key role in the economy, accounting for 17.2 per cent of Tanzania's GDP and 25 per cent of foreign exchange earnings, she added.

German president sees local organic pesticide

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KFW, a German development bank.

Its operating entity, DEG Impulse is a subsidiary of DEG that offers solutions helping companies to address business challenges for resolving bottlenecks in shared developmental quests.

DEG support was crucial for the organic pesticide to see mass production and distribution, contributing to solving challenges of pest resistance, she said.

'Vuruga Biocide' is the commercial name of organic pesticide developed back in 2019

It has been tested in various affected regions and found to effectively control many pests that are a nuisance to farmers, notably tuta absoluta, invasive armyworms, bollworm and caterpillars.

The common pests destroy cotton, pierce mangoes, avocado among other fruits, as well as vegetables such as East African spinach (amaranthus or pigweed), 'night-

shade' locally known as mnavu, Chinese spinach and cabbage.

Charles Nko, 56, who has been growing tomato for 24 years before he surrendered to the tuta absoluta locally known as 'kanitangaze' at Engarenanyuki Ward in Arumeru District, Arusha Region narrated how farmers had suffered since the pest invaded the crop in 2014.

The worms defied all types of insecticides applied, prompting farmers to abandon the crop, he said, noting that the later innovation was applied at a number of farms in the area, renewing their hope of growing the crop once again.

With 50,000/- to 80,000/- to purchase farm inputs and a bit more to pay farm hands, he used to harvest 120 crates of tomatoes per acre. A 40-kilogram crate of tomato fetched up to 50,000/- ordinarily.

Upon invasion of the tomato moth, he had to pump in 1.5m/- per acre for pesticides only to harvest 50 crates, he added.

Zuma resorts to old tactics to delay graft prosecution

PRETORIA

JACOB Zuma, 80, who served as South Africa's president between 2009 and 2018, has pleaded not guilty to charges of accepting bribes from French defence contractor Thales in the case, which now dates back nearly 25 years.

He is charged with fraud, corruption, racketeering and money laundering and, if found guilty, could face a 15-year jail term.

Jacob Zuma, the former president of South Africa, is 80. But he seems to remember how to use old tactics to survive.

Yesterday, he went on trial to face 783 counts of corruption, fraud, money laundering and related charges stemming from alleged kickbacks in a 1990s arms deal.

But his legal team wanted to remove the prosecutor, a matter that had already been decided by higher courts.

With a new judge hearing the case after the previous judge recused himself in January, the issue of Zuma's attempt to get rid of lead prosecutor Billy Downer surfaced in the Pietermaritzburg High Court session.

This matter had already been dismissed by the previous judge. The matter was then taken up by a full bench of the High Court, and on appeal, Zuma fell at each hurdle.

Zuma's team argued that the revived application to remove Downer for allegedly failing to take an impartial approach to Zuma's prosecution was not more of Zuma's notorious 'Stalingrad defence' of arguing every conceivable legal point in order to further distract justice and prevent the start of evidence in the much-delayed trial.

Zuma's determination to remove Downer -- who in 2006 successfully prosecuted Zuma's friend and former 'financial advisor' Shabir Shaik on the same charges now facing Zuma -- was underpinned by an announcement to the new presiding officer that Zuma had lodged a 'final appeal' with the Constitutional Court against earlier findings that Downer was entitled to prosecute the case.

While the dispute over whether Downer can act for the state is seen by legal experts as fundamentally irrelevant to what the state insists is a very strong and winnable case against Zuma, the issue of Downer's status must first be resolved before the actual trial can begin.

Zuma fought unsuccessfully all the way to the Concourt over whether he had the right to privately prosecute both Downer and legal journalist Karyn Maughan for allegedly leaking and publishing Zuma's medical condition.

That case was recently dismissed by the Constitutional Court, which ruled that Zuma's attempted prosecution of Downer and Maughan was unlawful, but that has not stopped Zuma's legal team from revisiting the alleged issue of Downer's 'bias' against Zuma.

For observers of Zuma's various ongoing legal problems, the renewed effort to remove Downer from the prosecution team seemed like a time warp back to two years ago, when the exact same argument was unsuccessfully made to the previous trial judge.

Advocate Dali Mpofu, appearing for the former president, told the court that after the Constitutional Court had been approached, the issue was once again "live" and required the new judge's assessment.

"What has since happened is that as of 25 October...the application for leave to appeal in that matter (in the Constitutional Court) was served," said Mpofu.

Having heard all these arguments, and having rejected Zuma's legal efforts to remove Downer from the prosecution team, former trial judge Piet Koen recused himself from the case earlier this year.

"I have come to the conclusion that I must recuse myself from the trial," Judge Koen declared at the time.

"This is what the proper administration of justice, the Constitution and my conscience dictates," he said, setting the stage for a repeat of Zuma's efforts to remove Downer from the case.

AGENCIES



President Samia Suluhu Hassan with her host President Paul Kagame of Rwanda heading to 23rd World Travel and Tourism Council meeting held at Kigali Convention Centre in Rwanda yesterday. Photo: State House

PM hints at recruiting teachers from Form VI

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teacher, tutor and lecture recruitment systems to ensure that only those qualified are employed, he said, elaborating that the government will put in place strategies to identify students with special skills and talents to nurture them.

Despite the free education policy, the government is collaborating with stakeholders to mobilise funds to finance education, he said, affirming that the government will supervise private institutions such that "the costs reflect the economic situation at that time."

The government seeks to make those institutions friendly "to promote further investment in the sector," with the government having

approved the draft policy. It is now preparing to set a date for launching the document, he specified.

The proposed education and new curriculum is based on competence, aimed at empowering students with the necessary skills needed in the job market, he said.

Rashid Shangazi (Mlalo) asked the premier when the government will form a body acting as an umbrella for private operators in education, to which the premier said education policy offers room for collaboration between the private and public sector.

The public sector is administered by PO-RALG (Regional Administration and Local Governments) ministry which also regulates privately

owned schools, he stated, affirming that there is no need of having an umbrella body for private schools.

The local government ministry is doing the task and the private sector has established its umbrella body which also speaks on their behalf, he specified.

Husna Sekiboko (Special Seats, Tanga) raised concern over the shortage of teaching and learning materials, that shortage of such materials characterise primary and secondary schools across the country.

In response, the premier said the government was working with several stakeholders to mobilise resources in that regard, alluding to the start of application of the new

policy in 2027.

Technical and vocational training centres are now being constructed across the country to complement implementation of the policy, he asserted.

Joseph Kakunda (Sikonge) demanded the date for the government to table a bill for a law enabling proper implementation of the new education policy to which the premier said changes to the education policy 2014 touched several areas where legal changes are needed.

The government intends to review some laws in the education sector so that they match with the new policy, a task that will be conducted alongside implementation of the policy, he added.



Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) Chief Executive Officer, Charles Ogutu (L), explains a point on irrigation farming during a dry season at Mkoka village sunflower seed farm in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region recently. Right is ADDA Tanzania executive director Mercy Kingu. A contract was signed to facilitate ADDA Tanzania in implementing a sunflower value chain development initiative that will cover Dodoma Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WCF investment earnings at 665bn/-

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alleviating poverty as it increases productivity by safeguarding the peace of employers and employees.

"If an employee working in a Chinese factory goes sick for six months the employer will no longer continue paying his salary. However, since

the employer was a member of the compensation fund, 275,000/- can be given to the employee" from 70,000/- monthly pay or 150,000/-

The employer can find a temporary person to cover the gap, so the employer will not be obliged to terminate the employee's contract, he

said.

In case the employee does not recover, an evaluation will be made to determine whether the employer will choose to contribute for a lifetime compensation fund for the disabled employee or do otherwise, he stated.

Deodatus Balile, the Tanzania Editors' Forum chairman, asked media owners to contribute to WCF to safeguard the welfare of journalists while on duty.

They should not leave the responsibility to WCF to speak on their behalf, he added.



Maria Kimongi, the women's economic empowerment forum representative from Rombo District (with microphone) which has been activated by the AJISO organisation gives a brief about their platform to the director of the women's department in the Ministry of Social Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Juliana Kibonde (2nd L), during the launch of Kilimanjaro Region women empowerment forum held recently in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

MCT commemorates IDEI

By Guardian Reporter, Lindi

THE Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) yesterday joined the world in commemorating the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI).

In a statement issued by MCT executive secretary, Kajubi Mukajanga said: "This day is of specific importance bearing in mind that journalists are essential pillars in strengthening democracy, good governance and accountability which are crucial elements for spurring development in the country."

"Each year, this day has been marked reflecting actions and events taking place in different countries in the world. In every part, journalists still face varying challenges including death while doing their work," Mukajanga said.

In the period between January and November, this year MCT through its database has recorded that 21 violations were committed against journalists impeding them to access information or threatening them not to carry on their duties as journalists.

The incidents of violations included denial to access information - eight incidents (8) threats (5) arrests (3) attacks (2) and harassment (3).

This year incidents of denial of information have increased as compared in the past three years, whereby in 2020 there were three such incidents, 2021 four incidents and 2022 two incidents.

The Council has established that there are still challenges to access information, despite the directive given by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on March 27, 2023 during the meeting of public information and communications officers held in Dar es Salaam.

The Prime Minister had ordered ministries, public institutions and government departments to earmark budgets for disseminating information to the public, accurately and expeditiously.

Despite negating the directive, we

have noticed some officials issuing decisions contrary to the Access to Information Act of 2016, compelling information seekers to get a letter from the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) asking for information from the councils.

For this year the IDEI theme is Violence against journalists, the integrity of elections, and the role of public leadership.

Journalists and media play a critical role in society, to strengthen and facilitate democracy and hold the authorities accountable. It is crucial to have strong and responsible institutions to attain sustainable development.

But this critical role places journalists in danger. Their actions to investigate and expose the truth puts them in jeopardy as in many instances they are hunted for attacks, detained contrary to the law and even death.

Through this day, the council likes to remind journalists that next year, Tanzania will hold local government elections and journalists should be careful in their reporting.

In the coming elections there will lot of information including disseminating through Artificial Intelligence. There will also be fake news and hate speech. It is the responsibility of each media outlet to train their journalists on how to discern the new types of disinformation.

Journalists must not be source of spreading inaccurate and false information which had not been collaborated by sources to avoid causing undue panic.

In this International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI), MCT urged the government to create friendly environment for journalists to discharge their duties including access to information and freedom of expression to the public, institutions and media. To take actions against all who restrict or frustrate journalists from doing their work in accessing information in public offices contrary to the law.

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

Over 3,000 experts, stakeholders to review the IDA20 programmes

OVER 3,000 participants from various parts in the world are expected to meet in Zanzibar from December 6 to 8, this year for the mid-term review of the international development association-IDA20 programmes.

Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, Zanzibar's Minister of State in the President's Office, Finance and Planning said Tanzania will benefit heavily from the conference which will attract experts and stakeholders from over 100 nations.

Opening a working session of the conference's organising committee here, Minister Mkuya said that Tanzania is well prepared to exploit knowledge, experience and expertise from the conference as a series of topics will be presented and discussed including opportunities and challenges arising from efforts

injected to fight poverty.

Dr Mkuya said that Tanzania was a major World Bank stakeholder and that the meeting will provide an opportunity for the delegates to witness themselves the great development that Tanzania has achieved due to cheap loans, aid and technical advice provided by the largest financial institution in the world.

She wanted the committee to ensure that the conference is well prepared adhering to international standards in order also to market the country globally thus attracting more international conferences to be conducted in the country.

Dr Aboud Suleiman Jumbe, the Blue Economy and Fisheries

permanent secretary said the World Bank has been supporting Tanzania in various economic fields including the blue economy in the Isles.

He said the conference which will engage top leaders including WB president, Ajay Banga, senior officials, representatives from member countries, development partners and funders will be of great productivity to citizens and the government.

The theme for IDA20 is Building Back Better from the Crisis: Toward a Green, Resilient and Inclusive Future. IDA20 covers the period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025. On December 6-8, 2023, IDA donor and borrower representatives will gather in Zanzibar, Tanzania,

for a mid-term review of IDA20, which will assess midway delivery of the IDA20 policy and financial commitments.

IDA is the part of the World Bank Group that helps the world's 75 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa. It is one of the largest sources of development assistance for the countries.

The association has been working to help reduce poverty by providing zero to low-interest loans (called "credits") and grants for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions. More than half of IDA countries receive all, or half, of their IDA resources on grant terms, which carry no repayments at all.

Government launches digital clubs' handbook

By Correspondent James

Kandoya

THE government has launched a digital clubs' handbook to facilitate the establishment and coordination of the clubs in Tanzania's schools from kindergarten to university level for both public and private colleges.

Speaking at the launch of the handbook yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology, Mohamed Khamis Abdulla, said that the aim of launching the book is to support coordination of digital clubs in Tanzania.

"We want to see having coordinated youth groups which deal with digital technologies, education activities and forums which are in line with norms and culture."

Also, in line with national economic agenda like blue economy and digital economy in connection with technology, evolution and the industrialisation era.

"In order to get the society ready for digital evolution and have competitive advantage in today's world of digital economy, it needs to build a foundation by involving the forum," he said.

Abdulla said the digital generation starts with youth but also needs proper management and coordination.

According to him, digital clubs will bridge a gap between what is available on the digital space, how to use it, when and where to apply.

He said further that digital clubs will help youths in boosting their creativity and innovation and in believing in their ideas which will make their innovation a reality.

"Youth needs to have creative ideas and passionate visionaries so as to be able to give life to development initiatives that are changing the world. Therefore, empowering them in all aspects to drive sustainable change through innovation is inevitable," he insisted.

Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) director general, Dr Jabir

Bakari said that there are a lot of benefits that can be obtained to members and digital clubs as a whole.

He said some of them are staying up to date with the latest advances in digital technology and keeping them in loop with a view to have competitive advantage to youths against the world communities.

Others are career development, coaching, mentoring, skills development, networking and career path promoting digital innovation.

Dr Bakari mentioned institution/school benefits as access to industrial experts that will impact digital skills and create linkages between students, professionals and the industries.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF Navigation Aids / Aids to Navigation
REF: ETJ-BB-PR-EI-GEN-GE-0123

<p>The Republic of Uganda, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), the United Republic of Tanzania, and/or Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), as well as other international oil companies, are partaking in the implementation of the EACOP Project.</p> <p>As part of the EACOP project, the Crude oil will be loaded on vessels via a facility located in the nearshore environment of the Indian Ocean. The Facility will be located 2 km offshore from the Marine Storage Terminal site on the Chongoleani peninsula in front of Tanga Port in Tanzania.</p> <p>BESIX Ballast Nedam (BBN) Limited, the CONTRACTOR for the Engineering, procurement, and Construction of the Jetty and Load Out Facilities in the Tanga Bay for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project, invites experienced specialist Companies to express their interest in:</p> <p>Supply of Navigation Aids or Aids to Navigation (ATON)</p> <p>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE MATERIALS / SERVICES:</p> <p>The scope for provision of Navigation Aids or Aids to Navigation (ATON) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design, manufacture, and supply all the Aids to Navigation (fog horn and marking list) items. <p>The required items are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 navigation lights (LED, 3 Nm visibility, Solar powered, 	<p>(IALA certified)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 navigation lights ATEX (10Nm visibility, Solar powered, IALA certified) - 1 Fog Horn (2 Nm audio beam range, Solar powered) <p>MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:</p> <p>Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposal of the types, quality, and coating of materials to be used to manufacture the ATON items - An experience list with relevant history/track record showing a minimum of five (5) years of experience in the provision of ATON, - Company profile with proof of sufficient financial and capable resources to undertake these Works. - Company's Quality and HSE policies and required ISO certification or equivalent certificates; - Proof of Tanzania Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year 2022 - Proof of business registration and valid business license for Tanzania. - Compliance with petroleum (local Content) regulation of 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania. - Proof of registration/application to the Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is highly recommended.
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Interested companies that meet the minimum requirements and have the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above-listed documents an email to procurement@bbnld.co.tz (Max. Email Size: 20 MBs & All documents must be submitted in the English language) on or before 17th of November 2023, 1800hrs Tanzania Time.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will be evaluated and if selected will be invited, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), to participate in the bidding process.

Note: Only pre-qualified companies will receive an invitation to submit their bid in furtherance of the Call for Tender process.

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Laudes Foundation, GIZ and Helvetas teaming up for the regeneration project

By Guardian Reporter

LAUDES Foundation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Helvetas Tanzania have launched a special programme to establish a resilient agricultural production system.

Dubbed: "Regenerative Production Landscape", the programme is also aimed to help safeguard natural resources and biodiversity.

Tanzania's regions are marked by large-scale landscape and ecosystem degradation owing to deforestation, erosion and unsustainable use of the landscape.

This multi-stakeholder partnership by climate-positive foundations, Laudes Foundation and Helvetas Tanzania alongside the German development agency, GIZ, brings together various stakeholders, including farming communities, and public and private sector entities, to address the intricate challenges associated with climate, nature, and human well-being at a landscape level.

Hendrik Buermann, project director of the Regenerative Production Landscape Collaborative, emphasised the need for a holistic, place-based approach that transcends the conventional farm-level and single-commodity focus.

The initiative aims to tackle Tanzania's issues such as deforestation, overgrazing, water resource mismanagement, soil erosion, and loss of biodiversity. The overarching goal is to transition from a production model that degrades and pollutes to a sustainable agri-business model that conserves, restores, and regenerates the environment.

The programme's key features include smallholder farmers adopting regenerative agriculture practices, participating in inclusive business models, conserving biodiversity, and enhancing resilience to climate change.

Village committees identify

solutions for land and water source restoration and integrate these solutions into local spatial planning.

District Spatial and Environmental Action Plans incorporating interventions at the farm and community levels.

Private sector involvement in promoting farming models that regenerate the land and investing in the prosperity of farmers and communities.

Civil Society Organisations supporting and facilitating on-the-ground interventions, including large-scale tree and landscape restoration activities.

Investors and funders identify opportunities for investments in a thriving landscape.

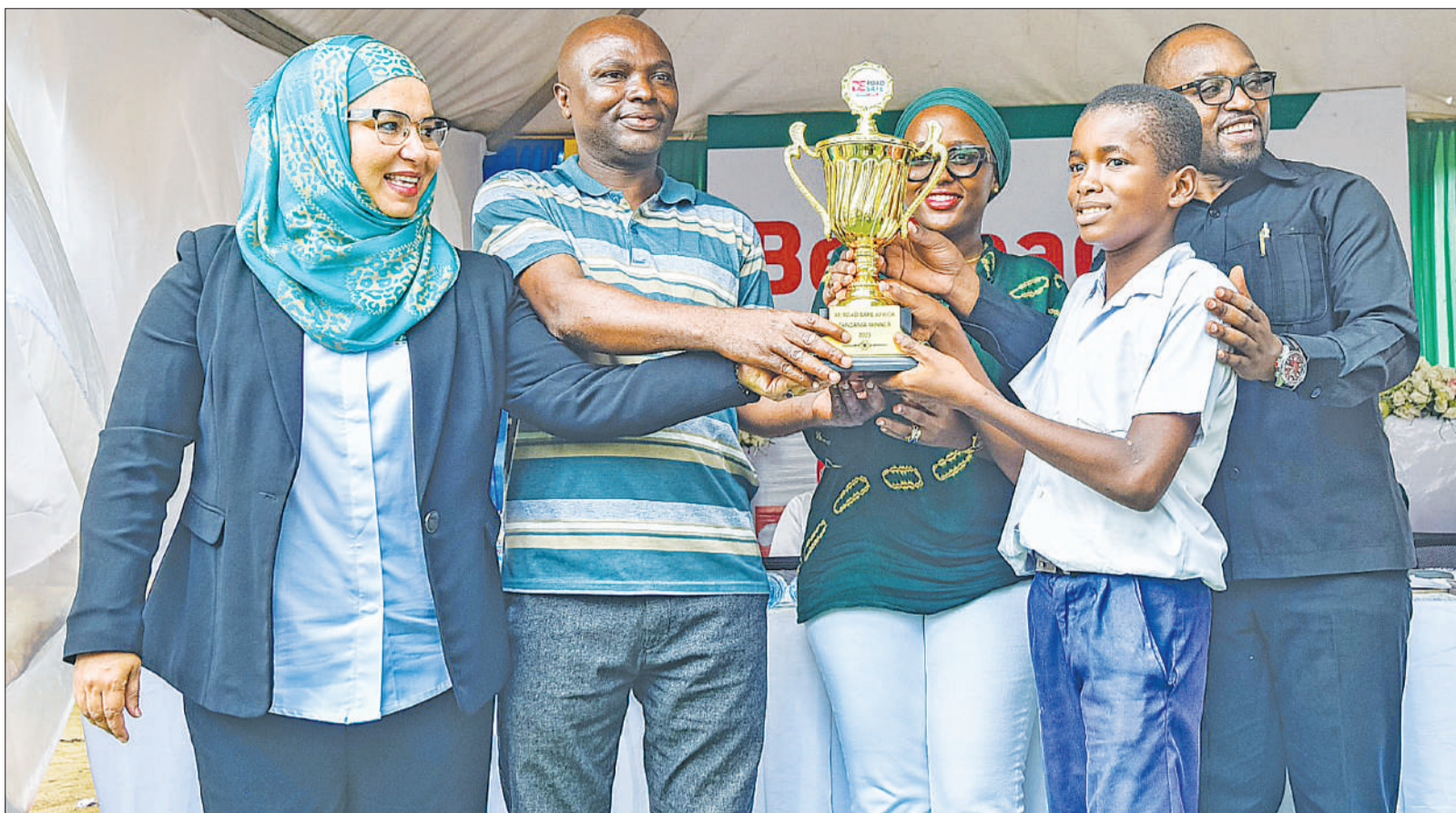
Anita Chester, head of fashion at Laudes Foundation, highlighted the foundation's ongoing efforts to support Tanzania, which has become a significant producer of organic cotton in Africa, benefiting over 60,000 smallholder farmers ecologically and economically.

She added: "This latest investment is towards an innovative multi-stakeholder governance model to empower producers, engage communities, and enlist public and private sector players to create sustainable business opportunities for the region."

She noted that Tanzania regions in focus, Singida and Simiyu, have been grappling with significant challenges arising from climate change and ecosystem degradation, which have adversely affected local livelihoods and the economy.



Private sector involvement in promoting farming models that regenerate the land and investing in the prosperity of farmers and communities



Kigamboni District Commissioner, Halima Bulembu, (3rd R) hands over a trophy to a Standard VI student of Kibugumo primary school, Feisali Msiakwe, after emerging the winner of the road safety drawing competition. The competition was organised by Puma Energy Tanzania in collaboration with Amend Tanzania in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Puma Energy managing director Fatma Abdallah (L), the acting head teacher of the school, Salvatory Lasway (2nd L) and the resident director of Amend Tanzania, Simon Kalolo (R). Photo: Correspondent

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE Parliament has directed the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) to conduct a special audit into the procurement of 874,019 electricity meters worth 115bn/- by the Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (TANESCO) which were not tested by the Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) as required by the law.

The move is said to have led to the entering into the market of counterfeit meters, exposing the power utility company to losses according to the Public Accounts Committee of parliament (PAC).

Deputy committee chairman Japhet Hasunga made the sentiments in the National Assembly when tabling the committee's report from an audited report on the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report for various government institutions for the

PPRA to conduct special audit in procurement of electricity meters

financial year ending June, 2022.

Hasunga said in the year 2021/2022 Tanesco purchased 874,019 meters worth 115bn/- of which its quality was not tested by WMA causing losses.

"The move by Tanesco is against regulation 22(1) of the Weight and Measures Act of 2019 which states that there will be no meter which will be used by a contractor to measure electricity unless it is measured by WMA," he said.

Hasunga said the committee was aware of the rush in which Tanesco is usually associated with which is caused by the demand to have electricity connected by the general public which also tempts overpass laws.

He said, however, that Tanesco has the opportunity to sit down with WMA to prepare a system to which, despite the rush, the meters must be tested for quality.

"Tanesco can also consider establishing tender requirements through incorporating meter test, calibration and verification evidence by WMA as a criterion of accepting meters," he said.

He said the untested meters risks leading to increased electricity theft but also contaminates the whole market with fake and counterfeit meters which can affect businesses.

In the report the committee issued various recommendations to be taken for consideration by the government to facilitate tight control

of public fund embezzlement and revenue losses. The committee also said the recommendations also aim at strengthening implementation of various accountability reports which are conducted by watch institutions for strengthened good governance.

The committee also emphasized on proper public fund management, abidance to regulations and laws and government public procurement to guarantee value for money among public institutions.

The committee named various government institutions to have violated public procurement laws and mismanaged public funds in the respective financial year calling for actions to be taken.

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngorongoro

THE Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Angellah Kairuki has directed the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority (NCAA) to fully manage and sustain all the employees' rights in order to stimulate performance.

Speaking on Tuesday at the Authority's offices in Karatu District, Arusha Region, immediately after listening to the employees' complaints, Kairuki said putting employees in favourable working environment increases productivity thus strengthening the national economy.

She wanted the authority to ensure that there is a conducive environment for the staff to work which includes paying them on time.

"The success you have recorded for the year 2022/23 in increasing the number of tourists from 425,386 to 752,512 is also due to having committed employees who work with dedication and value

Kairuki instructs NCAA to uphold employees' rights

their work, so it is important to continue with the same procedure to manage their basic interests and rights," Kairuki said.

She however, stressed that she is not ready to defend any negligent, corrupt employee who does not follow rules and procedures of working because justice always goes hand in hand with responsibility.

"I have been a Member of Parliament (MP) for ten years through trade unions, so I do not want to see any staff being harassed, build a system to manage the rights of each staff member," Kairuki said.

She said that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism plays a vital role in supporting the development of the national economy.

Thus, it is important that every employee realises his/her responsibility and works with commitment, creativity, honesty and displays professionalism

to contribute to the increase in income generated by the sector.

In addition, employees from various departments had the opportunity to explain various ways to strengthen the tourism sector as well as the challenges they face in their daily work.

Some of the challenges include lack of improved infrastructure to enter the reserve which requires construction of roads that are passable all season, as well as better buildings to provide services.

The employees also asked for their entitlements to be paid on time so that they can work productively.

Minister Kairuki promised the employees that she will closely monitor the challenges and ensure that they are addressed and stressed the importance of every employee to commit and work in accordance with the laws, procedures and principles of public service.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP Title: Supply of 4x4 Vehicles, ICT Items, Medical & Group Life Insurance Brokerage Services

RFP Number: 2023-TAHA/11/01

Date of Solicitation: 3 November 2023

Closing Date and Time: 17 November 2023, 11:00 am (Arusha, Tanzania)

Questions and Clarifications: Due by 13 November 2023

Estimated Delivery/ Performance Date: 15 December 2023

Introduction to TAHA and Tuhifadhi Chakula (TC) Activity:

Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) is an apex member based private sector organization that advocates for the growth and competitiveness of the horticulture industry in Tanzania. Since its inception in 2004, TAHA has been an effective voicing platform for producers, traders, exporters and processors of horticultural products mainly; flowers, fruits, vegetables, horticultural seeds, and spices. The Association safeguards the interests of industry stakeholders and ensures industry issues are well represented within national and international agendas. Visit us at <https://www.taha.or.tz/taha/about>

Tuhifadhi Chakula (TC) Activity, is a five-years U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project that implements interventions around four (4) Intermediary Results (IR) namely Improve food handling, storage and value addition at producer and commercial levels; Facilitate market access to ensure agricultural goods reach consumers; Inform and promote policy and regulatory frameworks that reduce food loss and waste and strengthen local organizations' capacity to lead on post-harvest management. The Activity will mainly focus on youth. Cross cutting issues such as gender and environment will also be at the center of the Activity implementation. Overall, the Activity will contribute to reducing post-harvest losses (PHL) from 30 - 40% for horticulture to 15% and 13% to 7% for cereals.

TAHA through TC project will procure 4x4 vehicles, ICT items, medical and group life insurances for the purpose of supporting the operations and implementation of the project.

Overall Objective:

The overall objective of this assignment is to solicit eligible vendor(s) who will supply 4x4 vehicles, ICT items and provide medical and group life insurance services for the purpose of supporting the operations and implementation of the project.

LOT Number	Description	Specifications	Quantity
LOT 1	Supply of 4x4 Project vehicles	As specified in the terms of reference.	4
LOT 2	Supply of various ICT items under Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) Arrangements.	As specified in the terms of reference.	As specified in the terms of reference.
LOT 3	Provision of medical and group life insurance brokerage services.	As specified in the terms of reference.	Up to 70

B. Submission Instructions

Interested bidders should download the specific LOT's terms of reference through <https://shorturl.at/st1NU>

C. Clarification on the Advert

- All correspondence related to the RFP shall be made in English
- Should there be any uncertainty, the Bidder shall seek clarification in writing through e-mail to: procurement@taha.or.tz
- Any clarification sought by the bidder in respect to the advert shall be titled **CLARIFICATION ON ADVERT - SUPPLY OF 4X4 VEHICLES, ICT ITEMS, MEDICAL & GROUP LIFE INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES.**



Ocean Road Cancer Institute specialist, Dr Sadiq Siu (L), makes a presentation about breast cancer, cervical cancer and prostate cancer to the employees of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) in Dar es Salaam yesterday as part of the bank's breast cancer campaign to provide education to its employees and conducting tests. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Mtwara Regional Commissioner, Col. Ahmed Abbas Ahmed (C), raises a flag as a symbol of the launch of 'Bonge la Mpango - Mchongo wa Kilimo' campaign which is agricultural initiative at the market grounds in Mtwara Municipality. Looking on are Mtwara Urban District Commissioner, Mwanahamisi Munkunda (2nd L), NMB Bank's southern zone manager, Faraja Ng'ingo (2nd R), the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in Mtwara Region, Ibrahim Kokozi (L), and the NMB Bank's senior manager of Agri Retail Department, Wogofya Mfalomagoha (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

Malawian officials get insight of GGML's mining operations

PARTICIPANTS of the just ended Tanzania Mining & Investment Forum (TMIF) have visited Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) site in Geita Region to witness mining operations.

This initiative, which was organized by GGML, aimed to educate the public on the latest cutting-edge technologies employed in the mining industry.

Malawian minister for mining, Monica Chang'anamuno and her colleague Ministry of Mining Principal Secretary, Joseph Mkandawire attended a two-day conference in Dar es Salaam last week.

During the event, GGML utilised

a Virtual Reality Headset to provide participants with an immersive experience of their operations in the Geita, saying the advanced systems employed by the company prioritise the protection and wellbeing of workers at the workplace.

Discussing the technology showcased at the GGML booth during the Tanzania Mining & Investment Forum in Dar es Salaam, Malawi's Minister of Mines, Monica Chang'anamuno commended GGML as a prime example for

utilising technology that enhances mineral mining activities in the country.

She also urged the company to maintain collaboration with the government to stimulate development of the mining industry, which stands as the primary source of foreign currency in the country.

Geita's Regional Commissioner, Martin Shigella, used the Oculus headset to witness GGML mining activities "firsthand".

He encouraged investors to

seize the available opportunities, especially with the enhanced investment environment under President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership.

Dr Doto Biteko, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy opened the exhibition on behalf of President Samia Suluhu Hassan on October 25, this year.

It was then closed on October 26 by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on behalf of Zanzibar's President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

African governments urged to implement innovative strategies

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

AFRICAN governments have been urged to implement innovative strategies which include establishing hubs to attract young people in commercial farming.

A section of stakeholders threw the challenge recently during the African Conference on Agricultural Technologies (ACAT) held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Themed: Agricultural Resilience through Innovation, the conference focused on the centrality of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in fostering agricultural transformation in Africa.

According to the stakeholders, governments across the region have a role to seek friendly strategies to make farming attractive to the youths.

Dr Canisius Kanangire, the Executive Director of African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) said blessed with plenty fertile land, Africa isn't a continent to witness mass imports of food produce and products.

"The region is experiencing an increased population and equally there is high demand for food thus requiring the stakeholders to work out sound strategies to boost production, we need to create a favourable environment to attract as many youths to invest seriously in the agriculture sector," he said.

He said the increase of youth who are the main workforce of the continent is yet to be utilized fully due to several gaps and challenges facing the group which include lack of support and engagement.

"Efforts have to be directed to how young people should be brought on board to take over agriculture in order to boost food production to feed the increasing population," he added.

He said technology was important and is needed in the agricultural value chain and without injecting it, the productivity will remain low.

Dr Amos Nungu, director general of the Commission for Science and

Technology (COSTECH) said that a good number of youths in Tanzania were engaging in agriculture thus reaping big from the sector.

"Tanzania is doing well in supporting young people in agriculture, through the Building a Better Tomorrow, many youths have joined forces to utilize opportunities given by the government in the sector," he said.

He said the government through COSTECH has been issuing funds to support researchers and innovators to implement various projects which later help address challenges in the society as well as boost individual development.

Dr Nungu urged farmers in Africa to embrace technology to increase yields and build resilience in crop cultivation and other activities.

The stakeholders warned that the agriculture sector is grappling with a generation gap, as the average age of the farmer is 60 years, while young people are no longer interested. The gap has continued to contribute to low food production and high labour cost.

The conference, which commenced October 30 to November 3, 2023, brought together a dynamic community of farmers and other practitioners, such as policymakers, researchers, experts, and innovators, to exchange ideas, share best practices, and explore innovative solutions to enhance agricultural productivity in Africa.



Efforts have to be directed to how young people should be brought on board to take over agriculture in order to boost food production to feed the increasing population

Zambian ex-president stripped of retirement benefits

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA'S government has decided to withdraw the retirement benefits and privileges of former President Edgar Lungu after his decision to re-enter active politics.

Lungu, who lost the presidency to Hakainde Hichilema in 2021, had initially announced his retirement after serving a six-year term marked by substantial economic challenges that left Zambia as Africa's most indebted nation.

Lungu's return to the political arena sets the stage for a highly anticipated 2026 presidential race. The government's response to his decision has been swift, with the immediate withdrawal of his retirement benefits and privileges.

According to government spokesman Cornelius Mweetwa, this move is in accordance with the law, which explicitly states that former presidents returning to politics forfeit these benefits.

As a retired president, Lungu had enjoyed a range of privileges, including three security officers, a diplomatic passport, three state cars, a furnished house, medical insurance, and funeral expenses upon his death.

He also benefited from immunity from prosecution. However, these privileges have now been rescinded, and he will be treated in accordance with the equality of the law, just like any other senior citizen of the country.

Lungu's return

to politics is motivated by a desire to address the ongoing economic challenges in Zambia and defend democracy in the nation. Additionally, he has pledged to salvage his factionalized ex-ruling Patriotic Front party, which faces potential deregistration by the government due to leadership disputes.

Despite Lungu's claims of being targeted by supporters of the ruling United Party for National Development (UPND), the government spokesman, Cornelius Mweetwa, has dismissed these allegations as baseless.

He emphasized that Lungu's safety is as secure as that of any other citizen. However, Lungu has been cautioned

against adopting a confrontational approach towards President Hichilema's government.

It remains uncertain whether Lungu's immunity from prosecution will be revoked. Zambia's parliament has previously removed immunity from two former presidents: Frederick Chiluba in 2002 and Rupiah Banda in 2013.

Some members of the ruling UPND have called for the removal of Lungu's immunity and prosecution on allegations of corruption during his presidency, which Lungu contends are politically motivated. The situation surrounding his immunity remains a subject of ongoing debate and scrutiny.

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Tanzania Office مكتب تنزانيا

قطر الخيرية
QATAR CHARITY
qcharity.org

Date: 24/10/2023

Qatar Charity/ Tanzania announces Tender for Constructing and furnishing 70 m2 Mosque.

Tender number	Tender name	Requested service	Bids submission system	Primary insurance	Closing date
QC/2023/6	Mosque projects	Construction/ Furnishing	Two envelopes	Letter of bank (2%)/ or cheque	6 th November 2023

About the tender:

It invites your respectful company specialized in this field to participate by submitting their bid, according to the following conditions:

- 1- Compliance with the specifications and conditions mentioned in the tender document.
- 2- The bid shall be submitted physically
- 3- The bid shall be for one model mosque only, but Qatar Charity is seeking to contract for more than one, based on the evaluation and capacity of the applicant. Total number to be constructed is 70 mosques.
- 4- Qatar charity is under no obligation to accept the lowest price or any offer.
- 5- The last date for submitting bids is before 12:00 on the date of 06 November 2023, and any bid received after this time will not be considered.

This announcement is considered an integral part and complement to the terms and documents of the tender.

In the event of any inquiries or comments, send an e-mail to qctanzania@qcharity.org by 2nd November sharp.

Minerals Corporation Limited
Partnership between Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of Tanzania

REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following service:

Employee Transportation Services

Pre-qualification Criteria

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-qualification Criteria
1	NM030/2023	Employee Transportation Services at North Mara Gold Mine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Applicants to submit Company profile. ii Applicants to submit list and specifications of vehicles. Each vehicle should be in good shape and should meet all standard conditions of transporting passengers. iii Applicants to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel, including drivers with PSV licenses. iv Transportation management strategy. v Local Content Regulations compliance. vi HSE policy document. vii LATRA Registration and/or Accreditation. viii Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, land transportation capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and Regulations.

Expression of interest
 If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

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

If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your submission unsuccessful.

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI 8 November 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

Mbezi Beach sewage disposal project to benefit 11,48 residents

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has said that the implementation of the Mbezi Beach sewage disposal project worth 124bn/- was progressing well, which upon completion will benefit 11,480 residents.

Project supervisor, Eng. John Romanus made the statement in Dar es Salaam during a public meeting with Kawe Ward residents to discuss implementation of various development activities in the ward.

Eng. Romanus said the authority has started the implementation of the project and had reached more than 15 percent and the work of laying pipes continues in the areas specified in the design of the project.

He said the project is going to be completed within the coming 18 months hailing the ward and its residents for showing cooperation. He said that DAWASA will continue to educate the public about the importance of the project as well as how the project is implemented in their areas so that everyone can make a contribution.

"Already a big meeting to introduce the project at the ward level has been conducted involving the District Commissioner's office and we will continue to educate all people in the ward about this project," Eng. Romanus said.

He said the project aims to improve environmental sanitation in the four wards of Dar es Salaam including Mbezi Beach ward,

Kunduchi, Salasala and Kawe to avoid the risk of epidemic diseases.

Kawe ward councilor, Muta Rwakatare asked DAWASA to increase the speed of providing education to the people about the importance of implementing the sewage disposal project.

He said that if people are educated about the project to remove sewage from homes, they will participate and help in improving environmental sanitation in those areas.

He said the Mbezi Beach waste removal project is important and many people have expressed their appreciation for it because it aims to eliminate the challenge that has been plaguing the area for a long time.

He said some people have the habit of dumping sewage on local roads and causing the risk of epidemics.

Muta said the government through DAWASA has invested a lot of money in the implementation of the project and the expectation of the people is to see the problem that has lasted for a long time coming to an end.

He asked all ward leaders to cooperate well with DAWASA by showing them all the challenging areas and streets so that they know how to pass the pipes and facilitate the implementation of the work.

Muta also asked people to stop disposing waste water on the streets because by doing so they are endangering the health of other people and also causes environmental pollution especially in the areas where children play.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) acting Chief Executive Officer, Kiula Kingu, exchanges agreement documents with Sinohydro Corporation Ltd representative for water infrastructure construction held at DAWASA offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are DAWASA officials. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government through Tanzania Cities Transforming Infrastructure and Competitiveness (TACTIC) project has released 21bn/- for the construction of 12-kms roads at tarmac level in various streets of Mbeya city.

Speaking during the meeting to start the implementation of the project yesterday in the city, Mbeya District Commissioner, Beno Malisa urged ward councillors whose areas the project will go through to cooperate with the execution of the project.

He also urged the councillors to involve the citizens in every step of the implementation so that they

Government releases 21bn/- for construction of 12-kms roads at tarmac level in Mbeya Region

also know what is going on and even participate in the implementation of the projects.

He told the citizens of the city to cooperate with the contractors of the project as well as cooperate with the project managers to control the theft of the project equipment while urging the contractors to give priority to the employment of the citizens of the respective areas.

"People were eager to see this project begin to be implemented, now go tell them we are starting work and explain to them how they

will benefit so that they cooperate, especially in the protection of project's equipment," said DC Malisa.

He told the contractor who was given the tender to build high quality and complete them within 15 months as agreed in the contract so that the people can start benefiting.

The representative of Consultant Company which has just received the contract Jofrey Kanjanja said the first phase of construction is expected to start early this month and that it will involve the

construction of five roads and two ditches.

Kanjanja said the roads that will be built are Uyole-Itezi 1.8 km, Iziwa 2 km, Kabwe-block T- Sido 1.2 km, Ilomba-Machinjioni 3.8 km, Kalobe 3.5 km as well as two ditches in the area of Nzovwe and Iyela of six kms.

He thanked the government for trusting local contractors to provide the construction of various development projects and promised to implement the construction of the roads at quality standards.

Over 800 public institutions trained on wise use of NeST

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 802 public institutions have been reached with training on the use of the National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) countrywide.

Engineer Amin Mcharo, Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) director for capacity building and advisory services said in an interview yesterday on the NeST system and its applicability.

He said that the training for the employees of public institutions regarding the use of the NeST system is ongoing, whereby until now a total of 8435 participants from 802 institutions have been trained. "Until October 28, 2023, we have had a total list of 8,435 participants who were trained to use the system, those participants are from 802 public institutions," said Eng. Mcharo.

He said that number is equal to an average of three quarters of all institutions registered in the system, where the total number of institutions registered so far is 1,042.

Mcharo asked heads of public institutions who have not received

training to send their employees to PPRA to get training that will build their ability to use the NeST system more effectively.

"Being trained by facilitators from outside PPRA can reduce the effectiveness of the training due to some misleading external facilitators who do not have sufficient understanding of the use of the NeST system.

"Heads of public institutions should use PPRA facilitators to conduct training on the use of the system, as using facilitators from outside PPRA greatly jeopardizes the effectiveness of training, because some external facilitators do not have sufficient understanding of the correct use of NeST," he said.

He said that among the shortcomings that arise in the conduct of the training are some of the employees who were recommended to participate in not coming to the training or arriving out of time.

However, he said PPRA continues to provide training on the NeST system in various selected centers to ensure that all key stakeholders use the system properly.



Tunduru District Commissioner, Julius Mtairo, speaks during the launch of Brac Tanzania Finance Ltd branch office in Tunduru, Ruvuma Region recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Itigi

THE government has provided Sh. 1.6bn/- to Itigi District Council in Singida Region for the completion of projects in the health and education sectors.

Itigi District Council chairman, Hussein Simba said at the first quarter session of the council of Councillors to discuss various matters which had eight agendas.

Simba said 700m/- will be used to buy medical equipment for the district hospital, health centres and clinics.

Simba said another 100m/- will be used to build two clinics and thus increase the number of the clinics to eight and that 500m/- will be used to build a laundry building, radiation and medicine building at the district hospital.

He added that 180m/- will be

Govt provides 1.6bn/- to Itigi District Council for completion of projects in the health and education sectors

used to improve 10 old schools and 128m/- will be used to construct a dormitory for children with special needs.

He said 544m/- will be spent to build Majengo secondary school and what will remain will be used for the construction of 20 toilets in various schools in the council.

In addition, Simba stressed that the council has been collecting twice as much income compared

...180m/- will be used to improve 10 old schools and 128m/- will be used to construct a dormitory for children with special needs

in the past where until now the amount collected had reached 54 per cent and that their expectation is to reach 100 per cent in the third quarter.

Simba praised the efforts of the sixth phase government under President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan in a way that has shown a noble cooperation for the council in the positive context of the welfare of the people's development.

Manyoni acting District Commissioner, Leila Sawa emphasised better management of all funds provided by the government and various development stakeholders.

271 Tanzanian scribes mistreated- says report

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

A Total of 271 Tanzanian journalists have been reported to have been mistreated while at work and 94 media outlets have been ill-treated over the past 10 years, while important institutions are also involved.

Victor Maleko, Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC)'s programme Officer, training, research and publications said on Tuesday when presenting a report during the debate on the journalists protection and safety before members of Manyara Press Club (MNRPC) and police force in the region.

The debate aimed at strengthening journalists' and police force relations in better

serving the community.

He said according to the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) data, out of 271 scribes who were mistreated, 219 were male journalists and 53 were female. Some of the abuses journalists faced include being arrested, beaten, their equipment being destroyed, captured, humiliated and killed.

Maleko mentioned the 10 leading regions for having sex events are Dar es Salaam, Shinyanga, Arusha, Dodoma, Mara, Kagera, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Ruvuma and Singida.

He also stated that the number of incidents that happened every year where in 2013 there were 38 incidents, in 2014 (27), 2015 (20), 2016 (32), 2017 (5), 2018 (24), 2019 (40), 2020 (41), 2021 (26) and 2022

(18). He explained that incidents of violence have been decreasing as a result of the dialogues.

Manyara Regional Police Commander, George Katabazi said writers should focus on providing education and condemning sexual violence, especially sexual violence against children.

Katabazi asked journalists in the region to shout about cruelty to children and citizens to take the law into their own hands.

He asked journalists to be patriotic and prioritize the national interests in order to build the nation.

Zacharia Mtigandi, MNRPC chairman urged scribes to adhere to ethics when executing their daily duties.

Youth, elders empowered with skills on proper sustainable consumption of traditional foods

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

YOUTH and elders in Kilimanjaro Region have been empowered with skills on proper and sustainable consumption of traditional foods as part of the strategy to restore healthy eating and fight against climate change.

Speaking during the empowerment workshop recently in Kilimanjaro, project coordinator for Envirocare Tanzania, Euphrasia Shayo said the move will also enable the groups to think about the future of the coming young generations which face the big threat of climate change.

She said the workshop derived from the Envirocare

project focuses on establishing a sharing community to bridge the knowledge gap between elders and youth regarding local seeds and traditional foods.

“But also, to create a platform where community members, particularly older farmers with traditional knowledge can share their expertise with younger generations and to discuss the sustainable consumption strategy for the year 2030 and beyond,” she said.

She said that there is a knowledge gap between elders and youth regarding local seeds and traditional foods.

This gap hampers the preservation and utilisation of local

seed knowledge, leading to a decline in traditional farming practices and the adoption of genetically modified seeds, which pose risks to human health and the environment.

She added that the workshop was also designed to inspire change, in the future studies, research envisioning alternative futures have proven to be good for imaging alternatives and guiding action for achieving such futures.

She also said: “As part of this year’s Green Action Week (GAW), we are offering participants the opportunity to host a sustainable consumption envisioning workshop, to promote sustainable agriculture by encouraging the use of local seeds and

traditional farming practices, thereby enhancing biodiversity conservation and reducing reliance on genetically modified seeds.”

The findings emphasise the need to analyse and plan transitions to sustainable consumption from various perspectives to ensure relevance and inclusivity.

The project’s impact will be the revitalisation and preservation of local seed knowledge, improved intergenerational cooperation and enhanced environmental sustainability in Tanzania’s agriculture sector.

It is implemented by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) in collaboration with researchers in the Mistra

Sustainable Consumption programme.

Euphrasia added that these contributions will add diversity to help build a more inclusive future view and add to the knowledge base that is necessary to support a transition to a world characterised by sustainable consumption and ensure that the transition is inclusive and relevant in different contexts.

She detailed that the same workshop has been conducted in several regions including Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Songwe, Ruvuma and Dar es Salaam.

Nelson Masaki, one of the participants thanked organisers saying that the workshop gave them

the knowledge concerning better and proper means for preserving traditional seeds and foods in order to avoid reliance on genetically modified seeds which has health impacts.

“We are so proud to receive such knowledge from Envirocare which has empowered us to understand how to use safe pesticides to avoid contamination and maintain food security,” he said.

He also added that the workshop has trained them to understand the negative effects of using genetically modified seeds which have nutritional effects on the human body, and the importance of preparing their family to use traditional foods.

Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP-TZ)
Office Loc: Plot 372 Chole Road - Oysterbay
P. O. Box 105303, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Website: <http://www.ccp.jhu.edu/>

Job Description

Job Title: Program Officer Global Health Security (GHS) and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)
Report to: Senior Program Officer RCCE and GHS
Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Background
Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania is part of a global cooperative agreement between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP) to lead social and behavior change (SBC) programming around the world. The project works in partnership with governments, civil society, communities, and other stakeholders to implement creative, evidence-based SBC programming.

Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania is a three-year (2022-2025) cooperative agreement between the USAID and CCP. The SBC activity aims to catalyze opportunities for Tanzanians to improve their health status by transforming socio-cultural norms and supporting the adoption of healthier behaviors. The activity is providing technical assistance to the Government of Tanzania (GoT) to improve the policy and implementation framework around SBC activities, and design, implement and monitor specific SBC interventions at the sub-national level as required. Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania is promoting integrated SBC approaches to support family planning/reproductive health, maternal, neonatal, and child health (including nutrition), HIV, malaria, TB, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), and Global Health Security (GHS).

Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania will work to strengthen the GHS SBC capacity of GoT to actively listen, respond to concerns of the public and effectively engage the public and communicate through multiple channels. This will be accomplished through the coordinated use of a range of SBC channels and approaches grounded in behavioral theory; informed by research and programmatic experience; and designed and implemented following a systematic and proven process to achieve individual and collective behavior change. Breakthrough ACTION will also support GoT to strengthen timely risk communication to mitigate the potential negative impact of health hazards before, during and after public health emergencies or unusual events.

Breakthrough ACTION is seeking to recruit one (1) Program Officer to lead the development and implementation of GHS SBC activity.

Job Summary
Working under the supervision of the Senior Program Officer RCCE and GHS and with support from Director of SBC Design and Implementation and technical staff at CCP, the GHS Program Officer will support the technical and programmatic components of the Breakthrough ACTION program and provide administrative assistance, linking with the Baltimore based backstop team as needed. S/he will provide day to day support and problem solving for coordination and implementation of activities, technical input, and contribute to writing, editing, and procurement processes that the program requires. S/he will demonstrate SBC technical skills, with an initial focus on Global Health Security. S/he will support the integration of effective SBC approaches to reach project goals and deliverables as required. This position is the primary support and collaborator with the Senior Program Officer RCCE and GHS that is directly responsible for the SBC technical components of the program and will have a key role in developing and maintaining strong relationships with USAID, the Government of Tanzania stakeholders, and relevant GHS partners.

Responsibilities

- Provide day to day technical assistance and capacity strengthening to GHS initiatives that are aligned with national priorities and guidelines.
- Support the development of SBC strategies, materials, approaches, and tools that ensure inclusion of relevant GHS-related priorities.
- Manage relationships with implementing partners and relevant Technical Working Groups. Support and strengthen the capacity of partners and existing, recognized structures to design and implement SBC activities. Support formation of structures if no existent at every level and carry out field visits with key partners as needed.
- Represent Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania in relevant external meetings and events, which may include delivering technical presentations, networking, relationship building, and initiating and follow through with opportunities for collaboration.
- Work with senior staff to facilitate GHS-related meetings, trainings, and workshops, including the creation of agendas, curricula, manuals, and materials, as necessary.
- Support staff to appreciate GHS issues and integrate these into their activities to widen reach.
- Proactively remain up to date with key GHS and one health national and global recommendations and guidelines and integrate these into day-to-day programming.
- Be knowledgeable about GHS 2024 strategic framework and overall country progress toward health security.
- Contribute towards quarterly reporting, annual work plan development, and budgeting for the Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania team.
- Support results reporting to USAID by providing written documentation on GHS activities, as appropriate.
- Work closely with the monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning (MERL) team to harmonize and streamline collection and use of data for GHS program activities and learning, routinely review performance data, and initiate adaptations to program management and implementation.
- Format, edit, and create documents and presentations as needed.
- Initiate, track and monitor procurements, contracts, work plans and other administrative and programmatic documents and work closely with finance and administrative staff to ensure timely and compliant spending.
- Maintain frequent, open, ongoing communication with program team members in all locations (offsite, in headquarters, and internationally).
- Adhere to JHU, CCP and donor rules, regulations, and policies.
- Upload and save deliverables on relevant knowledge management platforms.
- Assist with other activities as directed by the supervisor.
- Proactively seek opportunities to expand leadership and management skills and Work with senior staff and peers to identify opportunities for professional development, including JHU courses and seminars, conferences, etc.

Required Qualifications

- Master’s degree (M.A., MHS, MPH) required. Three years’ work experience in a related field. Additional relevant experience and/or training may substitute for some education, Fluency in English and Kiswahili, Excellent Past Performance and Tanzania National

Preferred Qualifications

- A professional with an advanced degree in public health, communication, social sciences or field relevant to advancing Global Health Security and One Health, including within the animal health, wildlife, or agriculture sector.
- Demonstrated experience with Global Health Security, RCCE, and/or experience in emergency response.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities

- Demonstrated understanding and application of SBC, research & evaluation, and/or risk communication, community engagement, of working in partnership with host governments, international donors, and implementing partners.
- Ability to work in a fast-moving environment with multiple tasks, competing deadlines and multiple stakeholders, with writing skills and ability to articulate oral and written technical information clearly and effectively to both technical and non-technical audiences.
- Experience with monitoring and evaluation of health programs demonstrating a progressively increasing level of responsibility.
- Excellent interpersonal and teamwork skills.

Travel Requirements

- This position may require up to 30% regional travel.

All candidates are encouraged to submit e-mail applications to ccptz-hr@jhu.edu with copies of current CV, cover letter and three professional referees. Please indicate the position you are applying for in the subject line of the email.

Deadline for receiving applications: 12:00pm EAT on Monday, 12th November 2023

217696201

REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following service:

Manufacture and Supply of Pipping and Fittings

Qualification Criteria

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Qualification Criteria
1	NM031/2023	<p>Procurement, Manufacture and Supply of Piping and fittings for the Rising Main Project.</p> <p>Specs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement manufacture and supply of carbon steel piping and HDPE piping. High-level quants provided as follows. <p>Description: Partial extract from the BOQ: UG PIPELINES - Carbon Steel – General Service – Flanged (600#) Sched 60 PIPE CS, ASME B36.10 STD WT, API 5L Gr.B ERW, BE ASME B16.25. TEE EQUAL, CS, BE, ASME B16.9, STD WT, ASTM A234 WPB.</p> <p>Bill of Quantities with reference CC0296-000-PIP-BOQ-0002-C Piping Must be costed.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Procurement, manufacture, and supply of piping for a similar sized project in Tanzania. Provide project profiles over the last three years for assessment as well as tonnage manufactured and supplied per month for the last 24 months. ii. Company Profile and capability statement. These should include photo of the fabrication workshop, confirmation of floor size and location. iii. List of Personnel and organogram. iv. Completed Bill of Quantities with reference CC0296-000-PIP-BOQ-0002-C Piping v. Confirmation in writing on company letterhead that the Bidder will comply to the technical specification with the following references: vi. CC0296-000-PIP-SPC-0001-0 Pipe Material vii. CC0296-000-MEC-SPC-0001-0 Paint spec and quality references in the BOQ with reference: viii. CC0296-000-PIP-BOQ-0002-C Valves ix. Class three, weekly schedule in Excel format confirming the following: x. All Material Procurement completed, number of weeks after PO received. xi. Number of weeks after PO placement when 30%; 60%, 90% and 100% of piping manufactured is completed. xii. Completion of painting activities where required. xiii. Quality Control Plans, documents, certificates provided during manufacturing. xiv. Warranty & Guarantee period to be provided. xv. Provide a list of critical and strategic spares and each items cost. xvi. Provide a pricing schedule with items costed for two years operational spares. xvii. Local Content Regulations compliance.

Submission of Proposals
If your company meets the qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the RFP package (BOQ, Technical Specs, etc.), send your request along with your company profile to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a request through this advertisement.

Qualification of any company submitting a "proposal" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM.
If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your submission unsuccessful.

Key Dates

- Last date to submit RFP Package request 7 November 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

217696201

Loans will be accountable only if they pass by SACCOS, banks

HEATED discussion was being heard in the legislature of late when some MPs expressed concern with withdrawal of local government loans for special groups of needy people, where youths, women and persons with disabilities obtain particular portions of council revenues.

The government is designing a new modality for the loans but as this is taking time, a section of MPs feel that emergency arrangements could be used while a new format is being prepared. The government was unsure how far that method would be usable, as it would not have removed those errors.

Outside the specific terms of the debate, the background to the dispute is that too many of the loans were not being repaid, which implies that repayment is one of the conditions to obtain the loan.

It is unclear if this is how the matter is perceived at the grassroots level, as it would imply it seeks out strictly those who deserve the loans in terms of their lack of means to earn a living. But if that criterion was duly followed, chances that they make a profit and return the loans are equally minimal.

There are dichotomies in overall policy design on loans to needy groups, arising from the wish to take care of such issues on a selective basis depending on who is raising the matter. In the matter of using 10 per cent of council earnings for loans to needy groups, we find reports of the Controller and Auditor General raising sharp questions on why the loans were not being returned.

Meanwhile there is another arrangement, located within the

central government, to expend billions of shillings on poor families, where the benefits include sending children to college.

While this matter is not on the table, there ought to be a comprehensive design on how to lift certain portions of the population from abject poverty, and terms on which this is done.

The best source of loans for poor people could easily be the TASAF finances, as it would make a vast difference in who obtains loans if one compares the sums with a paltry ten per cent of council earnings directed at the needy.

Then as it is supposed to be a fund to aid needy people; it would be able to more easily cancel loans repaid to a certain threshold, or postpone such payments depending on conditions, including death of those credited, bereavement, disease.

Additionally, when such loans are administered by financial organisations acting as agents of a statutory body like TASAF, they are less likely to be misused by well-placed individuals cultivating influence in local government circles for taking loans, or repeatedly so. Local government administration is more politically networked than central government institutions, in which case the government's efforts as to closing the loopholes or leakages of such loans would rectify the modus operandi by shifting from offices to agencies.

But then with polls due next year and the following year, the pressure is to win hearts and much less so, minds. In that case the programme may remain frozen for a while, and a reorganization of the larger central government funds remain on hold, catering for other donors, etc.

We need to educate people about insurance on a very basic level

THE Tanzanian insurance sector consists of 30 insurance companies and 112 insurance brokers currently operating in the market. Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) has said the insurance sector is growing. However, there is need to increase the number of users by 50 per cent and raise insurance literacy to upwards of 80 per cent by the year 2030.

According to the authority the sector was implementing strategies to educate the public, engaging stakeholders in the sector, to reach 80 per cent of Tanzanians aged 18 and above.

Various categories of the population come under the national education strategy. TIRA believes that top public officials, service providers and the media need to have better understanding, making it easier for the community to comprehend issues.

In the past TIRA had issued a circular setting new conditions for dealing with foreign reinsurers and reinsurance brokers on reinsurance. The TIIP, is the country's official imports/exports insurance marketplace that enables Tanzanian importers and exporters, their brokers and trading partners overseas, to purchase marine cargo insurance in minutes.

There is a cultural aspect where the community believes that once you insure yourself, you are inviting bad luck. Despite all the efforts made towards raising awareness of the insurance concept, the level of understanding in Tanzania is still very low. Therefore, we need to educate people about insurance on a very basic level.

All in all, currently insurance is an offer-driven product in Tanzania. We have to push the products to the people to increase the market penetration. There are vast

opportunities in the life and general insurance industry in Tanzania. Nonetheless, there are vast opportunities in the life and general insurance industry in Tanzania.

TIRA has said that half of the country's population should be covered by some sort of insurance by 2028.

As the country focuses on industrialisation, insurers should be open for new investments and business to cover a wider population. The country is now set for new regulations and directives on cash and carry as well as minimum rates which will enhance the market and companies will now have to compete on factors other than price.

Agricultural insurance is one of the key sectors of investment that insurers should be striving venture into immediately.

Insurers in the country believe agriculture is too risky to cover because smallholder farmers face challenges such as climate change, insecure land ownership and difficulties in accessing capital and farm inputs.

Now is the right time to invest in general insurance in line with the advancing technology and peoples' changing needs.

Strategis Insurance (Tanzania) Limited (SITL) was the first private specialist health insurer to be registered in Tanzania and licensed by TIRA in 2002 and became the latest insurer to have decided to venture in the general insurance business.

Tanzanians should now be wishing to be covered by a private insurer in all aspects; motor insurance, fire, fidelity cover, goods in transit, marine cover, burglary and professional indemnity, among others.

Indeed the insurance market is more challenging than ever because competition is high.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

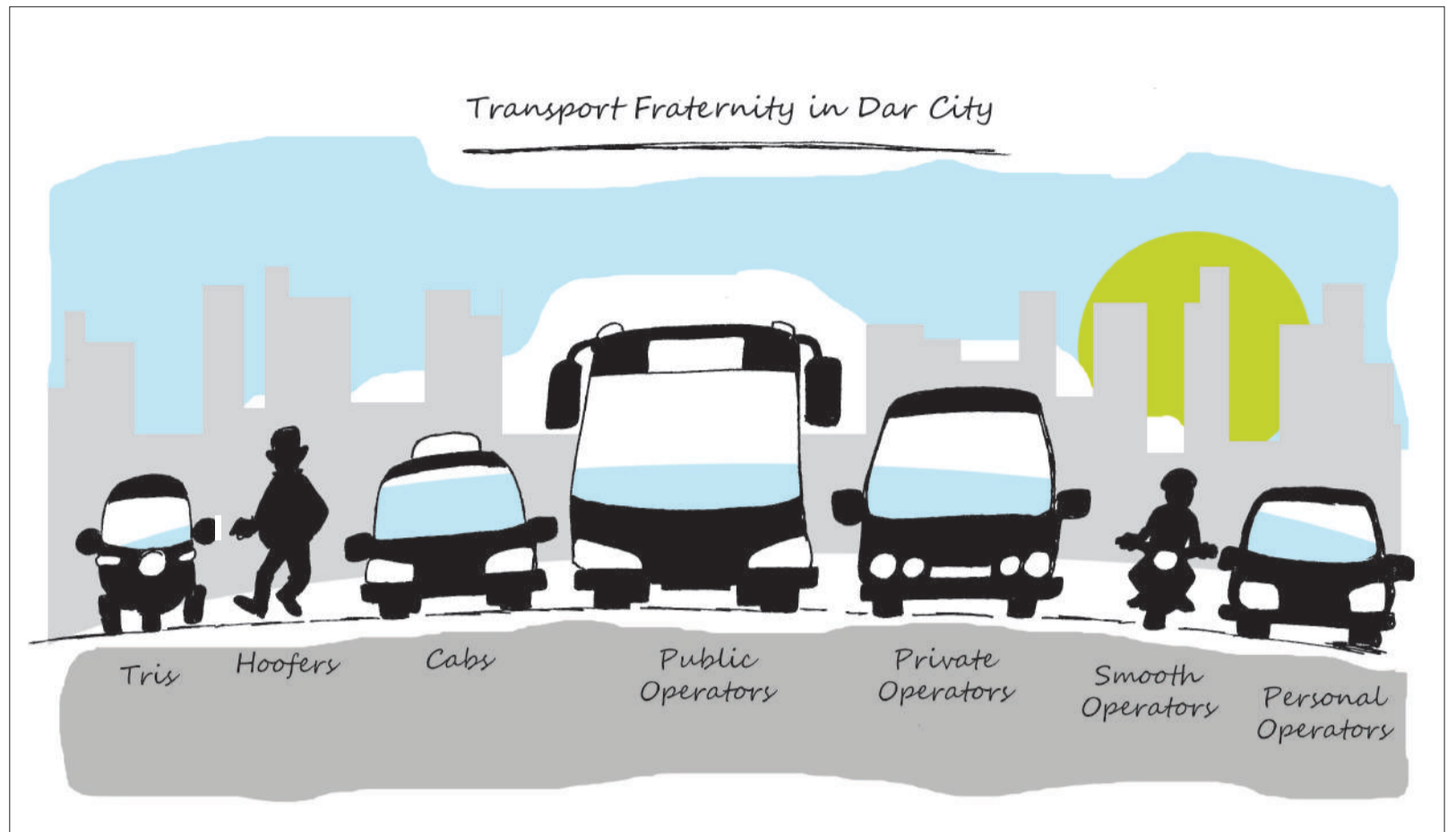
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The struggle for free press continues as cracks widen

By Abraham Tekle

THIS week's International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists takes on renewed significance as threats to independent media in Ethiopia mount. As the world commemorates the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists this week from November 2 to 3, the state of media around the world continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate.

The situation in Ethiopia is particularly grim as state-sanctioned impunity strengthens its hold.

Samuel Aseffa knows all too well the risks of investigative reporting in the repressive environment.

One a sunny morning few months back, Samuel, reporter at Ethiopian Media Service (EMS) at the time, set out for reporting assignment in the Sheger city of surrounding Addis Ababa. Non-less than 100,000 houses are demolished, following government orders.

Armed with information obtained from displaced people and trusted source, Samuel headed to 'Taffo', a town at the outskirts of Addis, in Oromia regional state, to pursue a lead. However, Samuel was caught off-guard when he was abruptly arrested by security forces and subjected to nine days of imprisonment and physical harassment.

"I was abruptly arrested by security forces and subjected to nine days of imprisonment that enduring with physical harassment," he said.

EMS was forced to cancel one of its programs on Balageru Television station, where audiences could directly express their ideas. The cancellation came after a warning letter from the Ethiopian Media Authority (EMA), the government regulatory body for media. The letter stated the television station was not operating in line with Ethiopia's media laws, though no specific violations were mentioned.

The pressures on Ethiopia's independent media show no signs of letting up.

Fikadu Matemework, publisher of the Ghion magazine, now faces the potential closure of his publication after five years due to the unjust pressure coming from an "non-identified authority" that hinders the rights of Freedom of Media.

The publisher and editor-in-chief of the magazine were illegally imprisoned last August, by government forces.

"I was held for 10 days with no justification given," Fikadu said. "The law requires charges to be brought within 48 hours, but they ignored this."

The magazine's equipment and files remain seized as authorities



refuse to provide clear reasoning or support from media regulators.

Number of journalists, including Dawit Begashaw, Tirita, still remain in custody, following government's accusations for their journalistic works.

Robberies targeting major outlets like Ethiopia Insider and Ethio-251 have become another intimidation tactic. Unlawful detentions, harassment, torture and forced closures persist as the norms constricting Ethiopia's media landscape.

While killings of journalists have not been reported recently, impunity for such abuses enables further repression.

The states of emergency declared in recent years have amplified the government's policing overreach. In a country already experiencing conflict and instability, crackdowns on independent media have intensified to the brink of wiping out a sector battered by the previous regime.

Samuel and Fikadu's ordeals illustrate the daily hardships faced by many Ethiopian journalists -struggling to support their families amid job losses while living under constant threats.

The Ethiopian Constitution, particularly Article 29, Section 4, enshrines the principle of freedom of expression. It emphasizes the importance of allowing diverse perspectives and the free flow of information, ideas, and opinions as essential components of a democratic society.

Multiple media outlets and journalists have endured extrajudicial detention, harassment, assaults and theft of equipment at the hands of security forces. Several journalists have even reportedly lost their lives covering conflicts.

Blocking publication distribution has made daily operations challenging. These crackdowns undermine the very spirit of the constitution and Ethiopia's democratic aspirations.

As the UN's "Safety of Journalists" initiative highlights, journalism plays a critical role in development, rights and democracy worldwide. However, a staggering 90 percent of journalist murders go unpunished according to UNESCO's Observatory of Killed Journalists, with over 1,600 deaths globally since 1993.

Threats online and off continue

rising, especially in conflict-scarred nations.

In Ethiopia, whether by security forces or protest participants, reporters have increasingly become targets without consequence for aggressors. This culture of impunity undermines press freedom, silences critical voices, and erodes the foundations of democracy.

Alarmed by the deteriorating situation for media freedoms, the Ethiopian Media Council emphasized on November 23, 2013 that even during a state of emergency, journalists and media outlets must be held accountable through legal processes. However, reports indicate that media outlets and journalists are being illegally detained and their publications banned.

In Ethiopia, journalists live with the harrowing reality of being deliberately targeted, attacked, and even killed without consequence, according to Deputy Council Chairperson Tamirat Haile.

He notes this alarming trend carries grave implications for the fundamental rights of both news outlets and journalists. "Fear and intimidation force them to resort to self-censorship, leading to less coverage of sensitive issues. This not only demoralizes journalists but also directly impacts the right to freedom of expression."

These actions, according to Tamirat, undermine press freedom, transparency and ultimately cause journalists to leave the profession.

Regrettably, Samuel also expresses his frustration at being incarcerated, despite exercising his professional right to access information. He laments that even though he sought to uphold his rights, it proved futile in preventing the assault that resulted in his imprisonment.

"This is truly disheartening. A law enforcer breaking the very laws they are supposed to uphold and violating the fundamental human rights of individuals is a serious issue," Samuel told The Reporter adding, "The Ethiopian Broadcasting Law, which was created to regulate media organizations, is not effectively protecting journalists from harm. As a result, the practice of journalism is at risk of collapsing, putting the country's democracy and human rights at stake."

According to the Council, perpetrators of crimes against journalists must be held accountable, a safe environment for journalists to carry out their work without fear of reprisals must be ensured, and legal frameworks that protect press freedom must be strengthened.

A media advocacy expert, wishing to remain anonymous, posited that the media landscape has improved since the political transition in 2018. They highlighted that there is now greater freedom of expression, media freedom, and revised media laws. However, the expert stated that stakeholders in the sector need to work collaboratively to ensure continued progress.

The expert also expressed concern about the safety of journalists, particularly in relation to government and unidentified security forces. He noted that such forces often use unjust measures against media practitioners. However, the expert says that the UN safety instruments are in place, which focus on protecting, preventing, and prosecuting individuals before any adverse incidents may occur.

To this end, the expert explained that, along with local and international organisations, their institution is working together to create a safe and conducive working environment for media practitioners, with emphasis of that the freedom of expression is a fundamental human right, but safety is equally important for media practitioners.

"The government views everything as a security and national interest issue due to ongoing conflicts in the country, leading to a perception that it is challenging to provide protection and safety for journalists," The expert said, acknowledging that the rule of law and policy standards have improved since 2018, making it possible to provide better protection and safety in collaboration with regulatory bodies and other civil organisations.

Despite harbouring deep resentment and enduring lingering pain from losing his employment, Samuel ardently depicts his distressing experience as a potent call to arms, imploring an end to the prevailing culture of impunity surrounding crimes against journalists.

"I am unable to provide for my family due to lack of work, and even in the face of this financial hardship, the intimidation and threats persist," Samuel said.

Mohammed Idris, director general of the Ethiopian Media Authority, and other officials refrained from commenting on this issue, after repeated requests from The Reporter went unanswered as of press time.

Rights of a spouse during disposition of land in Tanzania

PROTECTION of matrimonial properties varies in different books of statutes as well as court decisions on rights of a spouse. This article intends to look at the rights of a spouse in a property acquired in a marriage at the time of disposition of the same.

The question of what falls under matrimonial property is a matter of facts. One has to establish contribution which is not mandatory to be monetary because even petty tasks can amount to a certain property falling under the ambit of matrimonial property.

This can be seen in the cases of *Hawa Mohamed vs Ally Sefu* [1983] TLR 32, *Thabitha Muhondwa vs Mwango Ramadhani & another*, Civil Appeal No. 28 of 2012 and *Gabriel Nimrod Kurwijila vs Theresia Hassan Malongo*, Civil Appeal No. 102 of 2018 and a recent Civil Appeal No. 10 of 2022 between *Habiba Ahmadi Nangulukuta vs Hassani Aushi Mchopa*. Matrimonial home is the property in which the

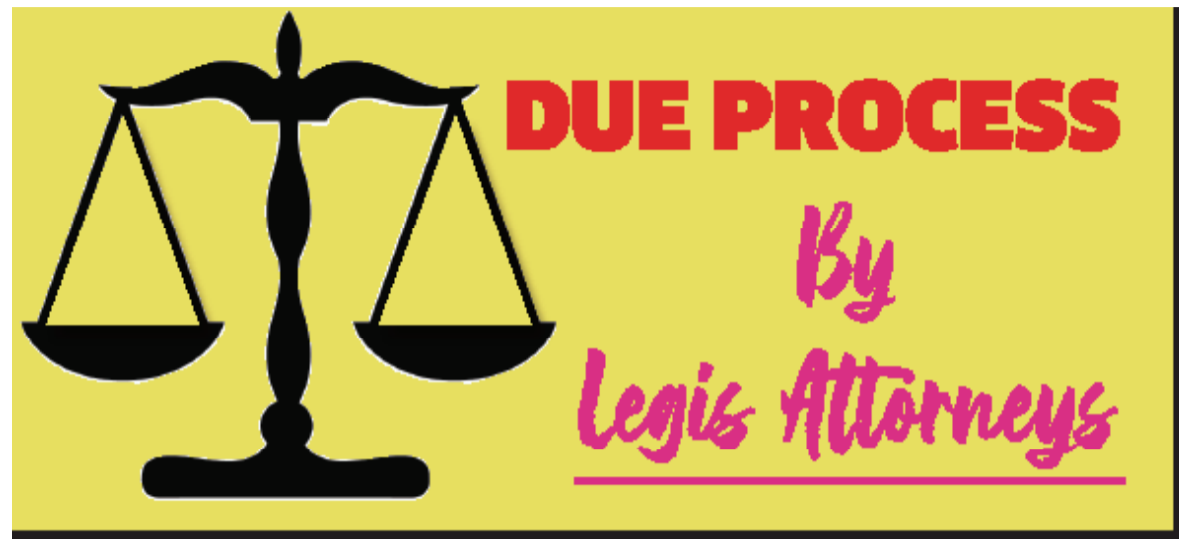
family resides.

Marriages that are legal in Tanzania are religious unions such as Islamic, Christian, Hindu or otherwise; customary marriage after following all legal requirements until registration of the same and civil marriage. Thus, for one to acquire rights as a spouse, then he or she has to establish existence of one of the marriage types.

The Marriage Act mainly governs these kinds of relationships in a wide range. Specific sections that cut across or provide for protection of spouses in disposition of property are sections 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60 of the Law of Marriage Act, [Cap 29 R.E. 2019].

This article dwells on section 59 which provides that one spouse shall have to require consent from another spouse when alienating matrimonial home be it by way of sale, gift, lease, mortgage or otherwise. Thus, the law requires one to seek spousal consent when making disposition of any kind.

Another piece of statute



that tends to protect a spouse from surprise or unknown disposition is the Land Act. Section 114 of Land Act [Cap 113 R.E 2019] provides that the bank or mortgagee once a landed property is placed as collateral, have a duty to seek spousal consent and if not, the same has some legal impact whether in regards to legality of the placed mortgage or an innocent part can seek for damages for noncompliance with the law.

Another section to be looked at is section 161 of the Land Act [Cap 113 R.E. 2019]. This section requires also spousal consent in case of any disposition

and if there are more than one spouse, then the same should be sought.

Once the Court of Appeal faced a scenario that a spousal consent was not sought and it had no other remedy than to nullify the mortgage.

The High Court in the case of *Specioza Kokushubira vs TWB Bank LTD*, Land Appeal No. 119 of 2020 was faced with a scenario that one was claiming spousal consent but legality of the marriage was questionable. The court looked at the marriage certificate tendered and overall evidence and found itself in a dilemma

as the other spouse who was

also in court had different names from what were identified in the marriage certificate.

The court ruled that it could not grasp whether the one who placed the landed property was the appellant's spouse or otherwise hence dismissed the case. Therefore, when suing, one is to be clear on identification and names of the spouse.

In another case, there was dilemma as to which property needed consent: is it matrimonial home alone or all matrimonial properties? The Law of Marriage Act states that a spousal consent is a requirement to be sought in matrimo-

nial home.

Many decisions show that if collateral is not a matrimonial home, then consent is not necessary. However, some sections of the Land Act require consent and now the same has been settled in the Civil Appeal No. 287 of 2017 between *National Bank of Commerce Ltd vs Nurbano Abdallah*.

Also, there was a dilemma on how the mortgagee could have discharged the task granted for identifying whether there was a spouse or not, a burden that many people have used as a bush to escape liability.

In 2008, Section 114 of the Mortgage Financing (Special Provision) Act 2008 was amended and imposed a new requirement whereby banks have a duty only to seek the mortgagor to identify if he or she has a spouse or not and if yes, then spousal consent is necessary.

But if the answer is no, then a statutory declaration or affidavit is to be sought to that effect. This protects the bank at later litigation because if it is proved that they adhered

to the above provided stage, then the loan transaction or any other won't be subjected to nullification. This was also determined by court in the case of *Warda Hassan vs National Bank of Commerce*, Land Case No.159 of 2014.

In a nutshell, for any buyer or mortgagee or any financial institution, it is necessary to obtain spousal consent or affidavit of the seller's or mortgagor's marital status.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. They only provide either elementary or basic legal knowledge on the above subject. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case in question.

You can send questions or comments to our email info@legisattorneys.co.tz or postal address Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750, DSM. You can visit our website www.legisattorneys.co.tz

Steinmeier visit: The apology paves way for stronger ties

By Mark Mapambano

APOLOGY, a gesture formerly considered a sign of weakness has evolved over centuries to now represent moral strength and a crucial step towards potential reconciliation. Like appreciation for a good deed and care for others, it is not commonplace though.

Individuals, communities, governments, religious organisations, state agencies, companies and professional organisations all over the world nowadays publicly issue apologies to those they wronged in the past than before.

Perhaps, the world is becoming more aware of the power of apology. For, offering an apology implies that you harmed another person in some way, which can elicit feelings of shame. Psychologists hold that people who cannot apologise often have such deep feelings of low self-worth that their fragile egos cannot absorb the blow of admitting they were wrong.

But to simply say that 'I am sorry' or 'I apologise' is not enough. People who have been wronged are natural lie detectors. Yes, they can figure out when you are acting and when you mean it. A true apology that heals the victim must be sincere and heartfelt.

That is why when German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier publicly apologised for atrocities committed by his country's forces in then Tanganyika on Wednesday, it was big news reported across the world.

Speaking in Songea town, Ruvuma Region where he met the descendants of Chief Songea Mbano who was executed by Germans for leading a revolt, Steinmeier appeared and sounded remorseful although he was not there when the atrocities were being committed.

It should be remembered that the acts were committed during the German East Africa era which covered Mainland Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi and spanned a period from 1885 until the end of World War I.

"My dear family, I mourn with you for Chief Songea, and for all the others who were executed. I wish to pay my respects to the victims of the German colonial rule. And as German president I would like to ask for forgiveness for what Germans did to your ancestors here," he said.

In what many did not expect, including yours truly, he went on to describe Mbano as "a brave leader" in the rebellion. Yes, he said that.

"I beg your forgiveness and I would like to assure you that we Germans will search with you for answers to the



President Samia Suluhu Hassan and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier who was on official visit to Tanzania early this week head for a luncheon hosted in his honour at State House Dar es Salaam. File photo

open, unanswered, outstanding questions that give you no peace."

The move to acknowledge the atrocities by the former colonial master is a moral gesture that has been sought by many African countries - some verbally and some silently - with the demand in wealth, heritage, and ancestral remains being among the key things needed to be returned to their respective African countries - showing an act of accepting responsibility.

The apology sets a 'stepping stone' for Tanzania and Germany's relationship in various strategic matters such as trade and investment, water, health, gender, equality, women's empowerment, biodiversity conservation, finance management, tourism heritage and culture to flourish and cement the latter's investment and trade in these sectors.

Also, Steinmeier's apology is a gesture that also sets a positive and last-

ing tone that will help change the perception built against the Germans by the locals, hence curving a path for more tourists and friendliness that is no longer marred by historical bloodshed.

Steinmeier also laid a rose at Chief Songea Mbano's grave and a wreath at a mass grave of 66 other fighters in the Maji Maji uprising. Up to 300,000 people are believed to have died during the Maji Maji rebellion between 1905 and 1907.

Skulls of people taken to Germany are believed to include that of chief Mbano and return of the same was one of the topics of discussion during Steinmeier's three-day visit.

In her address to the media at the State House Dar es Salaam, President Samia Suluhu Hassan took the opportunity to laud the German leader for agreeing to visit the country upon her invitation, adding that the visit creat-

ed opportunity for stronger economic and social-cultural affairs between the two countries.

According to President Samia, economic ties between Tanzania and Germany are substantial, with bilateral trade standing at around euros 300 million, with Germany being among the leading countries placing investments in Tanzania.

This status is complemented by Germany's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country whereas in 2018, it was reported that German firms had invested a total of \$324.12mn (732.2bn/-) leading to the creation of 14,800 jobs for Tanzanians in sectors such as manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and environmental protection.

President Samia reiterated that German-based firms had initiated a total of 178 projects billed to take up \$408.11mn in total, registered with

the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) adding significantly to employment opportunities.

With these numbers, it is evident that the Deutsche speaking nation is striving to see Tanzania thrive while also benefiting from Tanzania's export commodity value which stood at \$42mn versus Germany's export value to Tanzania at \$237.4mn.

Though the trade figures denote thriving socioeconomic relations, it is the cultural aspect of the President Steinmeier's visit that serves as a sign of relief after revealing that he intends to acknowledge and address past injustices citing the move as a key facet of reconciliation and a stepping stone towards a shared future.

The author is a commentator on current affairs. He can be reached on 0655 522 922.

By Soipan Tuyu and Dr. Agnes Kalibata

The fight against climate change calls for significant collaboration

IN line with global trends, Kenya has seen a significant temperature increase of 0.3°C to 0.6°C per decade, impacting key sectors like agriculture and water resources. This rapid warming trend was a major focus at the inaugural Africa Climate Summit (ACS23) in Nairobi last month which among others highlighted the link between climate change, regional food systems and economic transformation.

The ACS23 emphasized the consequences of inaction on food security and economic sovereignty, rallying an Africa's unified climate agenda ahead of the 28th UN climate change conference (COP28) in the UAE.

Concurrently, the 2023 Africa Food Systems Forum (AFS Forum 23) in Dar es Salaam stressed the urgent need for climate-responsive solutions by African governments to address the continent's food system challenges. Kenyan President, Dr William Ruto, has since come through on his promise to explore more green and environmental friendly fertilizers alongside a 10-year initiative to grow 15 billion trees by 2032, raising Kenya's tree cover to 30 percent, enhancing carbon sequestration, restoring 5.1 million hectares of deforested areas, and benefiting households as 30 percent of these trees will be fruit, nut, and fodder species.

President Ruto has also banned single-use plastic bags and initiated trials for biodegradable tubing bags in line with a United Nations resolution from UNEA 5.2. Meanwhile, Kenya is at the forefront of climate change efforts in Africa, with the Climate Change Act of 2016, and recent amendments to enhance its carbon market regime, driving its responses. The government is also actively implementing the third cycle of the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP III) to promote low-carbon, climate-resilient development.

Yet even as we celebrate these great interventions, we must recognize that climate change is a complex issue



that no single country can solve independently; a collaborative approach involving partnerships across national governments, the private sector and the international community is required for rapid transformation.

We are glad to report that African leaders are focusing their development strategies on sustainable solutions at both the national and continental levels. The Africa Environment Action Plan, the Africa Clean Energy Corridor, and the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative all indicate the continent's strategic commitment

to addressing the climate crisis.

The actions proposed in these initiatives were restated in the Nairobi Declaration, which summed up the outcomes of the ACS23. Africa's common position on food systems will benefit from cross-sectional collaboration to ensure resource efficiency and high-impact transformation.

The Declaration comprises 23 commitments, primarily addressing policy areas related to investment attraction, economic development (with a focus on youth empowerment), enhanced continental cooperation,

increased renewable energy financing, support for small-scale farmers, and the expedited implementation of the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032).

Notably, the Declaration emphasizes the need for global collaboration to secure adequate capital for both development and climate initiatives, echoing the principles of the Paris Pact for People and the Planet, which aims to ensure that no country must choose between its development goals, climate action and the basic

human right to feed people.

The time is now for environmental, energy and food systems experts to resolutely come together to help the continent fight hunger, land degradation and ensure economic prosperity.

Hence, Africa is capitalizing on the momentum of ACS23 and AFS Forum 23 to prioritize its climate discussions and facilitate decision-making areas most critical to Africa on the global front. This was evident at the recent UN General Assembly (UNGA) where Africa's key concerns, such as transitioning to a low-carbon economy and

improving living standards, building resilience to climate shocks, especially for rain-fed agricultural nations, were a common theme in speeches and discussions. Coming off the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, which exposed vulnerabilities, there is a strong focus on fast tracking climate action and development, as emphasized by Africa's delegation at UNGA.

Our countries are up against a huge task: the need to transform food systems to feed people, to rehabilitate and safeguard environment and to ensure resilient to shocks caused by the ongoing climate change. There is no doubt that African leaders are more committed than ever before to build on the lessons of the recent crisis that our continent has faced to deliver stronger resilience for people, the environment, and our economies. Certainly, this is not an easy undertaking which will require stronger collaboration.

AGRA has developed a suite of transferable assets in technology, system strengthening partnerships and models that can benefit women, youth, and small holder farmers in Kenya and across the continent. We are enthusiastic about collaborating with the Kenya government, like minded institutions and private sector to unlock potential here in Kenya and across the continent.

With a shared vision and united mission leveraging stronger collaboration across sectors and countries, we're confident of paving the way for growth, prosperity, and lasting change in this diverse country.

Soipan Tuyu is the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Kenya and Dr Agnes Kalibata is the current President of AGRA

By Rosi Orozco

Hurricane Otis: The indifference towards children in Mexican city

ACAPULCO is a paradise. A port of golden sunsets, toasted sand, and deep blue sea. Its dream beaches captivated the hearts of Elvis Presley and Elizabeth Taylor. US President John F. Kennedy chose its shores to spend his honeymoon with Jackie Kennedy. Its luxury hotels and the untamed sea made it the most famous tourist destination in Mexico.

Today, Acapulco is devastated. A Category 5 hurricane—the deadliest possible rating—called “Otis” hit the beach on October 25 with incomparable force. No one anticipated it. Hours before it made landfall, it was just an inconvenient storm. Suddenly it became a deadly cyclone. Most of the hotels are destroyed, the sea swallowed people, houses were blown away, and dozens of people are dead.

In the last century, its beauty attracted the world's most influential celebrities. Its tranquil mornings and lively nightlife attracted actresses, singers, politicians, aristocratic musicians, and families who wanted to spend their summers by the sea. I myself spent my youth at the family timeshare apartment in Acapulco, and it was there that I met my husband Alejandro, with whom I've been married for 40 years. My life is permanently connected to Acapulco.

Luxury businessmen, millionaire athletes, and Michelin-starred chefs arrived. Also drug dealers, money launderers, and men looking for girls and boys to rape in exchange for food or a few dollars for their parents who lived in the city's poor areas.

Because there are two Acapulcos. They both share an airport and roads, so all roads lead to that pair of versions of the same city. There is a “diamond Acapulco” where the rich vacation with all the amenities at their disposal. And there is a “traditional Acapulco,” where the poor live who work for wealthy tourists.

The people who inhabit “diamond Acapulco” and “traditional Acapulco” do not usually cross paths. They live in the same city, but they are separated by golf courses and exclusive shopping malls. Only rich foreigners and wealthy nationals cross to the poor side when they feel a repugnant urge: to make their plans for child sex tourism a reality with girls and boys as young as 3 years old.

Acapulco is one of the most unequal tourist destinations in the world. In Mexico, it is the most unequal municipality of all: more than 60% of its 900,000 inhabitants live in extreme poverty, which means they do not know what they will eat today or tomorrow. They are the workers who serve plates of fresh seafood, who sweep marble floors,



who fill the wine glasses of tourists.

For years, journalists and human rights organizations have told horrific stories that combine poverty, inequality, and sex tourism:

a 6-year-old boy rented out to be photographed naked in exchange for milk and eggs; a 9-year-old girl sold to a Canadian tourist to be his wife for a month; homeless

teenagers invited to sex parties on lavish yachts in exchange for food; parents and mothers waiting outside hotels for their children to be raped for a price paid in dol-

lars per hour.

Those pedophiles and child molesters turned Acapulco into the country's primary destination for child sexual tourism. They also led Mexico to the disgraceful second position in the production of child pornography, only surpassed by Thailand, according to data from the Mexican Chamber of Deputies and the United Nations Children's Fund.

Today, Acapulco is a different place. Little remains of the port that enchanted singers Agustín Lara and Luis Miguel. There are thousands of poor families without homes, hundreds of workers who lost their jobs, and dozens of fishermen without boats to go out to sea to find sustenance. The destruction is so extensive that complete economic recovery is estimated to take decades, not years.

Under these conditions, childhood is at very high risk. Many families have lost so much that their bodies are the only currency they have left. And in the dirty business of forced prostitution, child bodies are the most sought after.

Amid this unprecedented crisis in Mexico, the Chamber of Deputies approved amendments to the general law against human trafficking. These changes aim to broaden the scope of the law enacted in 2012 and update it to address new technologies that traffickers and organized crime engaged in sexual exploitation can use. The wording has some issues that we are still analyzing, but it also includes positive aspects.

For example, it introduces new protections for individuals with injuries, intellectual disabilities, and Afro-Mexican towns and communities. The latter represent 6.5% of the total population in Guerrero and 4% of the residents in Acapulco, according to the National Population Council.

Civil society organizations are monitoring these changes and hope that the deputies will honor their commitment to protecting the victims.

Meanwhile, it is the responsibility of all, not just in Mexico, to help Acapulco back on its feet, a place that has given so much to both nationals and foreigners. It won't be easy or quick, but every day we delay puts the vulnerable children at risk due to the magnitude of sexual tourism in that beautiful port.

After Hurricane Otis, Acapulco will be different. Its reconstruction is an opportunity to build a new city on the ruins of depravity, one with values and respect for human dignity. I long for the day to see it standing and for its coastline, beach, and air to remain a paradise, especially for children like me who grew up happily by the sea.

IPS UN Bureau

Cultural fiesta boosts harmonization of Chinese, Nigerian cultures

ABUJA

THE beat of Nigerian drums intertwined with the delicate melodies of Chinese instruments, creating a symphony that resonated with the spirit of togetherness Tuesday when a cultural fiesta was held to celebrate the cultures of the two countries.

Dressed resplendently in captivating Chinese and Nigerian costumes, with richly used props, students from 12 public schools in the Nigerian capital of Abuja thronged the China Cultural Center, the venue of the 2023 annual China-Nigeria Cultural Fiesta, to compete among themselves for two main categories, namely, Chinese dance and Nigerian dance.

The event, organized by the Chinese Embassy in Nigeria and the Secondary Education Board of Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory (FCT), is a branch of the Chinese Corners, a club formed for extracurricular purposes by government-owned secondary schools in Abuja, to learn and share ideas about the Chinese culture.

"This is a truly exciting experience for me. I am glad to have not only witnessed this but have also competed and won," said Gift Paul, a student of the Government Day Secondary School in Dutse, a suburb of Abuja. She was a member of the troupe that won the first prize for her school at last year's edition of the competition.

This year, the school was again the biggest winner of the competition, clinching the top prize in both the Chinese and Nigerian dances. "I get joy anytime I am dancing. It gives me more energy to put in more effort. It



Students perform a Chinese dance during a dancing competition at the 2023 annual China-Nigeria Cultural Fiesta in Abuja, Nigeria.

took us one month to prepare for the competition. We did a different dance than the others, and for me, I think our own was the best," Paul said.

Presenting a great specta-

cle for the audience who witnessed the growing people-to-people interaction between China and Nigeria, the young performers seamlessly transitioned between the fluid mo-

tions of Chinese fan dances and the spirited, energetic rhythms of Nigerian traditional dance forms. The applause that followed each act was not just for the captivating display

but for the bridge that was built between the two nations through the universal language of art and culture.

Yakubu Ibrahim, a member of the China-Nigeria Alumni,

said one of the main challenges Chinese Corners faced was the lack of Chinese language teachers. Many participants and their teachers know little or nothing about the Chinese language, and they are at the event purely out of their love for Chinese culture.

"They just downloaded videos of Chinese songs and dances, and they watched videos and practiced over and over again," Ibrahim said.

Though not having a full grasp of the lyrics of the Chinese song she and her team performed, Martha Fortune, whose school won the top prize, said: "It felt like an interesting story."

While expressing deep interest in learning the Chinese language either at school or later in life, Fortune said she enjoyed watching Chinese movies and choreographed dances.

Bright Abovi, a teacher from the Government Day Secondary School in Dutse, is proud to lead his students to winning the top prize at the competition.

"Anytime we do this program, I always see myself like a Chinese man. In my colour, I am a Nigerian man, but in my mind, I think like the Chinese people," Abovi said.

According to Li Xuda, the cultural counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Nigeria, the cultural exchange between the two countries has been greatly promoted, and the China-Nigeria Cultural Fiesta has so far become a "well-known cultural brand."

"Both China and Nigeria are cultural giants with a long history. Culture plays an important role in the historical process of our national independence and revitalization," he added.

By Special Correspondent

EA smallholder farmers to benefit from AI-powered soil carbon project

THE East Africa smallholder farmers are set to benefit from AI-powered soil carbon project by Boomitra, an international soil carbon marketplace in partnership with Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) in East Africa.

The initiative under the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Innovation Accelerator will enable FtMA, an alliance comprising six leading organizations in the agricultural industry, provide additional assistance to smallholder farmers to enhance soil health, build climate resilience, and unlock new financial prospects through carbon revenue.

Boomitra uses remote sensing and AI technologies to remotely monitor soil carbon; nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (NPK) levels; and moisture levels across the globe without the need for physical soil sampling.

The start-up couples these insights with internationally certified carbon credits, enabling farmers around the world with the knowledge and financial tools to adopt climate smart agriculture practices, such as reduced tillage and mulching with crop residue.

In addition to increasing agricultural yields, preserving biodiversity, and building land equity, these practices sequester carbon - with a goal of offsetting a significant portion of humanity's greenhouse gas emissions.

The collaboration with FtMA in Kenya is just one of the many initiatives led by Boomitra to unleash gigatonnes-scale soil carbon removal.

This global consortium of FtMA, which includes AGRA, Bayer, Rabobank, Syngenta, WFP, and Yara, operates in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Zambia and provides farmers across East Africa with comprehensive support to transition to climate-smart agriculture practices - from farm planning and seed selection to market access.

Together, FtMA and Boomitra have already on boarded 89,000 acres of farmland and equipped farmers with the necessary resources to improve soil health and yields while unlocking carbon revenue opportunities.

At the heart of the soil carbon project's implementation is FtMA's Farmer Service Center (FSC) model. These service hubs connect private and public partners with smallholder farmers, serving an average of 200 farmers per hub.

FSCs act as trusted links to farming communities, improving access to critical resources such as information, qual-



ity inputs, affordable financing, storage solutions, market connections, and more.

This innovative model places local people at the forefront of the project, ensuring that the solutions and interventions are tailored to the unique needs and challenges of each community.

The FSCs also benefit by earning income through direct sales or commissions from the linkages they create. In remote farming areas, FSCs play an essential role in mobilizing farmers and delivering swift and cost effective agricultural interventions to smallholder farmers.

"Carbon credits will create an extra revenue stream to smallholder farmers and enhance the extension services provided to farmers by FSCs, which are critical to the adoption of climate smart agricultural practices," said Antony Kweyu, Project Manager at Participatory Approaches for Integrated Development (PAFID).

Boomitra and FtMA will work closely with 570 FSCs to implement the carbon farming project. This initiative will focus on four main activities. First, it will identify and enrol farmers into the program. Second, it will map and monitor farmland using geospatial

and remote sensing technology.

Third, it will submit carbon credits to the international verification body (VERRA). Fourth, it will transfer carbon credit finance to farmers based on their carbon sequestration activities.

This project is expected to remove an additional 300,000 tCO₂e of carbon from the atmosphere annually. After the success of the pilot phase, there are plans to expand the partnership to other countries in East Africa where FtMA operates.

"There are a growing number of agricultural carbon projects around the world, but most of

them have minimum acreage enrollment limits that are much larger than the sizes of the majority of farms in the world. This project will be unique in its ability to engage with even the smallest farmers in a meaningful manner that is not only financially viable for both the farmers and the project in the long run, but also has the propensity to scale rapidly to a healthy percentage of farmers in the broader region," said Aadith Moorthy, Founder & CEO of Boomitra.

Building on WFP's legacy of innovation, the WFP Innovation Accelerator was launched in 2015 to scale promising innovations to dis-

rupt hunger.

The collaboration between Boomitra and WFP aims to enhance the climate resilience of smallholder farmers, boost cropland productivity, and raise farmer incomes by a target of 20 percent - enabling them to reinvest in their farms and communities.

With over 2,700 farmers enrolled to date, Boomitra, FtMA and WFP remain dedicated to scaling up carbon farming practices in East Africa, to create sustainable agricultural models that will benefit the farmers and their communities for generations to come.

Hardworking women who correct historical injustices

By Joyce Chimbi

ALTHOUGH women account for more than three-quarters of the agricultural labour force and manage 40 percent of small-scale farms, historically, they neither owned nor controlled the land because land rights were passed down to male relatives. It is a historic gender injustice where women could only access land through close male relatives.

But as the vagaries of drought wreak havoc in the agricultural sector due to more failed rainfall seasons - with 2022 alone showing signs of a serious hydrological and ecological drought - gender and climate experts, such as Grace Gakii, tell IPS that women's decision-making powers are much needed to ensure that extreme weather patterns do not paralyse the agricultural sector.

"The agriculture sector is the backbone of Kenya's economy. It accounts for an estimated 33 percent of the country's GDP and employs at least 40 percent of its population and 70 percent of the rural population. Without land rights, women cannot make the necessary decisions to either adapt or mitigate climate change," she says.

"In mitigation, they cannot, for instance, decide if and when trees are planted. In adaptation, they have no say in, for instance, shifting to more climate-resilient crops. We have no shortage of indigenous seeds to help us navigate the rainfall deficit we are increasingly experiencing. But women have historically been denied the power to make these decisions even though it is women who provide the day-to-day farm labour."

Serah Nyokabi says the revolutionary Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCO) is increasingly putting land rights in the hands of women and facilitating access to the tools needed to build climate-resilient farming and food systems.

"I am a member of Afya SACCO. We save and take loans at a low interest. I use the loans to hire land in Central Kenya for farming and buy items such as seeds, fertilizer and even water. We rely on rainfall, and these days you cannot tell when it will rain, and even when it rains, it is often not enough. I also hire people to help me around the farm because I am a full-time teacher. SACCOs also buy large pieces of land, subdivide, and sell to members. I bought a piece of land this way, and they allow you to pay in small



Without land rights, women cannot make the necessary decisions to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

amounts over a six-month period," she tells IPS.

SACCOs are a cash pooling scheme by a group of people to save and borrow low-interest loans amongst themselves. Kenya's SACCO sector is popular and on an upward trajectory. Recent reports show that accumulated total deposits of savings grew from USD 3.8 billion in 2021 to USD 4.2 billion in 2022 (Ksh 564.89 billion to Ksh 629.45 billion) - representing a 9.84 percent increase. In 2021, the total membership of regulated SACCOs was 5.99 million members compared to 6.42 million members in 2022, and this represents an increase of 7.02 percent.

Gakii says that regulated SACCOs represent about half of all SACCOs in Kenya, as many others are unregulated. She says there are at least 22,000 SACCOs and more than 14 million members overall in this East African nation, transacting billions every year amongst themselves. Some SACCOs, such as Afya SACCO, have thousands of members and others less than 100 members.

Others, such as the well-known Muungano (cooperative) Women's Group, own prime land and a fully occupied commercial high-rise building in Ongata Rongai on the outskirts of Nairobi, have an all-female member-

ship, and many others, such as Afya SACCO have both men and women as members. Muungano Women's Group raises about USD 40,000 in rent per month from the Ongata Rongai commercial building, which is fully occupied, and members have also purchased prime land of their own.

"SACCOs are very important to women. They were shunned by banks because the profile of a Kenyan woman was too risky. The percentage of women in gainful employment was very low because many worked for their husbands or fathers in the informal settlements. Due to our customary laws that favour men over women,

women did not own property or any assets and therefore lacked the collateral needed to take out bank loans. In fact, women could only open a bank account accompanied by a male relative, preferably her husband. SACCOs have helped women navigate these challenges as all they need is to save with a SACCO, produce three guarantors within the SACCO to take a loan or simply borrow against their own savings," Gakii explains.

Although the percentage of women holding land title deeds is still very small, as only one percent of all land title deeds are in the hands of women alone and five percent held jointly with men, Gakii stresses that this is progress and is to be celebrated.

"We have another large category of women that hire land for commercial farming. This would not have been possible without the loans from schemes such as SACCOs," she says.

Gakii says women need access and control over land to play a much-needed role in the five pillars of climate resilience, including threshold capacity, coping capacity, recovery capacity, adaptive capacity, and transformative capacity.

"I taught agriculture in secondary schools for many years, and during that time, I had access to the small farm at the school for practical sessions, but back home, I could only execute the instructions from my husband. He was an accountant, and I was essentially the farmer, but he made all the decisions. Women interact with the soil on a day-to-day basis, but they cannot make decisions about how to best address the climate crisis. The result is a serious food crisis. We have large tracks of fertile lands, but here we are with a begging bowl," Nyokabi observes.

"We started by experiencing floods and droughts in close succession. In 2018, we had two extremes in one season, whereby March, April and May were very rainy, followed by a very dry season in October, November, and December. Last month we were repeatedly warned to prepare for El Niño in the October-November-December season, but now we have been told that there will be no El Niño. In fact, there is no rain at all, and yet we are in the short rain season where we plant in October and harvest in December-January. The person who is more likely to note these changes and see a pattern is the one who is doing the day-to-day farming activities, and so the role of women in building resilient farming systems cannot be ignored."

With an estimated 98 percent of agriculture in Kenya being rainfed and as climate change becomes a most pressing issue as a result of cumulative rainfall deficits over many years, the role of women in building climate resilience cannot be overemphasized, as is the need for interventions that can facilitate women's access to land rights and much-needed farm inputs.

IPS UN Bureau Report



RADIO One

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
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05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

CHINA EYES TO REALISE CONVENIENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS ACROSS ITS DEVELOPING PROVINCES

By Francis Kajubi, just back from Xian

CHINA is fully equipped with all it takes to make major investments in the transportation and infrastructure sub sectors as it eagerly eyes to turn its cities and provinces into smart and green.

A current report on Shaanxi province states that in line with mega transformations in the high-tech industry, the second global economic giant is keen on creating smart cities.

Property Watch has learnt from the report by the Information Office of Shaanxi Provincial Government as at the end of December 2022 that the province has achieved major transformation during the past ten years of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) implementation in different sectors including transportation.

The province whose capital city is Xian, is unfolding the magnificent progress and inspiring China's history, legacy and lifestyle in the contemporary times.

The report states that in 2022 the province's comprehensive transportation investment amounted to 81.8 billion



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (2nd L) poses for a photo after cutting the ribbon during the laying of the foundation stone A side view of Xian city in Shaanxi province. for BWM Health Plaza recently. Photo by James Kandoya

yuan (\$11.12billion), an increase of 39.9 percent year-on-year compared to 2021.

However, during the same year, another 5bil-

lion yuan of special bonds were issued for the construction of the Xian-Yan'an railway, Xian-An Kang railway and Wuhan-Xian high speed

railway and the southern section of Xian outer ring expressway.

"During the period under review critical progress was made in the construction of T5 Terminal and runway renovation for the third phase of the Xian Xianyang airport expansion project," reads the report.

In that case, the report states, Shaanxi expressway reached 978 kilometers, with four lines open to traffic, including the Ningshou to Shiquan, the southern section of Xian outer ring expressway, Chengcheng to Weizhuang to Luofu resulting in 212 kilometers of new expressway for the traffic.

It states that the construction of ordinary national and provincial trunk highways exceeded 1,600 kilometers, with an additional mileage of 230 kilometers.

The opening of phase two in Metro line six at the end of December 2022 added another 19.5 kilometers mileage, thus overtaking Suzhou to rank 12th in terms of metro mileage cities in China which is one position up compared to 2021.

On hygiene and protection of the environment for sustainable green cities, Shaanxi has effectively intensified the ecological and environmental protection of the Yellow River Basin and promoted

high-quality development.

In line with the 14th Five Year Plan 2021/25 for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range objectives through 2035, the province has formulated its plan, strictly implemented the comprehensive sewage discharge standards, and strengthened the management of the red line of water function zones to limit pollution.

Almost 231,300 hectares of forests have been planted in the Yellow River Basin, including 181,693 hectares of afforestation and 49,607 hectares of nurturing forest. However, 62,667 hectares of desertification land have been under control, and the ecosystem continues to improve.

The report states that in 2022 sustained efforts were exerted to rectify the water pollution caused by sulfur mine in southern Shaanxi.

The province has successfully held wetland protection law month and carried out more than 150 wetland law promotion activities, with the total number of participants exceeding 100,000, which has vigorously raised the awareness of the whole society on wetlands protection and effectively protected the entire ecosystem.

NMB Bank launches new campaign to support farmers in Mtwara Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

NMB Bank Plc Southern Zone has launched a special campaign for farmers especially in the southern zone known as the 'Bonge la Mpango Mchongo wa Kilimo' on November 2, 2023.

The NMB Bank's Southern Zone Manager, Faraja Ng'ingo, said that the bank has introduced this campaign to continue promoting the use of banking services among farmers and primary cooperatives.

She stated that NMB recognizes and appreciates the significant contribution of the agricultural business to the prosperity of the bank and the southern zone, particularly the regions of Lindi and Mtwara.

Regarding the campaign, she mentioned that farmers who will channel their sales proceeds through NMB Bank not only benefit from excellent services but also have the chance to win various prizes allocated by NMB Bank for this campaign.

"NMB has set aside five motorcycles for the farm-

ers, and every weekend, there will be a draw to determine the winner of a motorcycle. This draw will be conducted for five weeks. And additionally, five other farmers will each win cash prizes of 100,000/- in each draw," the zonal manager said

To be eligible for these prizes, participants must have an account with NMB Bank, engage in business within the value chain of agriculture, and conduct their sales through NMB Bank.

During the launch of the campaign, the first draw took place, and Said Likumbeya a farmer from Newala was the winner of a motorcycle.

Mtwara Regional Commissioner, Col. Ahmed Abass Ahmed, congratulated NMB Bank for carrying out this campaign to encourage farmers to use the bank for receiving payments for their produce.

He mentioned that many farmers face various challenges during this period, especially related to crime, as they keep large amounts of cash instead of depositing them in a secure place like NMB Bank.



Mtwara Regional Commissioner, Col. Abbas Ahmed (C), raising the flag as a symbol of launching the Bonge la Mpango - Mchongo wa kilimo campaign an agriculture initiative at the market grounds in Mtwara Municipality. Together with him are the Mtwara Urban District Commissioner, Mwanahamisi Munkunda (2nd L), bank's Southern Zone Manager, Faraja Ng'ingo (2nd R), the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in Mtwara region, Ibrahim Kakozi (L), and the NMB Bank's Senior Manager of Agri Retail Department, Wogofya Mfalomagoha (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

The RC Ahmed expressed his confidence that NMB will continue organizing campaigns like these for farmers and others in sectors such as trade and fishing.

"My fellow Mtwara residents, by keeping your money in the bank, it provides you with discipline in managing your finances, allowing you to save for long periods and even helping you during difficult or emergency times," said Colonel Ahmed.

Saving money is crucial for daily life because unexpected situations requiring funds may arise.

Let us learn to save because saving is extremely beneficial and the ways it can

aid you are unique.

"Now is the time to make good use of our NMB accounts as we begin selling our cashew nuts. We urge all buyers to pay us by depositing money into our accounts, as it is secure and also motivates us to save," he added.

"These funds deposited in our accounts belong to us, ensuring the safety of our money and building our savings. Additionally, they offer us rewards, which is an extraordinary thing," emphasized Colonel Ahmed Abbas.

The RC urged farmers in the Mtwara region to continue saving sufficiently so that rewards can also be brought to Mtwara.

"For those who have NMB accounts, seize this opportunity, and for those who don't, it is time to open accounts quickly and start using them to win abundant rewards from NMB Bank, He added.

Mwanahamisi Munkunda, Mtwara, District Commissioner also expressed gratitude to NMB Bank for continually expanding its presence in the Mtwara region.

Wogofya Mfalomagoha, bank's senior manager for Agri retail Department reminded cooperative leaders about NMB Bank's friendly services during this season, which include very friendly loans for Agriculture to farmers and cooperative unions, and the easily accessed digital loan dubbed 'Mshiko fasta' that requires no collateral or visiting any branch

"We have various services very friendly to farmers like the very friendly loan of only 9% interest for agricultural loans and also the presence of Mshikofasta a digital loan that requires no collateral or visiting any branch has been of great value to the farmers," Wogofya said.

Housing levy hits Sh12bn in the first three months

NAIROBI

Employers and employees paid out Sh11.83 billion under the mandatory housing development levy in the first quarter of the financial year, says Treasury in a document.

The document covering July to September 2023 and tabled before the National Assembly's Finance Committee shows the Treasury collected Sh7.9 billion in August and Sh3.93 billion in September.

The document, tabled by



Controller of Budget (CoB) Margaret Nyakang'o shows the Treasury did not remit any ex-

chequer releases to the Housing Fund in July. Both employers and employees remit 1.5 percent of gross salary under the housing levy that is expected to be deployed in the development of affordable housing and associated social and physical infrastructure and affordable home financing.

The Treasury estimates that the contributions will increase by 40.8 percent to hit Sh89 billion in the 2026/27 financial year, up from Sh63.2 billion in the current fiscal cycle.

Estimates from the draft Budget Review and Outlook Paper show the contributions

will stand at Sh70 billion in the 2024/25 fiscal year and Sh78 billion in 2025/26.

Dr Nyakang'o appeared before the committee chaired by Molo MP Kuria Kimani to defend the CoB budget which has been cut by Sh59 million through Supplementary Budget I.

"I came armed with this document from the National Treasury which is provided to the CoB every quarter showing the total exchequer issues," Dr Nyakang'o said.

SGR train fares raised 50pc on expensive fuel

NAIROBI

Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC) has increased the fare on the standard gauge rail (SGR) train between Nairobi and Mombasa by 50 percent effective January 1st 2024 as last month's fuel hike continues to hit consumers.

The adjustments will see passengers pay Sh 4,500 on first-class coaches up from Sh 3,000 - an increase of 50 percent between Nairobi and Mombasa. Those on economy class coaches will pay Sh1,500 up from Sh1,000-representing an increase of 50 percent.

The fare adjustments have also been affected on the SGR commuter service, Nairobi Commuter rail service, Kisumu safari train service, and Nanyuki safari train service.

The adjustment comes in the wake of increases in fuel prices in the current monthly review cycle by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority.

A litre of petrol increased by Sh5.72 while diesel prices rose Sh4.48 and Sh2.45 for kerosene.

"The increase is informed by changes in the energy & petroleum sector where prices of fuel have significantly increased thus affecting the cost of our operations," said a statement by KRC on Wednesday.

The government slashed the fare to Sh700 from an initial agreed Sh900 during the launch of the Sh327 billion railway to drive traffic in the country's biggest infrastructure project since independence more than 50 years ago.

Kenya tapped over half a trillion shillings from Chinese lenders to fund the construction of the SGR from Mombasa to Naivasha.

Taxpayers have been forced to shoulder the burden of the SGR loans because revenues generated from the passenger and cargo services on the track are not enough to meet the operation costs, which stood at Sh18.5 billion in the year to June 2022 against sales of Sh15 billion.

The fares on the SGR for economy class ticket was then adjusted to Sh1,000 between Nairobi and Mombasa while the first class fares remained at Sh 3,000.

SGR posted an operation loss of Sh3.4 billion and wired Sh22.7 billion in loan repayments in the year to June 2022.

The Kenya Railways has announced a 50 percent fare hike for Nairobi to Mombasa SGR passengers starting January 1, 2024.

The fare review also affects passengers using the Nairobi commuter rail service and the Kisumu and Nanyuki safari trains.



CHARGES FOR NON-EXISTENT INTERNET IN PUBLIC BUSES RAISE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT SESSIONS

KIGALI

Members of Parliament have raised concerns about the fees charged for non-existent internet in public buses and have recommended an immediate halt to these charges, and requested Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) to urgently address the issue.

This was raised on November 1, as Members of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) presented a report and resolutions made after scrutinising the Auditor General Report for 2021/2022. The internet connection was introduced in buses in 2015 as part of the broad Smart Kigali Initiative.

In the following years, the project flopped after the government stopped the then service provider after a series of complaints from people who experienced years of poor service.

"In Kigali City, there are concerns over Rwf417 million paid by commuters for the internet in public buses but they never accessed it. There is no internet in many public buses," said Beline Uwineza, PAC vice-chairperson.

MP Safari Theoneste Begumisa suggested that fees charged on idle internet be immediately

stopped.

"Why does RURA charge passengers fees for the internet in buses which they do not get? This should stop immediately. We can't wait for such months. There is also a violation of rights," he said.

Other issues in public transport that need urgent action are the shortage of buses and poor management of bus routes in Kigali City and upcountry.

The Auditor General report shows that RURA did not conduct regular and comprehensive transport needs assessments to establish existing market demand and supply of public bus services.

As a result, it was not able to make informed decisions that respond to passengers' needs.

"The assessment should analyse both existing and new routes, the number of passengers, bus capacity requirements, and the performance of current operators to establish the number of buses needed on different routes," Auditor General said.

This is illustrated by a decrease in the number of bus seats in the City of Kigali from 22,238 seats in 2015 to 19,961 seats in 2022, resulting in a reduction of 2,277 seats. This reduction is attributed to a decrease in the number of



Members of the public accounts committee (PAC) present a report and resolutions made after scrutinising the auditor general report for 2021/22, on Wednesday.

buses and resulted in long queues at bus parks and stops.

"RURA should regularly assess and monitor market changes to ensure that the demand for public transport across the country is met in a timely manner.

"There is also the issue of 9.8 per cent of fares that is charged on Yego Moto metres yet it is not clear what was based on to calculate the amount. There are also issues in e-ticketing. There is an issue of 5 per cent charged on e-ticketing turnover by public transport companies yet it is not clear what was based on to charge it," Uwineza said.

In June 2018, in a surprising move, transport authorities an-

nounced that the wireless internet connectivity, commonly known as 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) was being re-introduced on all Kigali public transport buses.

Jean de Dieu Uwhanganye, the Minister of State in for Transport tweeted that "4G internet is back on Kigali Public Transport Buses".

He said that at least 50 per cent of all buses in the city of Kigali have been installed with new better routers.

"Progressive installation shall continue and we expect to reach 100 per cent by August. Enjoying a Kigali ride in a bus. Tweeting from a Bus that is moving from Kimironko towards Downtown," he said.

The free internet connection was introduced in buses in 2015 as part of the broad Smart Kigali Initiative, but the project flopped after the government stopped the then service provider after series of complaints from people who experienced years of poor service.

By then, Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) had said the Wi-Fi connectivity system failed after the installed wireless devices were incompatible with the fleet, among other challenges.

Telecom Network Solution Providers Ltd (TNSP) which was providing internet on public buses lost its contract in 2016, and the Government directed that more

research be done so that people get a better experience.

In an interview with Sunday Times, the state minister for transport reaffirmed the development to reinstall the broadband connection, highlighting that they had conducted several surveys on several buses before re-introducing the wireless connectivity.

"We are assured that it will work because we have taken enough time to re-study the project. What we found out is that previous routers were quite weak and were not able to adapt to Kigali terrain," he said, adding that they also revised the financing model of the internet which he believes will be sustainable and fair to all the operators.

The minister also highlighted that they spend nearly five months conducting ground studies before taking the final decision to reinstall 4G on public service buses.

AC Group secure deal

According to Uwhanganye, the Government contracted AC Group to reinstall the broadband connection on all public buses, and he argued that they were in good pos

What Rwanda can display at the WTTC's Africa debut

KIGALI

All roads lead to the Kigali Convention Centre (KCC) where the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) will host its first global summit on the African continent.

Co-organised by the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), the summit which is also the most influential annual conference on the travel and tourism calendar, is expected to bring together thousands of industry leaders, experts, and key government representatives to, among others, recognise the sector's growth across the continent in recent years and at the same time analyse its challenges.

Several keynote speakers including

Heads of State, and captains of industry are expected to speak at the summit.

The summit comes at a time when Rwanda aims to double its tourism revenue from \$445 million (approx. Rwf 546 billion) raked in during 2022, to more than \$800 million (approx. Rwf 983 billion) under its seven-year National Transformation Strategy.

WTTC Global Summit aims to be the catalyst for this change, offering a platform where ideas meet opportunities, and where the future of travel and tourism is re-defined, organisers said.

The new Cyinzobe walking trail is a captivating addition to Rwanda's Nyungwe National Park, inviting visitors to traverse the mountain-



Rwanda's Nyungwe National Park has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

ous rainforest region on foot, according to World Travel Market.

This newly established hiking trail spreads across three days, winding through lush, verdant landscapes, offering hikers the opportunity to explore Rwanda's rich biodiversity and encounter a diverse array of flora and fauna, from vibrant bird species to indigenous plant life.

According to the park's management, accommodation on the trail offers two exclusive full-board campsites with wooden

cabins, offering a refuge amongst nature to rest and rejuvenate after a day of hiking.

The nearly 102,000-hectare rainforest, located in south-western Rwanda, is home to intact forests and peat bogs, moors, thickets, and grasslands, providing habitats to highly diverse flora and fauna.

The national park feeds two of the world's longest rivers – River Nile and River Congo – and is the source of up to 70 per cent of Rwanda's freshwater.

Nyungwe's monetary

value is estimated at \$4.8 billion (approx. Rwf5.8 trillion), according to studies.

RwandAir introduces new daily direct flights from London to Kigali

Since October 29, 2023, RwandAir, the national carrier, announced that it will operate daily non-stop flights between Heathrow and Kigali, having previously offered only four direct flights a week.

The new service departs from London at 8:30 pm and arrives in Kigali at 7 am the next day,

with a total flight time of eight and a half hours.

Travellers can experience RwandAir's business or economy class aboard their Airbus A330 fleet as they travel to Africa.

The announcement follows the airline's expanding European operations with the recent launch of the daily non-stop service from Paris to Kigali in June 2023.

Just recently, the airline also announced the addition of a new Boeing 737 aircraft as it continues to expand its air service capacity including routes.

Police, TBL launch road safety initiative

By Carlos Banda

Tanzania Breweries has announced the commencement of a comprehensive training series for Tanzania Police Road Traffic Officers.

The training program will introduce the officers to a revolutionary mobile app developed through a collaborative effort between the Road Traffic Police and TBL, according to statement issued by the brewery firm yesterday.

The innovative app is set to reshape the landscape of road traffic data collection, analysis, and reporting in Tanzania.

The newly developed mobile app will play a pivotal role in streamlining road traffic data collection, by allowing officers to document and upload incident information directly to a secure cloud server.

Speaking at the launch of the training program, TBL's Director of Logistics, Nancy Riwa expressed TBL's pride and honor in being part of this critical initiative. (S)He emphasized the company's gratitude for the collaboration and support received from the Tanzania Police Force throughout the development of the new app.

"TBL acknowledges the insightful inputs provided by the Police Force in shaping the app's design. This initiative is a continuation of TBL's longstanding involvement in promoting road safety in Tanzania, reaffirming the company's enduring commitment to supporting the Road Traffic Police and other stakeholders," she said.

Representing the Tanzania Road Traffic Police, SSP Deus Sokoni expressed the appreciation of the Tanzania Police Force for support it receives and the role that support plays in enabling them to carry out their obligations.

"Accurate and timely data collection is of great importance when planning, monitoring and evaluating road safety interventions and also for the operations of various stakeholders," he said.

Speaking during the training session, Kinondoni District Regional Traffic Officer (RTO) SSP Solomon Mwangamilo said, "I would like to thank TBL for raising their voice and collaborating with the Police Force, this will greatly strengthen law enforcement for all road users and bring our performance up to a digital standard. As a Police Force we need to move fast into the digital age. The use of this equipment is exactly what we need to get timely information and so we must adopt it."

Vodacom DR Congo tests 5G, pushes for data, mobile money

KINSHASA

Vodacom is testing 5G connectivity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), under the supervision of the industry regulator, but its primary focus is on improving 4G base station deployment and expanding mobile money capabilities across the populous African country.

That's according to CEO, Khalil Al Ameriani, talking to IWeb Africa, in an exclusive interview, on Monday.

Al Ameriani said that the Congolese 5G test will help lead the company in developing viable use cases, when it

rolls out the network upgrades in the future.

"Under the regulator's supervision, we are testing 5G technology, with certain sets of frequencies to ensure that we are technically prepared," he said.

However, the Congolese mobile operator was 'yet to get clarity' on the licencing criteria for commercial rollout, from the government.

Nonetheless, Vodacom Congo expects that use cases will probably be directed towards its enterprise segment, as well as 'some applications' for government and the Internet of Things.

DRC has a population over 100 million people, while Vodacom has 21 million mobile subscribers, and data subscribers account for 7 million of the company's mobile network consumers.

For the time being, according to Al Ameriani, Vodacom's top operational and commercial objective in the DRC is to continue building out 4G across the country and 3G in some places.

In its June 2023 quarterly report, Vodacom stated that it has bought additional spectrum in the country, an investment it sees as critical to providing 'affordable data pricing'

and 'unlocking' the potential of fixed-wireless access.

"There's still a long way to go before we start rolling out 5G. It will necessitate a much denser mesh network of sites, because we're using higher frequencies. As a result, major deployments and corresponding capex will be required," he said.

Vodacom's aggressive data network rollout in the DRC has not been without its hurdles. Despite investing in renewable energy alternatives such as solar, hybrid, and lithium batteries, nearly all of Vodacom Congo's base stations rely largely on diesel generators.



Al Ameriani, Vodacom CEO DR Congo

CONSTRUCTION

4G SMARTPHONE USAGE PROPELS AIRTEL AFRICA IN INTERIM RESULTS

CAPE TOWN

Smartphone usage is increasing on Airtel Africa's network, according to the company, which said that 4G devices now account for almost 80% of all data consumption on the network.

Airtel Africa provides voice, broadband, and mobile money services in African nations including Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia, Niger, and Madagascar.

According to the firm, the rising use of smartphones on Airtel Africa's networks across Africa has been a stronger driver of data usage, revenue, and income.

"Data usage per customer per month increased by 19.4% (in the half-year period ending September) to 5.1 GB per month, up from 4.3 GB a year ago. This increase was driven by increased smartphone penetration as well as an increase in home broadband and enterprise users," according to Airtel Africa.

This resulted in a 28.1% increase in



4G users captured sharing their experience of Airtel services.

data income, with 4G handset holders accounting for 79.6% of overall data consumption on the network during the half-year period under evaluation.

Airtel Africa's data consumption per 4G subscriber increased to at least 8.4GB per month on average during the half-year period, with data income increasing

to \$385 million.

Overall, data customers climbed by 23.0% to 59.8 million. This was accomplished despite Africa's relatively low smartphone penetration, which also means poor data penetration, according to the business.

This, however, gave Airtel Africa and its competitors a "significant opportunity to enhance both digital" and financial inclusion. Some African mobile providers offer cheaper devices to subscribers in order to increase data usage, while others are developing super apps for their mobile money operations.

Airtel Africa has had to "invest in expanding our 4G network footprint to increase data capacity in our networks to support future business growth, as well as deploying new sites, particularly in rural areas, to enhance coverage" and connectivity in order to stimulate data usage.

With a strong emphasis on 4G deployment, nearly all of Airtel Africa's loca-

tions can now provide LTE connectivity.

4G users provided 85.3% of overall data usage for the three-month period ending September 2023, with 4G data usage for the September 2023 quarter alone now standing at 11.7GB per month, a 41.3% increase over the September 2022 quarter.

Airtel Africa laid an extra 5,000 kilometres of fibre during the six-month reporting period under review, increasing the total to 73,600 kilometres throughout its African markets. The firm, a branch of Bharti Airtel, has also increased its international data capacity via submarine cables.

This increased its African data capacity by 48.8% to 28,200+ terabytes (TB) per day, resulting in 48.3% peak hour data utilisation.

Olusegun Ogunsanya, Group CEO of Airtel Africa, stated that the increase in phone, internet, and mobile money usage "reflects the inherent demand for these essential services" in the African regions where the company operates.

Nigerian comms regulator declares support for fintechs

LAGOS

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has pledged to promote and assist in the development and expansion of the fintech sector through regulatory initiatives.

The executive vice chairman, NCC, Dr. Aminu Maida, who was represented by NCC's Lagos Zonal controller, Henry Ojokpota, said during his keynote address at the 2023 NITRA Financial Technology (Fintech) Forum held in Lagos, with the theme "Harnessing Nigeria's Fintech Potentials: Challenges and Opportunities."

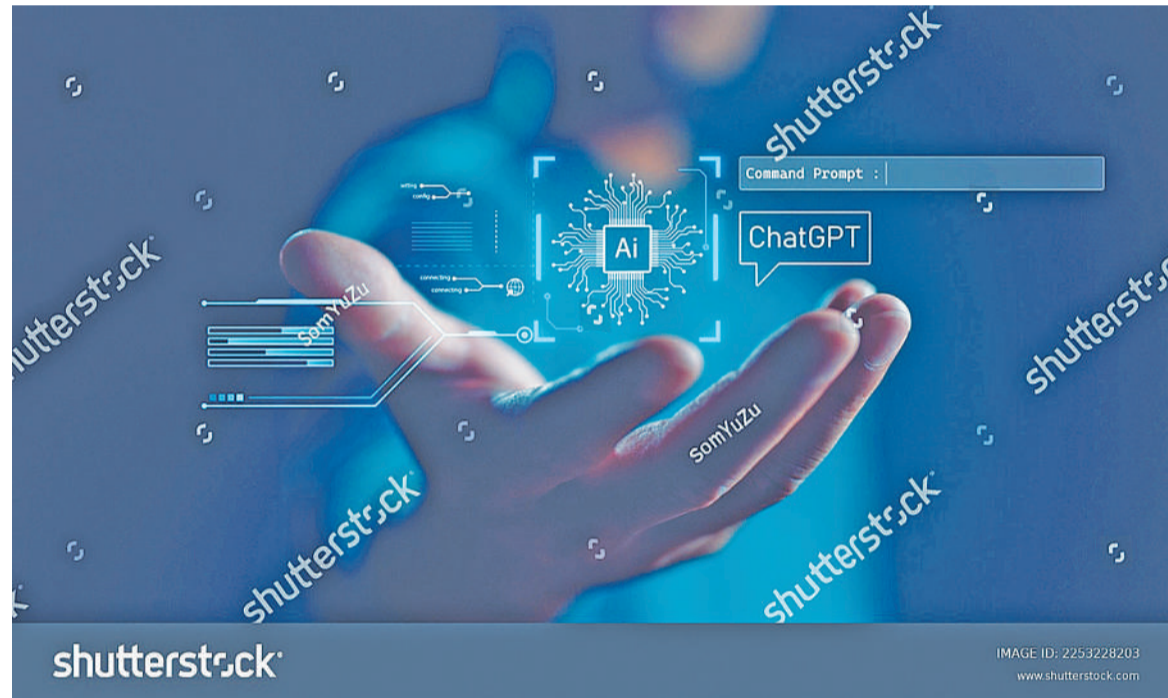
According to him, the fintech sector is disrupting the traditional banking system and gradually changing Nigeria's financial sector and it

needs to be supported.

He stated that the NCC, as the top regulatory agency of the communications industry, will continue to assist the fintech sector in realising its vast potential and resolving the difficulties the sector faces.

This, he said, can be accomplished by providing appropriate secure infrastructure and USSD channels to enable effective delivery of digital financial services.

"The NCC is also concerned with maintaining minimum quality of service standards in order to ensure an uninterrupted network that will benefit the sector. In support of this goal, the Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on boosting payment systems



and financial inclusion, which is consistent with the Nigeria Payments System Vision 2025."

The vice chairman went on to say that "the Commission is playing an important role in harnessing the potentials of fintech through maximum support for proactive policies, enforcing regulations, and strengthening

collaborations with relevant authorities such as the CBN and other stakeholders."

Dr. Aminu also stated that the NCC is encouraging the incubation and sound practises of fintech firms, as well as the development of highly secure platforms, to further boost the development of the fintech eco-

system and the digital economy in general.

These various phases, he said, will eventually enable the realisation of the Nigerian Startup Bill's objectives, particularly in the financial services sector, and maximising the benefits of fintech while limiting the risks involved.

Gas-based economy in Bayelsa in the pipeline

LAGOS

The Bayelsa State governorship candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Timipre Sylva, has vowed to develop a gas-based economy in the state if elected governor.

Sylva made this vow in an interview on Arise Television on Wednesday.

The APC candidate assured that Bayelsa would be best run on a gas-based economy, saying, "There is a need to develop an economy in Bayelsa State as far as I'm concerned..."

"A gas-based economy, because I'm aware that Bayelsa is home to a lot of the gas resources in Nigeria. More than 50% of the gas going into burning energy is from Bayelsa. It would help in enabling petrochemicals in methanol and fertilizers."

He hopes to do this in conjunction with the private sector, adding that he will resolve issues hindering power stabilization, oil theft, and agricultural development.

Recall that the Appeal Court in Abuja on Tuesday reversed a lower court ruling stopping Sylva from participating in the upcoming November 11 election.

Sylva expressed his hopes that INEC would announce his reinstatement in hopes that he would be re-elected as governor and gain the opportunity to round off unfinished projects he began that were abandoned by his predecessor.

According to him, many projects he began before his removal from office in 2012 were neglected, abandoned, or unaccounted for. He explained his 6-point plan to improve the state.

He said, "I have been saying everywhere that during my campaign trail, I have a 6-point agenda. I'm aware that I don't have a very long tenor; at best, I have a 4-year tenor. I want to hit the ground running."

"One of the biggest problems Bayelsa has is human capacity. I want to be able to create human capacity in my state. The problem is that we haven't seen human beings as resources. If we don't develop resources, it becomes an albatross."

He stated that he will also focus on education and skill acquisition, which has always been his plan, despite all the infrastructure he attempted to establish being abandoned or transformed into polytechnic schools.

Sylva also stated that he would also place emphasis on creating infrastructure in the water and power sectors.



One of the biggest problems Bayelsa has is human capacity. I want to be able to create human capacity in my state.

Shenzhen to grow as hub of innovation

GUANGDONG

In a bid to strengthen its position as a global innovation hub, the city of Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on Wednesday unveiled a 30-point plan to attract top talent from around the globe.

The plan encompasses a wide range of initiatives and incentives to foster an ecosystem that encourages entrepreneurship, research and technological advancements.

Top talent that settles in Shenzhen will be provided with a "policy package" including career platforms, research funds, team support and living subsidies if they work in fields such as integrated circuits, artificial intelligence, biomedicine, new energy vehicles, new energy storage, high-end equipment, marine industry, low-altitude economy or new materials.

The plan introduced a "dreams come true in Shenzhen project" together with a "dream startup fund" to match the city's goal of "providing everyone with an opportunity to shine in life".

"Through open recruitment, a batch of talent dream projects will be selected each year to receive financial support.



Project selection is not limited to any specific industry or level, and there are no barriers or prerequisites as Shenzhen aims to become a desirable destination, a gathering place, and a land of

dreams for talent from all fields," the plan said.

To cultivate an innovation culture that embraces failures and fosters tolerance toward them, the plan said Shenzhen will establish a talent utilization mechanism based on

trust and allow them to make mistakes.

Shenzhen will give full authority to top scientists by granting them the authority to make decisions regarding personnel, financial resources, material resources, technologi-

cal directions, internal organizational structures and talent recommendations, the plan added.

Wei Jianzhang, vice-president of the Belt and Road Initiative's International Cooperation and Development Research

Institute in Shenzhen, said Shenzhen's new plan demonstrates the city's unwavering commitment to attracting global talent and fostering a thriving innovation ecosystem.

"Attracting top talent from around the globe is essential for the development of a city as it fuels innovation, drives economic growth, promotes knowledge exchange, enhances global competitiveness, retains local talent and enriches the cultural fabric of the city," said Wei, adding that in today's interconnected world, cities compete globally for investment, resources and talent, and by attracting top talent a city can enhance its competitiveness on the global stage and appeal for further investment and collaboration.

"By creating an environment that offers attractive policies, support and opportunities, Shenzhen aims to become a magnet for top talent from around the world, and with its ambitious initiatives and strategic vision, I believe the city is poised to solidify its position as a global leader in innovation and technology," Wei said.

WORLD

Pope to attend COP28 climate summit, a first by a pontiff

POPE Francis said on Wednesday that he will attend the COP28 climate conference starting next month in Dubai, the first time a pontiff will be at the UN environmental meeting since they began in 1995.

The pope (pictured) told Italy's state-run RAI television TGI news in an interview that he expected to be in Dubai Dec 1-3. The conference runs from Nov 30 to Dec 12.

In Dubai, the pope is expected to drive home his recent appeal for action to curb global warming.

"We are still in time to stop it," Francis said in the interview, speaking of global warming. "Our future is at stake, the future of our children and our grandchildren. A bit of responsibility is needed."

Francis, 86, has made protection of the environment one of the hallmarks of his papacy and met last



month with COP28 President Sultan al-Jaber.

In a major document on Oct 4, Francis appealed to climate change deniers and foot-dragging politicians to have a change of heart, saying they cannot gloss over human causes or deride science while the planet "may be nearing the breaking

point".

The document, known as an Apostolic Exhortation and titled *Laudate Deum* (Praise God), was a follow-up to Francis' 2015 encyclical on the environment "Laudato Si" (Praise Be).

Laudate Deum was prompted by recent extreme weather events and mentioned the challenges facing COP28 several times.

Failure in Dubai, Francis said in the document, "will be a great disappointment and jeopardize whatever good has been achieved thus far".

Heads of state usually attend only the opening sessions of the conferences and make keynote addresses. US President Joe Biden spoke at the start of the last two meetings at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, last year and Glasgow, Scotland, in 2021. Such conferences are also occasions for bilateral meetings. **Agencies**

India, 27 other nations and EU sign first international declaration to address AI risks

New York

INDIA, along with 27 other countries and the European Union signed a declaration at a meeting in the United Kingdom pledging to work together to assess the risks associated with artificial intelligence.

The countries represented were: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands, Nigeria, The Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union.

Taking to social media platform X, the official page for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's office said, "Leading AI nations have reached a world-first agreement on AI safety."

"The Bletchley Park Declaration sees 28 countries agree on opportunities, risks and the need for international action on frontier AI, systems that pose the most urgent and dangerous risks," it added.

The UK government on Wednesday issued a statement titled "The Bletchley Declaration", which was signed by delegates from the 28 participating nations - including the EU - and issued a dire warning about the threats presented by the most sophisticated "frontier" artificial intelligence systems.

"Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents enormous global opportunities: it has the potential to transform and enhance human wellbeing, peace and prosperity. To realise this, we affirm that, for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible," the declaration read.

The Bletchley Park declaration also noted the importance of AI systems in various domains of daily routine like housing, employment, transport, education, health, accessibility, justice, and added that their use is likely to see an ascent. "We recognise that this is therefore a unique moment to act and affirm the need for the safe development of AI and for the transformative opportunities of AI to be used for good and for all, in an inclusive manner in our countries and globally," it read.

"Alongside these opportunities, AI also poses significant risks, including in those domains of daily life. To that end, we welcome relevant international efforts to examine and address the potential impact of AI systems in existing fora and other relevant initiatives, and the recognition that the protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, bias mitigation, privacy and data protection needs to be addressed," it added. **ANI**

Britain publishes 'Bletchley Declaration' on AI safety



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks to journalists upon his arrival for the second day of the UK Artificial Intelligence (AI) Safety Summit, at Bletchley Park, in Bletchley, England, yesterday. AP

LONDON

BRITAIN on Wednesday published a "Bletchley Declaration", agreed with countries including the United States and China, aimed at boosting global efforts to cooperate on artificial intelligence (AI) safety.

The declaration, by 28 countries and the European Union, was published on the opening day of the AI Safety Summit hosted at Bletchley Park, central England.

"The Declaration fulfills key summit objectives in establishing

shared agreement and responsibility on the risks, opportunities and a forward process for international collaboration on frontier AI safety and research, particularly through greater scientific collaboration," Britain said in a separate statement accompanying the declaration.

The declaration encouraged transparency and accountability from actors developing frontier AI technology on their plans to measure, monitor and mitigate potentially harmful capabilities.

"This is a landmark achievement that sees the world's greatest AI powers agree on the urgency behind understanding the risks of AI - helping ensure the long-term future of our children and grandchildren," British Prime

Minister Rishi Sunak said.

It set out a two-pronged agenda focused on identifying risks of shared concern and building the scientific understanding of them, and also building cross-country policies to mitigate them.

"This includes, alongside increased transparency by private actors developing frontier AI capabilities, appropriate evaluation metrics, tools for safety testing, and developing relevant public sector capability and scientific research," the declaration said.

'India has potential to play pivotal role in ending brutalities in Gaza'

NEW DELHI

PRAISING India for its morality and humanity on the global stage, Iran's Ambassador to India, Iraj Elahi has said that India possesses the potential to play a pivotal role in putting an end to the brutalities in the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict.

Speaking to ANI, the Iranian envoy took a sharp dig at Israel for its ground offensive in Gaza and said, "Undoubtedly, India boasts a rich history of upholding moral courage and showcasing the indomitable human spirit.

With this in mind, I firmly believe that India will not turn a blind eye to the ongoing genocide in Gaza. In fact, India possesses the potential to play a pivotal role in putting an end to the brutalities inflicted by the Zionists."

He said that as India aspires to become the voice of the Global South, it cannot be discussed without discussing the problems of people in Palestine.

"India has always been a steadfast bastion of morality and humanity on the global stage. The indelible impact of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings and his inspiring words on Palestine are etched into the collective memory of all. India aspires to become the voice of the global South, but we cannot discuss the global South without acknowledging the immense suffering endured by its people, particularly in the occupied lands of Palestine," he said.

"The current situation presents a prime opportunity for India to lend its support to the voice of the global South," he added.

Alleging that the widespread atrocities committed by Israel have reached their peak in the past three weeks,

Elahi said Israel has shown a lack of respect for international law and universal moral values.

"They have repeatedly disregarded resolutions ratified by international and global institutions. It is clear that they will not comply with the recent UNGA resolution and instead choose to continue their brutal actions in Gaza," he added.

The humanitarian aid sent by India for the people of Palestine arrived in Egypt on Sunday last week, the Ministry of External Affairs said. The Indian envoy to Egypt, Ajit Gupte handed over the relief material to the Egyptian Red Crescent for onward transmission to Palestine.

Notably, the medical supplies sent for the people of Palestine included essential life-saving medicines and protective and surgical items aimed at handling emergency medical conditions. While arranging the medical supply, wound care was also taken into consideration.

Fluids and painkillers have been included in humanitarian aid for immediate relief. The disaster relief material weighing approximately 32 tons includes tents, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, basic sanitary utilities, water purification tablets etc.

The conflict in Gaza escalated after the October 7 attack by Hamas, where about 2,500 terrorists breached the border into Israel from the Gaza Strip, leading to casualties and the seizure of hostages.

Israel has characterised its Gaza offensive as targeting Hamas' infrastructure with the goal of eliminating the entire terror group while making efforts to minimize civilian casualties. **ANI**

'Future UN convention on countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes is doomed to success'

By Ernest Chernukhin

THE objective transition of humankind to the virtual environment is accompanied by a breakdown of many existing stereotypes about the functioning of the mechanisms of interaction between states, society and business. This, in turn, requires adjustment and creation of new contours for ensuring the security of states.

At the same time, there are changes associated with the transformation of the global information order.

The leading industrialized powers are trying to maintain their status as the dominant force in the information field and slow down the transition to a polycentric model of its management based on legally binding norms, rather than on some rules that can be changed to suit the political conjuncture.

The absence of relevant universal international legal treaties in this area has led to a huge wave of crime in the information space, with serious damage to the economic activity of states and the well-being of millions of people.

Thus, according to independent international experts, the annual damage from the activities

of criminals in the information space of EU Member States alone is about 5.5 trillion euro.

ICT crime has become a profitable business. There has been a tendency of incitement by some states to take illegal actions against others, and to place ready-made malware in the public domain of the Internet by these states.

The prospects for the global digitalization process as a whole, the effectiveness and dynamics of which depend on ensuring security, are in question.

It is against this background that the work of the UN Ad Hoc Committee for the Elaboration of a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Criminal Purposes is taking place.

This negotiating mechanism was established at the initiative of Russia, with the co-sponsorship of 46 and support of 87 states, by UN General Assembly resolution 74/247. It is aimed at creating by the world community the first ever universal and legally binding instrument to combat crime in the information space.

Paradoxically, even in the current political realities, the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, due

to the cross-border nature of ICT crimes, has become even more relevant and in demand for most states of the world.

The sessions were attended by subject matter experts from more than 160 states and 200 non-governmental organizations representing political and law enforcement agencies, as well as academic, scientific and business communities.

Since the very establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, Russia has been and is still in favour of elaborating such a comprehensive treaty that would lay the foundations for effective and transparent international cooperation to combat this threat.

The Convention to counter the use of ICTs for criminal purposes, drafted under the auspices of the UN, should give consideration to the interests of all states without exception and be based on the principles of state sovereignty protection, equality of parties and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. It should also provide for a broad scope and criminalization.

At the same time, the United States, the EU and their allies, at all stages of the discussions, strongly opposed the establishment of such a specialized UN



body in general and the development of a convention in particular, and voted against the establishment of an ad hoc committee at the UN General Assembly.

One of the formal arguments of the West countries was that "the world is not yet ready for such a convention."

The hidden informal reason for rejecting the very idea of a UN treaty was the 2001 Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, developed at the instigation of the United States, known as the Budapest Convention, whereby Washington undermines state sovereignty and controls the Member States information space.

After all, the future universal UN treaty becomes a direct competitor to the Budapest Convention and can put an end to the "chosenness"

and ambitions of technologically developed states.

Having lost the vote for the "minds and hearts" of the developing world at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, the United States and its allies completely changed their approaches, declaring that "the world needs such a convention."

They tried to quickly realign themselves and take the lead in drafting the UN convention. Thus, Washington and its allies moved from direct rejection of the idea of a future convention to tactics of covert sabotage and emasculating the content of the international treaty from within.

In contrast to Russia, Washington advocates maximum harmonization of the UN and Budapest conventions.

This means that instead of a comprehensive approach, as enshrined in the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, the countries of the collective West are agitating for a narrow scope and criminalization, and are aggressively imposing gender and human rights issues.

Thus, the United States is trying to breathe life into a regional document of the Council of Europe written more than 20 years ago, which is already thoroughly outdated and is not in demand among develop-

ing countries. Does the world need such a treaty? Apparently not.

Besides, all of the Ad Hoc Committee's work is accompanied by an aggressive media background of the US-controlled media, which claims that "with the help of the convention, Russia and China are going to control the whole world," or "the convention will create a dangerous precedent that plays into the hands of authoritarian regimes." Then a rhetorical question arises: who controls the Internet and the global information space now?

Another important reason for the strong opposition to the new UN treaty is the fact that the UN process does not fit into the US-imposed paradigm of a "rules-based order."

Equal international cooperation is not implied. The main role in the future search for ICT criminals is assigned to the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is seen by the West as another alternative to the UN Convention on Countering the Use of ICTs for Criminal Purposes.

Giving the ICC broad powers to conduct ICT investigations and create an attribution mechanism, Washington plans to use it to deliver verdicts and assign responsibility.

That is why the West is trying to bracket out extensive criminalization in the future UN treaty, assuming that all these "complex" acts, including ICT terrorism, will not be considered in the UN, but in the US-controlled ICC.

The responsibility of finding traces and providing evidence, on the other hand, will fall to American IT giants.

Bypassing the mechanisms of mutual legal cooperation between states, citizens of any state suspected of committing crimes in the information space will be "hunted". Thus, the mechanisms of international cooperation of the UN in decision-making will be substituted.

Based on this, we can conclude that there is no alternative to a future comprehensive convention under the auspices of the UN. Russia, for its part, will continue to provide technical assistance to countries in need based on the principle of protecting State sovereignty and to debunk any manifestations of neo-colonial practices in the global information space.

Ernest Chernukhin (pictured) is the Deputy Head of the Russian Delegation to the Ad Hoc Committee

China to make CIIE high-standard, high-quality, high-level global trade fair

By Luo Shanshan

THE sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE) is scheduled to be held offline between Nov. 5 and 10 in Shanghai.

The event will be joined by guests from 154 countries, regions and international organizations. Over 3,400 exhibitors and 394,000 professional visitors have registered to attend the event, representing a full recovery to pre-pandemic levels. Hundreds of executives of Global Fortune 500 companies and industry-leading enterprises are poised to attend the expo, exceeding the previous levels.

The country exhibition of the sixth CIIE will comprehensively showcase the willingness of relevant parties to engage in open cooperation.

A total of 69 countries and three international organizations have confirmed their participation in the country exhibitions, of which 11 countries will make their debuts and 34 will participate in offline exhibitions for the first time. Honduras, Kazakhstan, Ser-

bia, South Africa and Vietnam will serve as guest countries of honor.

The area of the China Pavilion this time will be expanded to 2,500 square meters, the largest it has been in the history of the CIIE.

The quality and efficiency of the Business Exhibition will be significantly improved. The Business Exhibition will cover an area of about 367,000 square meters, on which 289 Global Fortune 500 companies and industry-leading enterprises will showcase their products and services. All the three figures outnumber the previous levels.

The biggest 10 names in the automobile industry, the world's 10 major industrial electrical companies, 10 medical equipment manufacturers, three mining giants, top four grain traders and top five shipping companies have confirmed plans to attend.

The Business Exhibition focuses on high-quality development and quality life. The exhibition areas dedicated to cutting-edge technologies such as low-carbon energy and artificial intelligence, as well as



Photo taken on Oct. 21 shows a floral decoration outside the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), the main venue for the sixth China International Import Expo. (Photo by Yan Daming/People's Daily Online)

lifestyle and consumer products, will experience a growth of 30 percent in size. Over 400 new products, technologies, and services will be showcased in these areas.

Thirty-nine government trade groups established by local governments and relevant departments, as well as four industrial trade groups will join the exhibition. Together, they comprise over 750 sub-groups.

"We will engage in close cooperation with all relevant parties, and go all out to build a high-standard, high-quality

and high-level global trade fair, so as to offer more market, investment and growth opportunities for parties attending the event, and build cohesion for joint development," said Sheng Qiuping, China's Vice Minister of Commerce.

As a platform promoting high-level opening up, the CIIE signals a strong voice for opening up. A batch of high-end equipment, green products and biological technologies are expected to be launched at the sixth CIIE, and Ecuador's yellow dragon fruit, Benin's pine-

apple will start entering the Chinese market via this event.

The CIIE is an international public good shared by the world. It fully demonstrates the true multilateralism upheld by China, as well as the country's vision to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

The Hongqiao International Economic Forum (Hongqiao Forum), focusing on global openness as an international public good, will continue releasing the World Openness Report 2023 and the World Openness Index, and keep serving as a platform of high-end dialogue and exchange for the international political, business and academic communities.

The Hongqiao Forum will host 22 sub-forums this year covering global hotspots such as green development, digital economy and intelligent technology. Over 300 big names from the international political, business and academic communities are expected to attend the forum and deliver speeches.

Hua Yuan, vice mayor of Shanghai, noted that Shanghai will accelerate its efforts to build itself into a hub for imported

commodities, and the number of "6+365" Permanent Exhibition and Trade Platforms of the CIIE has been expanded to 60. Shanghai is working to turn exhibitors into investors, and has introduced action plans to optimize its business environment for six years in a row.

According to Hua, the actual use of foreign capital of the metropolis jumped from \$16.67 billion in 2018 to nearly \$23.96 billion last year, with a five-year total hitting \$101.3 billion, 20.5 percent higher from the last five-year period.

As the world's first import-themed national-level exhibition, the CIIE has become a major international platform for promoting the integration of the Chinese and global markets, fostering industrial integration, stimulating creativity, and facilitating mutual learning of rules and regulations.

The Ministry of Commerce will work with relevant departments to implement multiple measures to expand the imports of quality products and facilitate high-quality trade development, said Sheng.

China will keep strengthen-

ing policy support, ensuring stable operations at every stage of bulk commodity imports, and increasing the imports of energy resources and agricultural products.

The Ministry of Commerce, together with relevant departments, will revise a catalogue of encouraged technology and product imports to support enterprises in expanding imports of advanced technologies, essential equipment, and key components, promoting industrial restructuring and optimization.

China will keep releasing the potential of imports. This year, China has implemented provisional import tax rates for 1,020 commodities.

In accordance with the effective free trade agreements and preferential trade arrangements, agreed tax rates are applied to certain imported goods originating from 29 countries or regions under 19 agreements, further reducing the level of tax rates. The positive role of cross-border e-commerce in retail imports is being leveraged to continue unlocking the potential of consumer goods imports.

Digital twin technology brings new prospects for development

By Yang Junfeng

A digital twin is a digital representation of a physical object or process. It builds a bond between the real and virtual worlds.

In today's China, the digital twin technology is empowering various booming industries, such as digital transportation, smart city and environmental protection, making economic and social development more intelligent.

A new expressway currently under construction in east China's Anhui province has utilized digital twin technology from its inception. A virtual version of the expressway is being built concurrently as construction progresses.

"As the first intelligent expressway in Anhui, it incorporates emerging technologies to construct an underlying digital twin model," said a representative from Anhui Transport Consulting & Design Institute. It allows real-time collection of vehicle movements, weather and other multi-dimensional traffic data, and thus enables precise monitoring and management of the expressway.

According to the representative, digital twin technology is expected to enhance the traffic efficiency of the expressway, bolster its whole-process emergency response capabilities, and reduce the duration of closures resulting from adverse weather conditions.

Insiders believe that the evolution and application of digital technologies are leading to more efficient and intelligent transport solutions. In the near future, the Chinese highway network will be highly digitalized, with the rising of a trillion-yuan (\$136.7 billion) digital economy market related to highways, injecting new



A staff member introduces a digital twin platform of the Yazhou Bay Science and Technology City in Sanya, south China's Hainan province. (Photo from the publicity department of Sanya)

momentum into the transportation sector to advance Chinese modernization.

The rapid development and wide application of digital twin technology have generated new ideas for urban planning, construction, governance and management.

In Yazhou Bay Science and Technology City (YZBSTC) in Sanya, south China's Hainan province, a new smart industrial park is under construction. Built by iFlytek, a leading artificial intelligence (AI) company, this industrial park utilizes digital twin technology and has constructed an information model by modeling relevant spatio-temporal data,

thus supporting various application systems.

"Leveraging AI algorithms and the digital twin platform, we have completed the upgrading from collecting data of single units to sourcing big data of the whole YZBSTC. Digital innovations make urban development and planning manageable, controllable and visible," said an executive of iFlytek.

Today, Chinese cities are on a "fast lane" in terms of digital twin development.

Suzhou in east China's Jiangsu province has collected comprehensive and high-precision data on its ancient architectures, providing



Photo shows a digital twin and virtual simulation platform of a water plant in Shanghai. (Photo by Shen Chunchen/People's Daily Online)

support for protection and restoration efforts. The Xiong'an New Area in north China's Hebei province has synchronized virtual and real urban planning and construction.

Experts believe building a digital twin of a tangible city would enable more efficient urban management, and facilitate the city's sustainable development.

During a 2023 Yellow River flood control drill, a "digital Yellow River" "flowed" rapidly on a panoramic digital twin platform, displaying hazard distribution that could be caused by extreme weather. This platform showed clearly the flood progression and damage in shoal areas, with an aim to improve flood control ef-

iciency. Wu Dan, deputy director of the information engineering center of the Yellow River Laboratory's digital twin team, explained that constructing a digital twin is crucial for intelligent governance of the Yellow River basin and will comprehensively enhance the capabilities to ensure water security across the basin.

Digital twin technology has also provided technical support for environmental protection in Zhejiang province.

This May, in a 1,800-meter altitude alpine wetland in Baishanzu National Nature Reserve, a pair of Chinese spot-billed ducks foraging were captured by cameras. Location, meteorological and hydrological data were

soon transmitted back to the system via Internet of Things monitoring devices and a digital twin platform.

"It marked the first time that Chinese spot-billed ducks were spotted at such a high altitude since the nature reserve was established, providing valuable insights for experts studying the animal's migration patterns and habits," said Ye Lixin, an engineer of the nature reserve.

Experts believe that digital twin technology has broad application prospects in ecological conservation. It not only offers scientists more tools to research and safeguard the natural environment, but also helps government agencies and related businesses strike a better balance between economic growth and environmental protection.

By Wang Zheng, Liu Wenxin

Chinese industrial economy achieves stable recovery

IN the first three quarters, the total value added of industrial enterprises above the designated size grew by 4 percent year on year, 0.2 percentage points higher than that of the first half year.

China's industrial production has achieved stable growth, with continuous optimization of industrial structure and positive development momentum in the manufacturing sector. The overall industrial economy has shown signs of stabilization and recovery.

"The proportion of value-added output of manufacturing to GDP remained relatively stable in the first three quarters this year. Manufacturing investment continued to grow, with the growth rate gradually increasing since July," said Zhao Zhiguo, spokesperson of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).

In August, profits made by industrial enterprises above designated size increased by 17.2 percent year on year. Both operating income and profits have turned positive, indicating a faster recovery in enterprise performance. In particular, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) achieved significant progress.

In the first three quarters, China fostered 12,000 specialized and sophisticated enterprises that produce new and unique products and 200 featured SME clusters, which played an important role in reinforcing and upgrading weak links in the industrial chains.

According to Zhao, investment in manufacturing kept growing in the January-September period. In particular, the investment in high-tech manufacturing increased by 11.3 percent year on year in the first three quarters, and has kept a double-digit growth for 36 consecutive months. Additionally, the decline in industrial exports has narrowed, Zhao added.

Specifically, basic industries have maintained steady growth. The value added of equipment manufacturing went up by 6.0 percent, 2.0 percentage points faster than that of the whole industrial enterprises above the designated size. In September, the electrical machinery, chemical, electronic, and automotive industries contributed nearly 60 percent to the overall industrial growth.

At the same time, emerging industries showed strong momentum. According to data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, the pro-



Domestically produced vehicles are parked at the Yantai port, east China's Shandong province, before being exported. (Photo by Tang Ke/People's Daily Online)

duction and sales of new energy vehicles (NEVs) in the first three quarters reached 6.31 million and 6.27 million units, growing 33.7 percent and 37.5 percent year on year, respectively. NEVs accounted for 29.8 percent of the total sales of new vehicles.

The new materials industry embraced vigorous and accelerated development. The total output value of the sector maintained double-digit growth in the first nine months of this year. Breakthroughs were made in the development of a

number of key materials, including high-temperature superconducting materials and perovskite solar cells.

Photovoltaic products and aerospace equipment achieved rapid growth, while the shipbuilding industry continued to lead globally in three major indicators.

"We have been vigorously accelerating the development of advanced manufacturing. In the first three quarters, the investment growth in high-tech manufacturing was 5.1 percentage points higher

than that in the overall manufacturing sector," said Zhao. During the same period, the production of solar cells and charging piles went up by 63.2 percent and 34.2 percent, respectively.

The recently concluded Hangzhou Asian Games just showcased a variety of innovative applications that amazed global viewers. These included 8K livestream, virtual reality game viewing, a stereoscopic transparent mesh screen, ground projections, massive video interactions inside and outside the venues,

and 360-degree replays. These cutting-edge technologies provided an immersive and multi-perspective visual feast for audiences worldwide.

The extensive use of digital technologies has brought profound changes to the production models and forms of traditional industries, effectively promoting comprehensive data circulation.

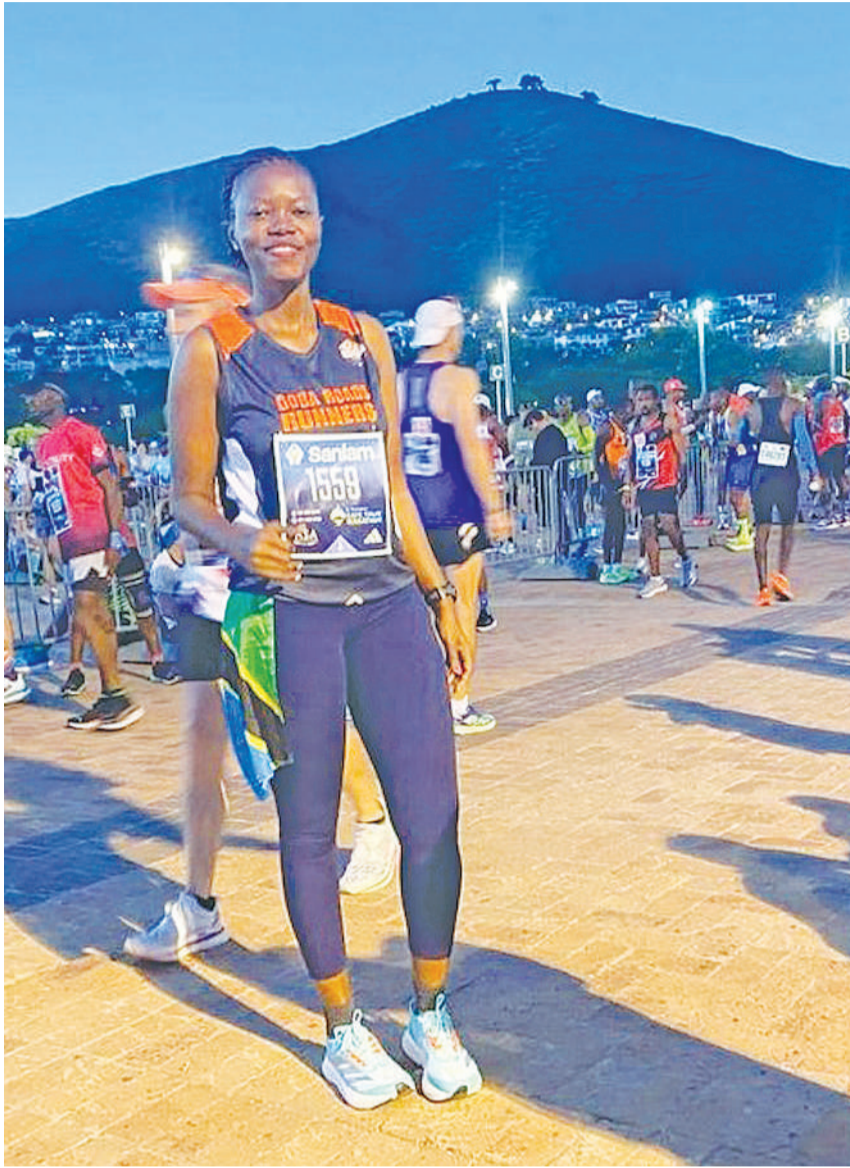
"Currently, as enterprises accelerate digital transformation, intelligent factories are built massively and with higher quality. Nearly 10,000 digital workshops and smart factories have been constructed nationwide," said Zhao.

Emerging information technologies like industrial internet are seeing rapid application and integrated into 45 major categories of the national economy, empowering the digital, networked and intelligent transformation and upgrading of the real economy.

New scenarios, solutions and models of intelligent manufacturing are helping enhance quality and efficiency of industries. In recent years, the core sectors of China's AI industry have grown steadily, with over 4,400 enterprises. Innovative achievements like smart chips, development frameworks and general large models continue to emerge. Cloud computing, intelligent computing and supercomputing have developed in a coordinated way.

China now ranks second globally in terms of computing power, and major projects are advancing rapidly, including one that aims to channel more computing resources from the eastern areas to the less developed western regions.

So far, the 5G technology has been applied in 67 major categories of China's national economy. The number of projects employing 5G and industrial internet exceeds 7,000 nationwide, and there are 2.22 billion users of mobile internet of things terminals.



Barrick North Mara Runners Club's captain Sarah Cyprian in jovial mood after battling it out in this year's Cape Town Marathon held in South Africa recently. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Gamondi optimistic of victory in Dar derby

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA head coach, Miguel Gamondi, is optimistic of having his outfit garnering positive results in this season's NBC Premier League tie against Simba SC after previewing and analyzing the latter's last three encounters.

The age-old rivals will face each other in the first phase match of the top flight scheduled for Sunday at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Gamondi said he knows the game against Simba SC is different from other games but important to put much weight and concentration during preparations for the game.

The Argentine stated there is no pressure on his team heading into the meeting as they keep on doing intensive training and tactical drills.

He revealed he has followed Simba SC in many games, a move which has helped him have a better plan that will combat the outfit's threats in the coming encounter.

The gaffer noted: "The players have good morale, they don't have any pressure, it may come from the fans but I consider this game like other games, even though it is a big match in the Tanzania league."

"I want my players to do everything they always do in other fixtures, this will help to reduce the pressure on the players and give them a chance to fulfill their responsibilities correctly," Gamondi revealed.

"We want to win on Sunday, that's the main thing, we lost on penalties in our Community Shield game, we

continue to prepare to get positive results and improve our chances on top of the table," Gamondi noted.

The Argentinian coach moreover has said that he is happy with the way his players conduct preparations and how hungry they were in previous fixtures and he does not see any pressure.

"I just ask that our fans should continue to show support, I believe it will be a good game, we will play our best and as per plans," Gamondi pointed out.

The winning team on the day will establish a three-point lead at the summit of the league, hence, the reason it is an important game to either team.

Meanwhile, Yanga was, on Wednesday, one of outfits nominated for the CAF's Club of the Year award alongside Al Ahly (Egypt), Wydad Casablanca, Raja Casablanca, (Morocco), Mamelodi Sundowns, Marumo Gallants (South Africa), USM Alger (Algeria), Tunisia's Esperance de Tunis and Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas.

Yanga's Malian goalie Djigui Diarra was nominated for Goalkeeper of the Year award alongside Mohamed Elshenawy (Egypt and Al Ahly), Yassine Bounou (Morocco and Al Hilal, Saudi Arabia), Andre Onana (Cameroun and Manchester United), Ronwen Williams (South Africa and Mamelodi Sundowns), Edouard Mendy (Senegal and Al Ahly), Oussama Benbot (Algeria and USM Alger), Youssef El Motie (Morocco and Wydad Athletic Club), Pape Mamadou Sy (Senegal and Generation Foot), and Landing Badji (Senegal and AS Pikine).

Gymkhana Club, recording 80/4 in the 10-over fixture. Solid batting by the opening batting pair of Jonathan Nyambo and Shahazad Ali proved to vital contribution as the side fought to complete a respectable total.

Nyambo was the performer with the most runs given the cricketer made his way back with 25 runs, the fellow opener had 17 runs whilst blasting two sixes. Muzammil Kassum, slotted

Simba SC over-confident ahead of derby, with Yanga breathing like a hurt buffalo

By Correspondent John Kimbute

PREPARING for the derby between the city rivals has returned club spokesmen to their pleasant platform of speaking the best of their sides and painful snide remarks on the chances of the other side.

At the moment, it is apparent that it is the Msimbazi Street squad's spokesman, the grandiloquent Ahmed Ally, apparently sought after by preference for remarks on the upcoming encounter.

That doesn't mean the other club has nothing to say but much less to boast about, due to late events.

It was in all appearances evident that Msimbazi Street outfit holds the wooden end of the knife, as the last time the two sides met it was Simba SC which had the last laugh, and it was removed on a technicality at the upper stage African Football League.

The spokesman and his innumerable followers in city streets and all over the country are keen about every word, that there is a level of teams that can be invited to such tournaments and, in Tanzania, there is only one side.

It has been the stock in trade for a while, and until the CAF Champions League Group Stage comes knocking, or an unexpected turn in the Premier League locally, this mood is fated to soldier on.

It is a sort of seasonal adjustment as it were, as not so long ago the Jangwani Street side had plenty to be happy about, showing its credentials as the superior side, with what was described as 5G performance until the rout at a rural playing ground in Mbeya.

With a halt in that direction, and being compelled to wish their rivals well in the continental tournament namely the African Football League as national representatives - a task they admirably performed - things have been difficult for speakers at Jangwani Street outfit.

It did not appear that things were anywhere back to normal by the time the derby duel countdown and, by definition, needed to use the derby to raise



Yanga's winger, Ducapele Moloko (L), challenges Simba SC's center-back, Che Fondoh Malone, as the two teams locked horns in a 2023/24 Community Shield tournament's trophy duel held in Tanga in August. Simba SC defeated Yanga 3-1 in the penalty shootout. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

the mood in the club, to restore hurt dignity.

How far that is likely to take place can't be said, but the run of encounters at the top level suggests that overconfidence cuts readiness.

Recent events of a national character where Simba SC was preparing to host Al Ahly of Egypt in the African Football League's opening tie, whereby top leaders of the African confederation, as well as the world federation, were in the city, brought up some publicity contention.

It pitted top leaders of Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, as well as Simba SC to an extent, as they wished each other luck in their respective assignments.

The first was the African Football League which had Simba SC participating, and the other is the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League in which the city rivals are both in the tournament.

What came up was a distinct shift in tonality from the usual spokesman view that is closely allied with the sentiments of the fans, where the key expectation is reasoned boasting, showing clearly why their club is superior or at any given moment to their archrivals.

Such boasting is usually strewn with facts, at least ob-

servable events, and impressions from past events, providing room for a loquacious speaker to assert club superiority.

That wasn't at issue except that its logical conclusion in international assignments is that the club the spokesman extolls shall succeed in its next or forthcoming encounter, while the success of the rival could be doubtful.

There is at times no effort to discern between the outright wish for the defeat of the rival, as in a famous prediction of a five-nil loss (the famous 'hamsa' prosaically said to be handed out after prayers on Friday, after which the fans proceed to the stadium, or for lack of a better term, to the 'killing fields').

That arguably didn't happen, just as an equally famous projection of bringing home the CAF Confederation Cup and hovering with the cup over Msimbazi Street side for three hours (or three days) never happened either.

Asking the various spokesmen to show kindness to rivals is a tall order and, for all intents and purposes, unworkable, only the national teams can bring the fans together, not aspirations of this or that major club on its ambitions.

There was a situation where

leaders of the archrivals came out to speak to wish each other well, at the time that Yanga was facing Al Merrikh of Sudan and Simba SC had Power Dynamos of Zambia to deal with.

Both won, Yanga more comfortably in its away match while Simba SC obtained results in the likeness of Al Ahly in their special encounter with Simba SC for the African Football League.

They drew 1-1 with Power Dynamos in the second leg having drawn 2-2 in the first leg hence getting an away-goal advantage like Al Ahly. It was a relief, a buoyant Yanga would paint the city yellow had Simba SC failed.

Now Yanga needs to win on its own against the club that stood its ground against the Egyptian giants twice and defeated the defending league champions for this season's Community Shield title contention a few months back.

The fact that Yanga lost against Ihefu SC against all expectations doesn't buttress their ability to steer enough organization against a well-meaning Simba SC as is likely to be the case.

Only real overconfidence can help Yanga, but this will only happen if it is involuntary, for instance, if the mood of the players is built around what Ahmed Ally has been saying of late.



Strikers B cricketers in a group picture after the conclusion of this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Pro 10 Division C showdown's final in the city recently. The cricketers won the tournament's silverware after beating Patel B. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Strikers B cricketers clinch 2023 DC Pro 10 Division C tourney silverware

By Guardian Reporter

STRIKERS B cricketers have emerged as winners of this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Division C Pro 10 tournament's title after defeating Patel B's squad by one run in the final last week.

The Krishna Amarshi-Strikers B chose to bat first after they had won the toss in the nail-biting final which took place at Dar es Salaam

Gymkhana Club, recording 80/4 in the 10-over fixture.

Solid batting by the opening batting pair of Jonathan Nyambo and Shahazad Ali proved to vital contribution as the side fought to complete a respectable total.

Nyambo was the performer with the most runs given the cricketer made his way back with 25 runs, the fellow opener had 17 runs whilst blasting two sixes.

Muzammil Kassum, slotted

in at number three, was two runs short of the two-digit figure as Patel B bowlers fought to thwart efforts by the batting team to amass a convincing figure.

Mehul Ravat had the batting squad seeking to improve its total after posting 10 runs and Mubasir Farooq completed the batting stint with an unbeaten seven runs.

Thirteen extras conceded by Patel B that included one

bye, two leg byes, and 10 wides saw Strikers B end 20 runs short of three digits.

Skipper Ajaykumar Patel, Paras Katakia, Nishit Katakia, and Acrey Pascal ended with a wicket each for Patel B.

Needing 81 runs to secure victory, Patel B cricketers played their hearts out only to fall short whilst needing two runs.

Pascal had the squad getting its innings underway in grand fashion and the

cricketer was ultimately the batsman with the most runs, notching 30 runs.

The opener's batting virtuosity witnessed the batting outfit amassing 79 runs after nine overs, at the time he was run out.

Kamlesh Kara was one run short of a two-digit figure and Mauleshkumar Patel ended with bat in hand and eight runs to his name, as Patel B ultimately had its efforts to successfully reach

the target waning.

The fellow opener, Jigar Ashokbhai Shah, and Ajaykumar were the other cricketers with two digits, as Shah ended with 12 runs and Ajaykumar made his way back with 11 runs.

The regional cricket governing body organized the 10-over formatted tournament, seeking to raise cricket standards at the domestic level and offer lowly ranked outfits the

opportunity to battle for participation in the more competitive events.

The 1-2-team showdown's contenders were in groups A and B. Group A competitors were Dar Tigers, Malabar Cricket Club (MCC), Dar Indian Titans, Caravans D, Specialized K&P B, and Patel C.

Group B teams were Patel B, DJ Fighters, Strikers B, TCA Women Combine, Lions C, and Union Youths.

Sundowns, Wydad squeeze into African Football League final

CAIRO

MAMELODI Sundowns of South Africa and Wydad Casablanca of Morocco reached the inaugural African Football League final after gripping semi-final second legs on Wednesday.

Sundowns goalkeeper Ronwen Williams saved a penalty and Egyptian side Al Ahly struck the woodwork in a 0-0 draw in Cairo that gave the club from Pretoria a 1-0 aggregate victory.

In Rades, Esperance of Tunisia edged Wydad 1-0 on the night through a Rodrigo Rodrigues goal, but he had his penalty saved in a shoot-out, which the Moroccans won 5-4 after a 1-1 aggregate draw.

Wydad will have home advantage on Sunday in the first leg of a final offering four million dollars to the winners, with the return match on November 11.

The showdown will be a repeat of a 2023 CAF Champions League semi-final, which the Casablanca club won on away goals after two draws.

In Cairo, record 11-time Champions League titleholders Ahly were given an early scoring chance when Williams fouled former Sundowns star Percy Tau and the referee pointed to the spot.

After a lengthy delay while Sundowns protested the decision, veteran Tunisian Ali Maaloul saw his low kick pushed away by the South African international shot-stopper.

Williams was struggling with crosses, though, and when he dropped one, Mahmoud Kahraba almost netted for the Cairo Red Devils.

- Late red nerves -

Tau was unlucky when his fierce close-range shot rattled the crossbar, and the South African side were grateful to still be ahead on aggregate at the break.

Sundowns performed better in the second half only to put themselves under pressure in the final six minutes of regular time when substitute Junior Mendieta was shown a straight red card.

The Argentine had been on the pitch just a few minutes when he was guilty of a studs-up tackle that caught Akram Tawfik just below the knee.

Heated Ahly claims for an added-time penalty, when the handball offence was committed just outside the box, were waved away by the outstanding Senegalese referee after a VAR check.

On the outskirts of Tunis, Brazilian Rodrigues cancelled the one-goal lead Wydad had taken into the second leg with an unstoppable header on 66 minutes.

He had the ball in the net again after 88 minutes, but VAR revealed that a teammate had strayed offside in the build-up and the goal was disallowed.

AFP

Bayern eliminated from German Cup by third-division Saarbruecken

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich crashed out of the German Cup in the second round for the third time in four years after a remarkable 2-1 loss at third-division Saarbruecken on Wednesday, thanks to a last-minute winner from Marcel Gaus.

With the scores locked at 1-1 and the match looking destined for extra time, defender Gaus netted in the sixth minute of injury time to grab his team a famous victory.

"When a first-division team like Bayern comes to Saarbruecken and loses, then we did something wrong," veteran Thomas Mueller told ARD after the match.

Bayern were beaten by Holstein Kiel on penalties at the same stage three years ago, then thrashed 5-0 by Borussia Moenchengladbach in round two in 2021.

The record 20-time winners also lost in the quarter-finals at home to Freiburg last season.

"There could be 100 explanations or maybe none at all. We had injuries but some will say we should win anyway," Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel said.

An "incredibly proud" home coach Ruediger Ziehl said he had told his players that Thursday's training session was now "voluntary".

"If we don't celebrate today, then we can never celebrate."

Bayern, who travel to Bundesliga rivals Borussia Dortmund on Saturday, lost central defender Matthijs de Ligt to a potentially serious knee injury early in the match, leaving the side with only one fit centre-back.

Six-time Cup winner Mueller looked to have Bayern on the right track for a routine victory at their less-fancied opponents, before De Ligt injured his knee in a tussle soon after and signalled immediately to the bench.

The injury forced midfielder Joshua Kimmich into defence and appeared to put Bayern on the back foot against a resurgent Saarbruecken.

The hosts struck next, Patrick Sontheimer tapping in a pass from Lukas Boeder after Saarbruecken pressed midfielder Frans Kraetzig into a mistake.

Tuchel brought on the calvary, including Kingsley Coman, Jamal Musiala and Serge Gnabry, but star striker Harry Kane stayed on the bench ahead of Saturday's crunch match. **AFP**

Man Utd dumped out of League Cup by Newcastle, Arsenal lose at West Ham

LONDON

MANCHESTER United's defence of the League Cup came to a limp end in a 3-0 home defeat by Newcastle on Wednesday as Arsenal were well-beaten 3-1 at West Ham.

Liverpool overcame Bournemouth 2-1 to progress to the quarter-finals, while Chelsea saw off Championship side Blackburn 2-0.

In a repeat of last year's final, which Erik ten Hag's men won 2-0, both managers named much-changed sides at Old Trafford.

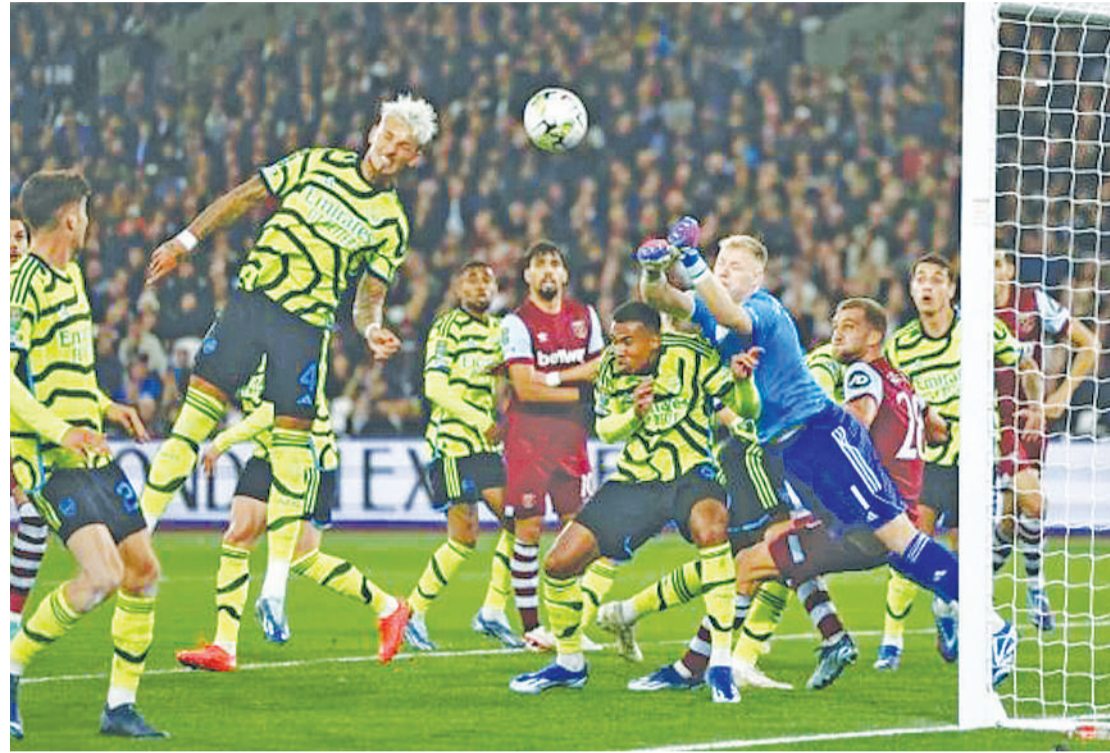
But it was Newcastle's strength in depth that showed as United slumped to an eighth defeat in 15 games in all competitions this season -- their worst start to any campaign since 1962/63.

"This is not good enough. We have to take responsibility, I have to take responsibility," said Ten Hag.

"I feel sorry for the fans, it is below our standards and we have to put it right."

Tino Livramento and Lewis Hall have had to wait for their chance to shine since signing for the Magpies but the young full-backs played a huge role as Eddie Howe's side got revenge for defeat at Wembley in February.

Livramento's surging run set up Miguel Almiron to open the scoring on 28



Ben White (2nd left) scored an own goal in Arsenal's 3-1 League Cup defeat to West Ham. Agencies

minutes.

Chelsea loanee Hall then volleyed home a brilliant effort from the edge of the box just eight minutes later.

Joe Willock's solo run and stunning finish then drew the sting from any chance of a United fightback on the hour mark.

After eliminating both Manchester City and United, Newcastle's reward is another tough draw away to Chelsea in the last eight.

- Rice defeated on West Ham return -

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta was left to rue leaving Declan Rice out on his return to the London Stadium, with the

England international alongside Bukayo Saka, Martin Odegaard and William Saliba on a star-studded Gunners' bench.

Aaron Ramsdale was handed a rare start since he was dropped in favour of David Raya, but it was a night to forget for the Arsenal goalkeeper.

Ben White beat Ramsdale to Jarrod Bowen's dangerous in-swinging corner but could only head into his own net after 16 minutes.

Mohammed Kudus made it 2-0 on 50 minutes with a brilliant touch and low finish from Nayef Aguerd's long ball forward.

Rice was then introduced to a

mixed response from the West Ham faithful.

But any hope of an Arsenal revival was quashed by Bowen's strike from the edge of the box that Ramsdale should have done better to keep out.

"I am responsible for that," said Arteta. "We're out of the cup and we wanted to play a very different game."

Odegaard grabbed a consolation deep into stoppage time, but it was too little, too late as Arsenal's 30-year wait to win the League Cup goes on.

- Liverpool, Chelsea progress -

Liverpool had to see off a spirited effort from Bournemouth

and appalling weather conditions as Storm Ciaran swept in at the Vitality Stadium.

Justin Kluivert had cancelled out Cody Gakpo's opener with his first Bournemouth goal.

But Darwin Nunez came off the bench to win the tie with a spectacular dipping strike from outside the box.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said victory would make a long journey back north on the team bus rather than a flight due to the stormy weather more palatable.

"Now we drive home. Long trip. But with going to the next round it feels much better," said Klopp.

Liverpool will host West Ham in the quarter-finals next month.

Benoit Badiashile and Raheem Sterling were on target as Chelsea secured a rare home win under Mauricio Pochettino to reach the last eight.

Everton's upturn in form continued with a comfortable 3-0 win over Burnley.

James Tarkowski, Amadou Onana and Ashley Young scored on the night the Toffees remembered former chairman Bill Kenwright, who died aged 78 last week.

Fulham will travel to Goodison Park in the next round after they avoided an upset by winning 3-1 at Championship high-flyers Ipswich.

League One Port Vale host Middlesbrough in the other quarter-final.

AFP

Erik ten Hag apologies to Man Utd fans - but vows to fight on

By Jason Burt

ERIK ten Hag issued a fulsome apology after Manchester United crashed out of the Carabao Cup saying he "felt sorry for the fans".

The United manager argued that he is a "fighter" and deserves the chance to carry on in his job despite the growing pressure on him.

"I understand that when the results are not there it's a logical process there are questions," Ten Hag said when asked about his future following the crushing 3-0 home defeat by Newcastle United on Wednesday night, which earned Eddie Howe's side a quarter-final tie away to Chelsea.

"I am confident I can do it. At all my clubs I have done it," Ten Hag added. "But at this moment we are in a bad place. I take responsibility for it. I am a fighter and I am in a fight."

The limp defence of the trophy United won last season, their first for six years, against the same opponents meant they have now lost eight of their first 15 matches in all competitions this season - which is the first time that has happened since 1962 when they lost nine. It is also the first time since 1930 that they have lost five of their opening 10 home games.

"We know this is not good enough," Ten Hag admitted. "We have to take responsibility for it. I have to take responsibility for it. We don't give the performance and I feel sorry for the fans."



Erik ten Hag claps Manchester United fans after his side's 3-0 home defeat by Newcastle in the League Cup. Agencies

"It is below our standards and we have to put it right. We have to recover from it. We have to quickly recover. Saturday is the next game [in the Premier League away to Fulham] but we have to raise our standards, this is not good enough."

Up until now Ten Hag has not faced scrutiny over his future but he accepted that the criticism was not only fair but inevitable.

"It's below the standards you would expect for Manchester United," he said of the performances so far this season. "It is not good enough by far. We have to put things right. I take responsibility for it. It's my team and they are not performing."

"As a team we are good enough and, whatever the reasons are, there is no space for excuses. We have to do things better and we have to raise our standards otherwise we

will never get the results. "You are Manchester United and it is expected you can deal with the pressure. Play football and do it together. Everyone has to take responsibility for their performances."

Despite the loss and the poor display and despite being booed off at half-time the United supporters did not turn

on Ten Hag. Even so thousands left early with swathes of empty seats long before the final whistle. "The fans are behind us. We don't deserve it at the moment, but they are behind us," Ten Hag admitted.

The defeat followed on from the loss, by the same emphatic scoreline, in Sunday's Manchester derby also at

Old Trafford which piled on the pressure.

"So I am a fighter and I know it is not always going up and we have a lot of setbacks this season so far, but also you have to deal with it and that is never an excuse," Ten Hag added. "I have said that before I know when there are setbacks the routines are not the same, but even then you have to get results in. Obviously, Sunday and tonight were far from that so we have to do things right and at a certain level, at the minimum level to win games."

United suffered a further set-back with another injury to midfielder Casemiro, who was substituted at half-time, as Ten Hag defended his under-fire players.

"We have [the right characters], I am confident of that, players will stand up, they are sticking together, they tried. I am responsible for this," he said. "We have to do this together. You only get your confidence when you want to play, get the right results, and

it is only possible when you are following the rules, following the principles, be in the game, win your battles, go into the fight but especially do it together.

"You have to do this as a team. You have to stick together and you have to be disciplined. Everyone has to take responsibility, be accountable and co-operate, that's the key word."

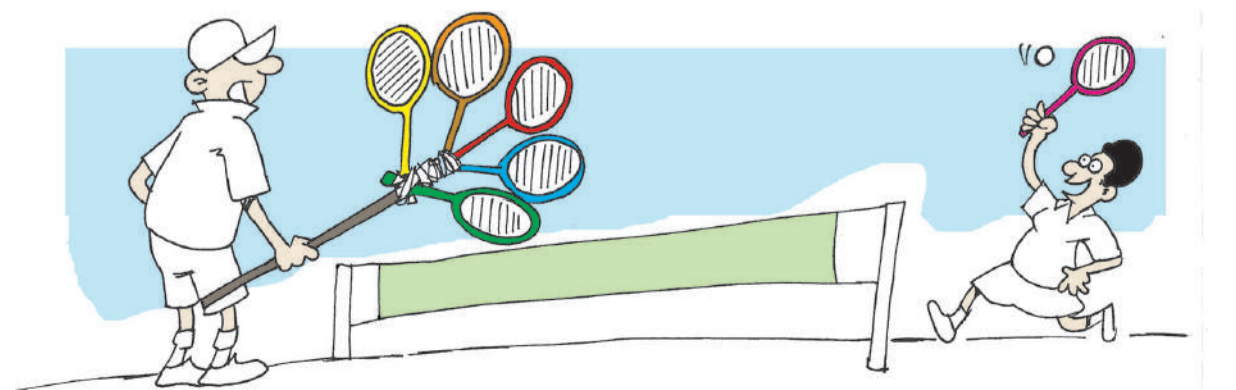
"First, we have a night's sleep, then we will pick the team and the tactics [for Fulham] but most importantly the mentality."

Howe, who earned his first win as a manager at Old Trafford, was delighted with his team's performance. "The mentality was brilliant," he said. "We had injuries and picked one up early [Matt Targett damaging his hamstring]. It was a great response."

"I don't think there are any easy games in the quarter-finals. We hope to go one better than last season."

THE TELEGRAPH

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Tanzania's professional boxer, Abdallah Pazi.

Non-title bout out to promote tourism

By Guardian Correspondent

THE hype surrounding a non-title boxing bout between Tanzanian boxer Abdallah Pazi 'Dula Mbabe' and DR Congo's Erick Katomba, slated for later this month in Arusha, is now gathering pace.

The bout's promoter Sophia Mwakagenda revealed it gears toward supporting President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts to promote local tourism.

Speaking to journalists at the Parliament grounds in Dodoma, Sophia said the fight aims to promote tourism as President Samia did through the Royal Tour film, and the fight will be witnessed by people from inside and outside the country.

Sophia, also Special Seats Member of Parliament, said they have taken the fight to Arusha because it is currently a quiet season for tourists visiting Tanzania, so, boxing is one of the thrills they will find in the region.

She said that the fight will take place on November 25, adding it is said to be historic and an opportunity for Pazi to revenge for his defeat to the Congolese pugilist in the past bout.

"The fight will be preceded by another nine supporting bouts and those who will take part in the bouts are fierce fighters, including women, so no one will regret coming to the arena, I ask people to turn up," she disclosed.

Sophia said apart from an attractive prize to be presented to the main bout's winner, he will have the opportunity to choose the name of the animal he wants as a nickname.

According to the promoter, such a nickname will be paid for on the pugilist's behalf as a symbol of identity for the country.

Sophia said that the boxers will before and after their fights have the opportunity to visit zoos to witness attractions so that they can be part of promoting the country's tourism.

Pazi's record lately stands at victory in 33 fights- 29 of which are Knockouts (KOs), defeat in 12 fights- two of which are knockouts- and one bout was adjudged a draw.

In Pazi's recent three bouts, the flamboyant pugilist won all of them gallantly, Pazi won against Chimwewe Chiotcha of Malawi by Technical Knockout in a non-title fight that took place in Tanga early this year.

Pazi had previously registered victory over Limbani Lano, also from Malawi, by Knockout in a non-title fight in Morogoro on November 25, 2022.

The triumph had succeeded in a Knockout victory that Pazi secured over fellow countryman Amour Haji, when the pugilists took on each other in a non-title bout held in Dar es Salaam.

Katomba is currently rated second out of nine boxers in the Super Middleweight division in DR Congo and is placed 224th in the weight category's list of 1,423 boxers globally.

The pugilist's record now stands at victory in nine bouts, three of which are Knockouts, three losses- one of which is a Knockout- and one fight being adjudged a draw.

KMC FC meets Dodoma Jiji FC in in-form Premier League outfits' battle



Kinondoni Municipal Council FC players warm up before confronting Mtibwa Sugar in this season's NBC Premier League clash that took place at Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Stadium on October 31 and ended in a 1-0 win for Kinondoni Municipal Council FC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KINONDONI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FOOTBALL CLUB

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KINONDONI Municipal Council FC is aiming to make it to six unbeaten games in a row when the side meets Dodoma Jiji FC in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League tie slated for today afternoon at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

A strong start by Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, led by head coach Abdihamid Moallin, continued as he guided his side to a 1-0 home victory against Mtibwa Sugar on Tuesday.

It was their fourth win of the season. Having taken 15 points from a possible 24 this season, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC finds itself placed fourth in the table - just one point behind third-placed Azam FC.

When one looks at the bigger picture, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC has lost just one of the side's eight matches this season, a 5-0 drubbing in the hands of reigning champions Young Africans SC.

August 23 was the last time that Moallin's men tasted defeat, and avoiding defeat on Friday would create a nine-point cushion in the race for the top four as the Premier League's participating outfits approach the one-third mark of the

season. The councilors will pin their hopes for victory on their Somali attacking midfielder, Ibrahim Elias Ahmed.

The 23-year-old player grabbed Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's winning

goal against Mtibwa Sugar.

It was his second goal of the season in just three appearances. He will be looking to play an important role in helping his side secure a win.

On the other side, visitors Dodoma Jiji FC is also one

of the in-form teams in the NBC Premier League at the moment.

It is undefeated in the squad's last three matches in the competition having claimed a 1-0 win over hosts JKT Tanzania on Monday.

It was their second win in a row. They also won by the same scoreline against Kagera Sugar last week, with Ghanaian import Christian Zigah finding the back of the net.

This excellent run of form keeps Dodoma Jiji FC in fifth place, staying only three points adrift of their upcoming opponents today and just four points behind Azam FC.

On top of that, Dodoma Jiji FC will head into this fixture following decent form on the road recently. They also have an impressive form in the recent tradition of this match-up.

In six top-flight league games between the two sides, Dodoma Jiji FC has won four. They are on a three-game winning streak against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

Hassan Mwaterema, Meshack Mwamita, and youngster Zidane Omari will be tasked with sharing the goal-scoring burden for Dodoma Jiji FC.

Dodoma Jiji FC defenders Joram Mgeveke, Anderson Solomon, Augustion Nsata and midfielder Gustapha Simon will try to keep Kinondoni Municipal Council FC forwards at bay.

Under pressure Mtibwa Sugar hosts JKT Tanzania

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MTIBWA Sugar's dismal start to the 2023-24 NBC Premier League campaign continued when they suffered a 1-0 away defeat to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

A second-half strike by Somali attacking midfielder Ibrahim Elias Ahmed condemned them to their fifth loss of the season.

Mtibwa Sugar has won just one game this season after a 3-1 victory over Geita Gold FC at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro last week, and this win took the former seven games to rack up too.

The Turiani-based side can ill-afford to drop more points in a favourable-looking fixture against JKT Tanzania, considering that tricky encounters with Azam FC, Young Africans, Namungo FC, and Tabora United are on the horizon.

Head coach Zubeir Katwila recently returned to Mtibwa Sugar following Habib Kondo's dismissal and will be searching for back-to-back home victories to prove he is turning things around.



Mtibwa Sugar's players congratulate each other when the club grabbed a goal in this season's NBC Premier League clash versus Geita Gold FC in Morogoro recently. Mtibwa Sugar won 3-1. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

First and foremost, Katwila needs to sort his defense out. Mistakes elsewhere on the pitch are rarely fatal, at the back they cost goals games, and points.

Alarmingly, Mtibwa Sugar has already let in 14 goals in this period. The club currently has the worst defense in the league. It is a problem that was inherited from the last two seasons.

On the bright side, the attack has been decent. Only the top three, Young Africans, Simba SC, and Azam FC have scored more goals than Mtibwa Sugar (nine) this season.

Experienced forward Matheo Anthony has spearheaded that attack. He has four goals and one assist so far.

Ladack Chasambi is currently

one of the hottest youngsters in the NBC Premier League and will be a key figure in attempting to get the club back on track again.

He has assisted three times and found the back of the net once in his eight appearances so far.

On the flip side, three wins, two draws and three losses in

the NBC Premier League so far can certainly be described as a mixed bag for newly-promoted JKT Tanzania.

However, thanks to the general inconsistency of many teams at this stage, Malale Hamsini's side still occupies sixth place in the table - four points shy of fourth-placed Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

JKT Tanzania's recent results on the road are far from ideal. In their last four away matches, they have won only once.

Two of those matches ended in defeats as well. It is also worth noting that they have scored just six goals in eight matches this term, meaning only five teams have netted fewer Premier League goals.

Malale will hope his strikers Danny Lyanga, Sixtus Sabilo, and Edward Songo discover their scoring boots if they are to walk away with a victory against Mtibwa Sugar.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

